



‘Come and See’ – Step 5

How our community serves

Aim

To discover the purpose and meaning of Jesus Ministry, appreciate how it is being lived out by others and recognise our role as Missionary disciples.

Resources needed

Leaders

- *Come and See notes*
- *PPT laptop and projector or TV*
- *Prayer focus items*
- *Bibles or scripture passages*
- *Body parts cut outs and paper strips*

Young People

- *Journals and hand outs*

Prayer Focus

Expressions of our belief:

Cloth - (*multicoloured or cream – we are people of all types and seasons*)

Candle - (*Jesus the light of the world*)

Bible - (*the Word of God*)

Images of Jesus - (*linked to the 3 Gospel stories*)

Photos - (*people important to us*)

Liturgical Link

The Sacraments of healing, Reconciliation and Sacrament of Sick, assist in the renewal of individuals and relationships. Graces received in the Eucharist also provides spiritual nourishment.

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Overview

- Ministry - what is it?
- The Ministry of Jesus - activity
- We are one Body
- People who inspire
- Affirmation of gifts
- Prayer

Preparation by Catechists

- *Familiarity with content and resources*
- *Photos of and readiness to share about saints whose lives have inspired*
- *Pray for the young people and leaders*

Scripture Passages

- Jesus Mission:
John 9:1-12, Matthew 5:1-12,
John 8:2-11
- All part of the one body
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Tenets of Faith (Faith Formation)

- The call to serve is not optional
- Ministry and healing
- Inspired by others - Saints
- All the baptised united as one family
Serving God through care and respect for all of creation

** *Additional notes included on PPT*

Gathering

- **Welcome & Introduction:**
 - As people arrive invite them to put photos on the prayer table.
 - Welcome back everyone as part of the recap from the last step ask:
 - how have the reflections on prayer influenced thoughts or actions during the week?
 - Does personal prayer and / or the liturgical life of the Church now seem less of a mystery?
 - Give overview and aim for today.
 - **Introductory activity:** (10mins) *where is the truth:*
 - Each person to identify 3 pieces of information to share about themselves, achievements, hopes, experiences, facts. One of which is not absolutely true (leader to demonstrate).
 - Pairs share the three items and partners try to guess which is not true.
 - Move on quickly to meet and converse with others.
 - How easy was it to identify the 'untruth'? – what helped or hindered?
- FF** - as mentioned last week perceptions we have of people affect the way we respond to them. The environment or company we inhabit may also influence our response.
- life is a journey to discover the truth: conditioning, a closed mind or lack of understanding can prevent us from recognising the truth. Jesus frequently encountered such problems.
 - constantly in life we will face situations where the whole truth is not being shared with us – experience and the guidance of the Holy Spirit can assist us to discern the truth.

Prayerful Response

- **Opening Prayer:** *A simple prayer of intercession for our own lives*

Lord Jesus help us to be open to learn more about your life and ministry so that we may understand the importance of using our gifts in the service to God and our neighbour. Through our conversations and reflections may we begin to discover the truth about our own self and the ways in which we can minister to others in our daily lives. Amen

Initial Exploration

- **Ministry – what is it? - activity:** (5 min)
 - In pairs jot down the different ways in which the word Ministry is used in society.
 - Take feedback and together identify a common thread.
 - Ministry involves giving service that will benefit or protect individuals, or society as a whole.
- **The Ministry of Jesus – activity 1:** (10min)
 - 4 pairs or groups, each assigned a different Gospel and the tasks of identifying the different kinds of ministry Jesus engaged in.
 - Create a collective list and use handout to identify any that may have been missed.

- **The Ministry of Jesus – activity 2:** (15 min)
 - 3 groups each with one scripture passage: John 9:1-12, Matthew 5:1-12, John 8:2-11; read, reflect and share thoughts on how in the story the ministry of Jesus brought new life, new hope and new possibilities to those he met.
 - What changes took place in their lives as a result?
 - Brief feedback to whole group; summarising the story and reflections.

- FF** - The ministry of Jesus makes profound changes in peoples' lives – he calls them to see situations from a different perspective, challenging them to look to their own faults before accusing others, encouraging them to forgive rather than to condemn.
- Those pardoned or healed have their dignity, self-respect and place in the community restored.
 - Jesus makes clear the need to stand up for the truth and ensure the real needs of people are met.
 - Serving others is not an optional extra, but an integral aspect of Christian life.

Prayerful Response

- **Personal reflection:** *Reflective music playing during reflection time. Encourage use journals for responses.*
 - In what areas of my life do I need help and healing from Jesus?
 - What are the ways in which I help to bring healing to others?
 - What obstacles might get in the way and prevent me ministering to others?
- FF** - Recognising our need for spiritual healing the Church offers 2 sacraments of healing - Reconciliation and Sacrament of Sick. Both provide opportunities to receive a new start in life, with the help of God's grace. Regular attendance at Mass helps us to hear God's word, reflect on our life, feel a connection with the community and through the Eucharist to gain spiritual nourishment.
- Briefly check experience or knowledge of these sacraments.

Further Exploration

- **Body Part Brag - Activity** (5 mins) Each person is given an image of a body part. (*templates in Step 5 resources*) Ponder for 30 seconds the important contribution this part makes to the whole body. Group mingle and try to convince others of why their body part is the most important. 30 secs with each and move on.
 - Was Anyone prepared to concede that another body part is more important than theirs? All are necessary – if had to lose one it would be incredibly difficult to decide which one could be done without!
- FF** - Each body part is unique and important in its own way. The same is true of the Church.
- The clergy may have particular roles to play, but the ministry of lay people is just as necessary and can be as effective, though in different ways.

- One of the best known of St Paul's letters is the one to the people of Corinth which uses the analogy of the body to stress how important are the gifts and talents of individuals to the Church and the community.
- They are all meant to work together for the greater good. The gifts God has given to each of us are to be cherished, developed and used in God's service. (*1 Corinthians 12:12-31*)
- As you listen to the reading consider which of the gifts mentioned are ones you possess, and of how well you are using them.
- There will be a further few minutes of reflection time following the reading.
- Encourage the young people to refer to the prompt questions on the handout and make notes in their journal.

Prayerful Response

- **Scripture reflection: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31**
 - Listen to the passage. *Reflective music playing during reflection time.*
 - Encourage use of journals for responses.
 - Consider how the reading speaks to me of my life, of the contribution I make to my family, my school, my work environment, hobby and friendship groups, society in general, the Church?

Exploring Further

- **Saints who inspire:** (10-15 min) Young accompaniers and /or Catechists, introduce a Saint, briefly explaining what about the life of this person has inspired them, the important contribution they believe the person has made to the building of God's Kingdom.
- FF** - Each of us is the product of our environment and the people we encounter in the various aspects of that. Others help to shape us, today we have the opportunity to acknowledge some of these people and thank God for them.
- all the Baptised are united as the family of God and called to serve, not just the Church, but the whole of God's creation.
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- **The saints amongst us:** (5-10 min)
 - Inquirers are invited to collect their photos from the prayer table, and in a couple of sentences say who the person is and express why they are an inspiration.
- FF** - We aspire to develop the qualities we admire in others, and to use well the gifts that God has given each of us to use in God's service.
- we are all called to be Missionary Disciples – (*notes included on C&S Step 5 handout plus additional Catechist resource too.*)

Closing Prayer

- **Affirmation of Gifts:** (5-10 min)
Quite music in the background to create a prayerful space.
 - On strips of paper given each person affirms a quality or gift they recognise in the other group members. Catechist Team do the same exercise.
 - Comments are then given to the relevant individuals.
 - If time allows theses can be read privately, otherwise the group members take them away to read, and ponder, at leisure.
- **Prayer of acknowledgment and Thanksgiving** - All are invited to hold, or (if seated in a circle) to place on the floor space in front of them around a candle, and also to hold the affirmations they have been given.

We place before God the Saints of the Church, the everyday saints who inspire us, and the qualities others sees in us as together we pray:

God our Father we thank you for the many people whose lives and example have enriched us, bless them and their families.

In our parishes and communities many people give generously of their time and talents to serve others. May their labours continue to bear fruit and their lives be fulfilled.

Amongst those present there are gifts being shared, hearts being opened and lives moving closer to you. Bless each person here and support them on their journey of faith.

We make these and all our prayers in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Remarks & Next Step

- Check how group are feeling about today's gathering
- Time, date and venue for the next step – *Come and See Inquiry Review, options for further stepping-stones, social and Agape (have a list of Agape items from which each person chooses something to bring)*
- Encourage personal and prayer support of one another and regular attendance at Mass