



## ‘Come and See’ – Step 6

### How this journey has been

#### Aim

To review the Inquiry Steps experience, help individuals discern their growth in faith and the next step which seems best for them.

#### Resources needed

##### Leaders

- *Come and See notes*
- *PPT laptop and projector or TV*
- *Prayer focus items*
- *Bibles or scripture passages*

##### Young People

- *Journals and hand outs*

#### Prayer Focus

Expressions of our belief:

**Cloth** - (*green, or other in keeping with the season*)

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

**Bible** - (*the Word of God*)

**Names of participants** - (*including Catechists and accompaniers*)

**Bread & Wine** - (*symbols of thanksgiving used at the Eucharist*)

#### Liturgical Link

Just as Jesus gathered with his friends around the table we too gather at Church for the Eucharist, and socially. Around both tables thanks is given to God and each other for the spiritual nourishment received.

#### Overview

- Come and See Inquiry Review
- The options ahead
- Discerning the next step
- Scripture Reflection and Prayer
- Agape and Social Time

#### Preparation by Catechists

- *Familiarity with content and resources*
- *Consult Priest re Rite of Acceptance*
- *Pray for the young people and leaders*

#### Scripture Passages

- Acts: 2: 43-47, 10:41- 42 - Table fellowship and support

#### Tenets of Faith (Faith Formation)

- The process is relational and formational
- Discernment is essential
- Freedom to choose
- Sharing food is an act of communion

\*\* *Additional notes included on PPT*

## Gathering

- **Welcome & Overview:**

Welcome back for our final Inquiry Step, which provides us with time to:

- Review the experiences of the Inquiry Steps
- Discern the growth that has taken place
- Explore the next step options
- Decide which step seems right for me, at present.

- **Opening Prayer:** *Before beginning our review let us ask for guidance:*

Lord Jesus, you know all that is in our hearts.

Help us to be open and honest in our reflections and to be fair in our judgements.

May the wisdom of the Holy Spirit guide our minds as we consider what may be the best next step for us to take on this journey of faith. Amen

## Review of Inquiry Steps:

- **Review** - reviewing our experiences is a valuable learning tool and a useful habit to cultivate. Your feedback will also assist us to keep improving the materials and processes devised for the *Come and See* Inquiry steps.

The review will be in two sections, both of which are important.

**1. The time spent together** – use the questions on the handout to help you reflect on the ways we've worked together, the topics we've covered and how you are feeling about the journey. The handout, will be collected, add comments in your journal that are important for you to remember, or reflect on further. It is helpful for us if names are included, but the choice is yours.

*Music playing during reflection time - 5 + minutes*

- Remind yourself of why you chose to take part in *Come and See*: honestly consider 'have I found what I was looking for?' Why / why not? What has helped / hindered?  
- Rate your enjoyment of the experience overall - circle (least) **1 2 3 4 5** (most)  
Make any suggestions of ways to improve the Come and See steps
- How well did the activities and the content help you to grow in understanding of the topics covered? Note anything in particular that was really helpful, or difficult.  
- Rate how well activities helped open up the topics – circle (least) **1 2 3 4 5** (most)  
Make any suggestions of ways to open up or engage with the topics.
- How comfortable have you felt within the group? Note anything in particular about the people and the environment that has helped or hindered  
- Rate how safe, comfortable, valued you have felt – circle (least) **1 2 3 4 5** (most)  
Make any suggestions to improve the sense of wellbeing amongst the group

**2. Spiritual Growth** - Being an entry point on the faith journey, reflection on the growth in faith is an essential part of the *Come and See* review. As the reflection will lead to a decision, the process is called **Discernment**. The **Discernment** focuses on the 5 aspects of relationship which the rClyp journey aims to nourish: relationship with **God**, with the **Scriptures**, with the **Church Community**, with **Prayer and Liturgy** and with the **Mission** of the Church. Please use the questions on the handout, as in the previous review. *Music playing during reflection time - 10 minutes*

- **God** – how has my appreciation of God as Father, Son and Spirit developed? How well am I beginning to form a relationship with God? What has helped / hindered?  
- Try to give a practical example of how your relationship with God has grown.
- **Scripture** – how has my appreciation of the Scriptures, the New Testament in particular, developed? Am I beginning to see the connection between the story of God, as found in the Bible, and my own life story? How has my understanding of Jesus and his teachings developed? Try to give an example.
- **Prayer and Liturgy** – How comfortable am I with the prayerful elements of the *Come and See* gatherings? How well do these seem to resonate with me and my life, or my stage of the journey? How useful was the visit to the Church in helping uncover the significance of items and actions used in different liturgical settings. If possible give a concrete example.
- **Church Community** – How has my sense of connection with the Church grown in recent weeks? What in particular has helped or hindered? Have I attended any weekend Masses in the parish? If so, how have I felt in that environment? Try to express associated reasons. Have I attended any other parish, diocesan event? If so, how did I find that experience?
- **Mission** - what is my understanding of the Mission of the Church? What have I learnt that is new, or helped make clearer the requirements of Mission? How do I feel about being a follower of Jesus, a missionary Disciple?
- **The next step** - have I already come to a decision about whether to continue on the journey? Are there questions I need to ask, or other things to consider before making that decision? If so, please identify these.

At the end of the reflection period, group members are invited to share something about their learning and also a comment or question about the *Come and See* experience with the group.

## The Next Steps

- **Freedom to choose:** individuals are free to continue or pause the journey at any time. Accepting Jesus into your life, and the responsibility of being a Missionary Disciple which Baptism and full communion requires is a serious step. Being a life-long commitment, it must not be taken lightly or rushed into.

- **Choices available:**
  - Commitment to continue onto stage 2, *Growing in Faith* (Catechumenate) and readiness for formal expression of that through the ***Rite of Acceptance and Welcome***
  - Desire to continue exploring and growing in faith during stage 2, but not yet ready to commit
  - Unsure about, or unable to take part in stage 2 so need time out
  - Don't think this journey is right for me, so choose not to continue

## Rite of Acceptance and Welcome

- **The Rite of Acceptance and Welcome** is an opportunity for those journeying to faith to formally express their desire for Baptism, or the reception of the other Sacraments. Preferably this will happen in Church, at a Sunday Mass. The parish is then able to formally welcome the individuals, and to offer them support through prayer, and by beginning to get to know them.  
Alternatively, the Rite could take place at another time and place as agreed in consultation with the priest. Either way the family members of the young people need to be invited, and permission sought for those under the age of 16.
- Provide a sheet with details of ***the Rite*** and suggested time & date. (*see step 6 resources*)
- Provide a sheet with details of the dates and timings of the next phase of the journey,
- **Growing in Faith.** (*Tailor this to suit the needs of the group, time available and liturgical season*)

**FF** - Contact with and support from the church community is necessary for developing a sense of belonging to the community. Your presence and the Rite both encourage the parish community and challenge them to consider their own faith journey.

## Scripture Reflection and Prayer

- **Scripture Passage: Acts 2: 43-47, 10:41- 42** *If the prayer table is not central, or clearly visible to all rearrange to gather around it. Add the names of the group members to the bread plate / dish.*

- Provide the context for the reading and invite the group members to allow God's word to speak to them as they listen to the passage.
- invite any responses

**FF** - The early disciples drew strength and courage from being together, they shared food, cared for one another and spent time in prayer. In keeping with the practices of Jesus, they always thanked God and asked for God's blessing before eating.  
- Through conversations they were able to remind one another of their mission to preach the Gospel, call people to repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

- Many good people today have given up on church practice, believing they don't need to attend church to be good, or in relationship with God. True, but they miss the opportunity to be nourished by the grace of the sacrament and the love of the community. When we lose our connection we are weaker, in unity we become stronger.

## Prayerful Response

- Before we enjoy one another's company and share the food we've brought let us turn to God in prayer:
- **Acts:10:41-42** *Reflective music playing during this time*  
*We ate and drank with Jesus after God raised him from death.*
  - bring to mind the people with whom you have shared important meals: silently name each and thank God for them
  - bring to mind the family members and friends with whom you can no longer share a meal: silently name each and thank God for them
  - bring to mind those who have encouraged you on this journey, including the members of this group: their names are on the table with the bread and wine, symbols of our lives.We thank God for the gift of each of these people.

### **Together we pray:**

*Lord Jesus, we place before you the people called to mind, bless and protect them.  
Fill our hearts with love for all your people and each day help us to become more like you, who are our inspiration and food for life's journey. Amen*

As we prepare to share food and fellowship we offer this dedication to the Lord:

As the scattered grain was made one in the loaf,  
So you Lord, make us one in yourself.  
As you took the bread to feed the people  
So break us that others may be fed.  
As we share bread together, may we share your work,  
As we share your work, may we share your power,  
As we share your pain may we share your life.

*Services 1985*

*English Churches Youth*

## Closing Remarks and Next Step

- Remind group of the next meeting date / Rite of Acceptance & Welcome
- Encourage personal and prayer support of one another and regular attendance at Mass