

The Joy of the Gospel Study Guide Questions

Introduction

1. How often do I experience the joy of the gospel? How can a desire to protect my personal interests, concerns, and possessions inhibit this joy? (1-5)
2. What is my most recent encounter with God's love? How does it give meaning to my life? (6-8)
3. Pope Francis says the task of evangelization is "the source of authentic personal fulfillment." Is that how you view evangelization? Why or why not? (9-11)
4. Can you recall a time when you accomplished something wonderful, only to realize that God was at work and he enabled your success? How often do you tackle a difficult task, knowing that God will be at your side to help you succeed? (12-13)
5. How can I help my parish reach out to those who have not found faith in Jesus? Can I recount any recent success in bringing someone outside the faith to RCIA, Bible study, youth ministry, or a similar outreach? (14-15)
6. Why must evangelization be part of every activity we undertake? How do you see this unfolding in your life? (16-18)

Chapter One: The Church's Missionary Transformation

1. When have you shared the gospel, even in a small way, and felt the joy of the Lord in the process? Describe a scenario where you would like to do this but have not had the courage. How might you proceed? (19-20)
2. What does taking on the "smell of sheep" mean in the effort to become an evangelizing community? (24)
3. How well does our parish encourage and train its members to be evangelizers? How could we make changes in our parish to become better equipped for this mission? (25-33)
4. How well do our missionary efforts concentrate on "the essentials," the saving love of Jesus made manifest in Jesus Christ? How does my portrayal—through words and action—invite others to draw near to Jesus' loving heart? How do I make sure I am preaching the gospel, and not just ideology? (34-39)
5. How can I become "weak with the weak" as I propose the Good News to others? Why might this be essential in another person's acceptance of the gospel message? (40-45)
6. What is good strategy for reaching "the poor and the sick" and "those...despised and overlooked" in order to bring them into a sacramental life of faith in our parish? How do we combat reluctance to being part of a "bruised, hurting, and dirty" Church because we fear going out of our own comfort zone? (46-49)