



Gathering Guide Materials

C.H.R.I.S.T Discipleship Path Tour

WEEK 5 – October 19–25, 2025

The Discipleship Path is a roadmap for deepening your relationship with Christ.

BEGIN YOUR GROUP MEETING WITH AN OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, we thank You for the guidance that Christ gives us from His life and from this discipleship journey. We ask that You help us to understand the importance sharing our faith stories that we are exploring this week: starting by recognizing our own stories and growing closer to You as we do. Please give us the grace and courage to share ourselves with others out of gratitude for all that You have done for us. And help us to bring others closer to You through our testimonies. Thank You for loving us. Amen.

Last week's journey took us through the I in Christ: Invest! We learned about the importance of investing our very selves in the service of others.

This week, we build on our evolving understanding of living **holy** lives in **community** with others, taking time to **retreat**, and **investing** ourselves in others, by exploring the power of **sharing** our faith story: the "S" in CHRIST.

VIEW THIS WEEK'S VIDEOS ON YOUR PARISH TOUR HOME PAGE

ST. JOHN VIANNEY

ST. MARY CHURCH

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

S is for SHARE

A disciple shares their faith with others through witness, evangelization, and love.

The S for Share is all about sharing our faith story. This involves telling others about our relationship with God, our personal experiences, how God and our faith in Him has shaped our lives. This is very important because such sharing can be the spark that ignites someone else's journey with Jesus ... by inspiring, encouraging and even guiding them.

This is not always easy to do; it can be scary to begin. Our readings this week give us courage: our Responsorial reminds us that our **help is from the Lord**; the second reading tells us that God's Word gives us **wisdom and equips us for every good work**; and the Alleluia fittingly promises us that Scripture is effective in helping us **discern the thoughts of our hearts**.

The readings also give us guidance: the Gospel reminds us to begin as we must begin all things, **by praying without becoming weary**; the second reading tells us to **be persistent – even when it is inconvenient!**

And the final words of the Gospel help us understand why it is important to share our faith story: so that the Son of Man will find faith on earth when He comes. It is up to us to spread that faith, His Good News!

A Disciple Knows Jesus...By SHARING Our Faith Stories with Others

*We are all disciples, followers of Jesus, always learning from Him.
And a disciple knows Jesus when SHARING one's faith story with others.*

If we are going to *share* our faith story with others, we have to know our faith story! That means we need to take the time to reflect on the key moments in our lives: when we first truly encountered God, the blessings He has given us, the challenges He has helped us overcome, the lessons He has taught us. When we take the time in *retreat* to consider these things, we recognize Jesus' presence in our lives more clearly and get to know Him better in the process.

Telling our faith stories helps us to recognize God's purpose for us ... and to recognize and treasure the lessons we've learned along the way. And when we *share* our stories with others in *community*, we are investing ourselves in others ... putting ourselves on a strong path to *holiness!*

Questions for Consideration and Dialog

As you prepare yourself to share your faith story, consider these questions and share your answers with your small group. That sharing will help you break the ice for sharing your faith story with others who may not yet know Christ the way that you do.

- Has someone shared their faith story with you and how did it impact you?
- When did you first truly encounter God?
- What blessings have you received from God?
- What challenges has He helped you to overcome and what lessons has God taught you?
- How has your relationship with God changed over time ... and what has brought about those changes?

Guidance from the Bible

The Bible is always a powerful source of spiritual nourishment and a guide for our lives. Here are some passages that speak to the importance of sharing our faith story for you to ponder.

1 Peter 3:15 - "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Psalms 107:2 - "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story..."

Psalms 66:16 - "Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

Matthew 5:14 - "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

John 4:39 - “Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony. ‘He told me everything I ever did.’”

Romans 10:17 - “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

2 Timothy 1:8 - “So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up”

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Here are ideas for you as you seek to know Jesus by Sharing:

PRAY

- Try to “pray always without becoming weary,” seeking His help in understanding your story and asking Him to guide you to others that need to hear your faith story. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you courage as you proceed.
- As we prepare to honor **All Souls Day**, let us **bring photos** to the **Altars of Remembrance**, we not only pray for them, but also give thanks for the ways God has worked through them to touch our lives. We are invited to remember those who have gone before us—our loved ones who shaped our faith and journeyed with us in life. Their stories are part of *our* faith story.

ACT

- Try writing your story down:
 - **Jot down the answers** to the questions above, reflecting observations and enhancements that came from sharing them with your small group.
 - **Identify any trends or themes you see** from the exercise above. (e.g., Perhaps God has moved you from doubt to faith; or you’ve learned to forgive or be forgiven; or you’ve found the strength to trust God and step out in faith; or you’ve let go of trying to control things in your life; or you’ve developed a humility that has brought you peace; or you’ve started accepting rather than judging others ... it could be many things.)
 - **Put your story together.** In Acts 22, Paul gives us a simple format to use when telling our faith stories. It is “**before-God-after**”: what was happening in your life before a God event; the God event affected you (could be in the form of a person, a Bible passage, an epiphany during prayer, or something else); *how, afterward, you are different as a result.*

INSPIRE

- Share your faith story when God gives you the chance ... and listen carefully to another person’s response. God may be talking to both of you!

Close your group meeting with:

- **Intersessions for the Group:** Take some time to pray together for the group members.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Loving Father, we thank You for this time with each other and for the opportunity to reflect together on how You have worked in each of our lives. We ask that You continually reveal to us elements of our faith stories that bring us closer to You and that we can share with others. Help us to be a Light to the World that brings others joy, faith and trust in You. Let the flame of the Holy Spirit burn in our hearts and grant us the courage to share our testimony about You. Amen.