



to Heal, Proclaim, and Teach

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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A Note from the Author

“Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness.”

Matthew 9:35 (4:23)

It is an exciting time to live and work in the Church! Thank you for picking up the *To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach* book and this study guide as a part of your journey to becoming a better evangelizing disciple. This resource is meant to help you and a group of disciples in your parish reflect on and discuss what you read in *To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach*. I have provided some suggestions on how to conduct your meetings, but select a format that works best for your group and the time that you have to meet. Please do not overlook the power of prayer during these meetings. Pray for one another. Pray for the people in your lives that need healing. Pray that you have the courage to proclaim the good news. Pray for the desire to constantly learn more about our Catholic faith.

My hope is that the discussions you are about to have will inspire you to take action. I envision a parish of leaders who focus less on programs and more on people. When you gather together to share your success stories, you may find yourself focusing on things you did not expect. You will hear stories of religious education parents who were once disconnected and distant but not fully engaged on a path of discipleship within the parish. You will hear colleagues opening up about their own personal struggles to live up to the call to follow Christ. You will hear stories of friends and family members who experience a transformative encounter with Christ because of the healing and proclaiming work of the people in your group.

We have the opportunity today to transform the lives of the people in our parishes, in our families, among our friends, and the new people we might meet today. Accept this call and walk together on a journey of discipleship. Use this resource to help facilitate the discussions that will spark a new chapter in the way you heal, proclaim, and teach as a community of evangelizing disciples.

Go make disciples!

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Meeting Format

This format could and should be adapted to meet your group's needs in facilitating an open and honest discussion about discipleship and evangelizing ministry within your community.

1. Gathering/Social Time

Use this time to catch up on life and develop personal relationships with one another.

2. Opening Prayer

A designated group leader can open in spontaneous prayer or select a prayer that is repeated each week as an anchor for the group such as the "Prayer of Saint Ignatius."

3. Scripture Reading

Assign one member of the group to select a Scripture passage that connects with the day's reading from *To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach*. This person should read the passage and offer a short reflection about why it is important to this ministry. Then, invite the rest of the group to respond.

4. Book Discussion

Designate someone (possibly the group leader) to summarize this week's reading from *To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach*, then:

- Invite the group to share their favorite quotes.
- Read and discuss the questions in this guide.
- Share stories from life and ministry that connect with the reading.

5. Group Intentions

As a group and as individuals, clarify some intentions for the upcoming week. How will each person in the group apply what was read and discussed this week to their personal lives and ministries?

6. Closing Prayer

With a special focus on petitions, pray for each member of your group. Pray for the people whom they healed, proclaimed, and taught. Pray for others who are in need of healing the most.

Small-Group Discussion Questions

Part 1: Foundations



1. Who are the “spiritual not religious” crowds in and around your community? (Introduction)

2. How can we, as disciples, embrace our imperfections and sinfulness as a path to uniting ourselves with those who feel excluded from the Church? (Chapter 1)

3. Thinking of evangelization as a process, which ministries and offerings serve people at the earlier “heal” and “proclaim” stages of evangelization and which ministries serve the “teach” and catechesis stages of evangelization? (Chapter 2)

Small-Group Discussion Questions

Part 2: Imitating Jesus



1. Which healing story of Jesus has the most impact on you personally and why? (Chapter 3)
2. How have you or now can you become more of a “wounded healer”? (Chapter 3)
3. Where is your personal “Calcutta”? What is your parish’s “Calcutta”? Why? (Chapter 3)
4. In what ways do you and your ministries proclaim Pope Francis’s summary of the kerygma: Jesus Christ loves you; he died for you; and he is with you today? (Chapter 4)
5. How can you simplify the message you proclaim in your ministries to clearly communicate God’s love to those who are unsure that it is there? (Chapter 4)
6. How can your faith formation and catechetical ministries cultivate curiosity in new and deeper ways? How can you make sure people are not satisfied, bored, or frustrated, but leave wanting to learn more? (Chapter 5)

Small-Group Discussion Questions

Part 3: Evangelization Today



1. Which of the nine challenges in chapter 6 made the biggest impact on you personally as an evangelizing disciple? Why? (Chapter 6)
2. How can you create more opportunities to build one-on-one relationships with people in your ministries and community? (Chapter 7)
3. How can you inspire your formal mentors (Baptism, Confirmation, RCIA, marriage preparation, etc.) to follow a discipleship model that practices the art of accompaniment? (Chapter 7)
4. What are your parish's (or ministry's) most popular and powerful "inviteable events"? (Chapter 8)
5. Where are there opportunities to create or grow small groups in your ministry or parish? (Chapter 8)
6. Do your ministries have a distinct "brand"? Are there ways in which you can rename or refer to your ministries to easily communicate their most remarkable aspects? (Chapter 8)

Small-Group Discussion Questions

Part 4: Evangelizing Ministry with Every Generation



1. How can you reach the parents of the children in your religious education ministries? (Chapter 9)
2. In what ways is your youth ministry so remarkable for teenagers that they want to come back and invite their friends to join? What can be changed? (Chapter 10)
3. Knowing that college campus ministry is built upon a foundation of peer-to-peer or peer-to-mentor relationships, in what ways can you cultivate discipleship today? (Chapter 11)
4. In what ways are you cultivating a community of disciples among the young adults in your parish? What one new inviteable event can you start and invite people to attend? (Chapter 12)
5. In what ways can you transition your adult faith-formation offerings from catechetical offerings (teaching) to evangelizing, inviteable events (healing, proclaiming)? (Chapter 13)
6. How can you encourage more formal one-on-one mentoring and small groups among adults in your parish? (Chapter 13)