



Leadership

Scriptural Reflection:

Learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)

So, when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." (John 13:12-15)

Group Discussion Questions:

What does it mean to be "great" or to strive for greatness? What things does a great man do – or not do?

Optional - Please watch the video on Magnanimity by Father Mike Schmitz in preparation for this section. He gives a great short explanation (9 min) on this virtue that is very relevant to this discussion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkaellmuzn4>

How do we distinguish false humility from real humility?

What do you think it means to be a servant leader? Is there anyone in your life right now that exhibits those traits?

How important is it for a Catholic leader to be a man of virtue? What does that even mean?

Challenge

Pray like Solomon. One of the essential virtues of any leader is wisdom. Solomon prayed for wisdom, or discernment. Like Solomon, pray for wisdom and set aside some time each week to read the Book of Ecclesiastes or the Book of Proverbs to meditate on the nature of wisdom.

Strive for great things. If the virtue of magnanimity involves striving for great things, work to develop this virtue in your own life by examining what you are striving for. Are the true aims of your life things like money, pleasure, "down time," watching sports and avoiding "hassle"? Or do you have nobler goals such as growing in virtue, fighting injustice, serving your community and leading your family? Identify one "great thing" you would like to strive for in your life and write down specific ways you can move toward that goal.

Read about leaders. The world is in great need of good leadership. Pick a leader from history (such as Abraham Lincoln or Pope St. John Paul II) you especially admire and find a biography about him. As you read the book, write down leadership lessons, practices and principles you identify that you can integrate into your own life. Refer to the list regularly (and perhaps expand it through further reading over time) to reflect on whether and how you are incorporating its contents into your own leadership style



Fatherhood

Scriptural Reflection:

“What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (Luke 11:11-13)

Group Discussion Questions:

Tell me practices in our culture that diminish the role of Fatherhood?

What does it mean to form our children? How do the actions of a father form and shape the person his children will become?

It is easy for a man to become passive in today's world. What can we do to remain mindful of our purpose and mission so that we do not slip into passivity?

Challenge

Light a candle. As spiritual leader of your family, on a regular basis make it a point to visit your parish church with your children on a day other than Sunday to visit the Blessed Sacrament, pray and light some candles for your children's intentions and those of the family.

Watch a movie. Watch a movie as a family where a positive vision of fatherhood is a strong theme. Discuss with your children the film's portrayal of fatherhood and what it means to be a good father.

Look to St. Joseph. Learn how to be a better father from St. Joseph by increasing your devotion to this great saint, the most chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster father to the Son of God. Choose a specific prayer or devotion to Saint Joseph to say daily. Get a statue of St. Joseph to display in the home. On a weekly or month basis choose a Scripture passage featuring St. Joseph and meditate on his role in it.

Note: Excerpts for this session have been copied from the Knights of Columbus: Into the Breach Video Series Study Guide. (2021)



Fishermen Manual Session 2
