

# Talk 1: What is Discovering Christ and Why Does it Work?

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## 1. ChristLife: An Evangelization Process

- a. Discovering Christ
- b. Following Christ
- c. Sharing Christ

## 2. The Goal of Discovering Christ

*“Transmitting the faith means to create in every place and time the conditions for a personal encounter of individuals with Jesus Christ. The faith-encounter with the person of Jesus Christ is a relationship with him...”*

- Synod on the New Evangelization, *Lineamenta*, 11

## 3. Personal Encounter with Jesus

*“Faith is above all a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, and to experience his closeness, his friendship, his love; only in this way does one learn to know him ever more, and to love and follow him ever more. May this happen to each one of us.”*

- Pope Benedict, October 21, 2009

## 4. Key Elements

- a. Community/Fellowship
- b. Prayer
- c. Teaching
- d. Personal Sharing

## 5. Growing, not manufacturing...

- a. Takes time to see: Grace
- b. Takes time to grow in trust: Relationships
- c. Takes time to reach a decision: Personal response

6. Involves the whole person

- a. Appeal to the mind
- b. Appeal to the heart

*“Evangelization must touch people’s minds and hearts, stir their consciences and engage their energies.”*

- Pope John Paul II, 1990

7. The Structure

- a. One session each week for seven weeks
- b. One-day retreat after session 5

8. Four parts to each session:

- c. Dinner
- d. Announcements, prayer & song
- e. DVD Teaching
- f. Small group discussion

9. Dinner

10. Song & Prayer

11. DVD Teaching

- 1) What Is the Meaning of Life?
- 2) Why Does Jesus Matter?
- 3) What Does Jesus Want Us to Know?
- 4) Why Do I Need a Savior?
- 5) Why Is the Resurrection Important?
- 6) Who Is the Holy Spirit? (retreat)
- 7) The Holy Spirit and You! (retreat)
- 8) New Life in the Spirit
- 9) Our Need for the Church

## 12. Keep It Simple

*“Within the whole process of evangelization, the aim of catechesis is to be the teaching and maturation stage, that is to say, the period in which the Christian, having accepted by faith the person of Jesus Christ as the one Lord and having given Him complete adherence by sincere conversion of heart, endeavors to know better this Jesus to whom he has entrusted himself.”*

- Pope John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae*, 20

## 13. Focus on the *kerygma*:

*“Often those who are admitted to catechesis need, in fact, a true conversion. Thus the Church desires that ordinarily an initial stage in the catechetical process be devoted to ensuring conversion”*

- Pope John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae*, 19.

## 14. Small Group Discussion

## 15. Holy Spirit Retreat Day

## 16. “Making the Ask”

- a. It’s not enough to present information about Christ – we need to create an environment where they desire to give their life completely to the Lord Jesus.

*“Conversion means accepting by personal decision the saving sovereignty of Christ and becoming his disciple.”*

-Pope John Paul II, *Mission of the Redeemer*, 46

## 17. The Primacy of Grace

*“In every activity of evangelization, the primacy always belongs to God.... God has taken the first step and therefore we can boldly take the initiative to move forward, to seek the fallen away, to welcome the outcast, to share the Father’s mercy.”*

- Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, 12, 24

## 18. Afterwards?

- a. Following Christ
- b. Sharing Christ