

Participant Guide – Introduction & Video

CHAPTER
INTRO

Ice breaker - QUICK FIRE INTRODUCTIONS!

Each person take **1 minute (MAX!)** to introduce yourself by sharing:

- Your name
- One thing about Holy Family that you are proud of, and would share with others.
- The main reason why you chose to join this book club.

Watch Video #1:

Do we know our “why”?

Why are things the way they are in our church? How did the culture in our parish come about? Why do we do what we do? What are the real reasons why we go to church?

Churches are struggling, especially Catholic Churches. Father Michael shares the problems he discovered upon arriving at The Church of the Nativity, and the root cause of these problems which are shared by many Churches – that they have lost their core mission.

Using scripture, we look at how the devil tempted Jesus to abandon his mission (unsuccessfully of course), and how as a Church we need to stay focused on being a Church that makes disciples.

Are we being distracted from our true purpose by things which are out of alignment or even in direct contradiction to our mission? Are we seeking the safe, comfortable satisfaction that comes from maintaining the status quo. Are we being tempted to spend our time on things which seem easier or more rewarding than what we should really be doing as followers of Christ?

Participant Guide – Small Group Discussion

CHAPTER
1

Discussion Question:

“What pressures or influences can cause us (as a church) to make mistakes or decisions which are contrary to our mission?”

CHAPTER
2

Discussion Question:

“In what ways are we being more obedient to broken systems and the wrong culture within the church, than we are to God’s will for His Church?” (Discuss specific examples)

CHAPTER
1&2

CALL TO ACTION:

List one or two steps you will take over the next week, which are aligned with our mission, and are in obedience to God’s will for His Church.

(This could be as simple as inviting someone to come to church, or sitting in the middle of the pew to make it easier for a latecomer to discreetly take their seat next to the aisle. Or it could be as significant as volunteering for ministry service, or reflecting on your previous reaction to events or changes in the parish, and rethinking your position or attitude towards those things.)
