

Facilitators Guide - Session Outline

0:00-0:15	Opening prayer and comments
0:15-0:30	Next STEPS Video
0:30-0:35	5 minute break
0:35-1:10	Small group discussion
1:10-1:25	Table group activity question
1:25-1:30	Closing comments and prayer

Facilitators Guide – Video, Discussion, Prayer & Reflection

Next STEPS Video:

How to approach the journey to discipleship

In this video, Father Michael talks about the importance of viewing faith as a journey and a series of steps, shown through lifestyle choices: Serving in Ministry & Missions; Ithing & Giving; Engaging in a Small Group; Practicing Prayer & Sacraments; and Sharing through Evangelization. While we do not earn our way to heaven or into a relationship with God, it does not mean we do not have put in effort. God wants to lead us to complete faith and trust in him. Faith requires works. As James said, "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-22)

Fr Michael outlines the five major steps we need to take to become fully devoted followers of Christ, and highlights that they are not obligations to check off, but helpful and necessary steps, to support us on our journey, and make us more successful in our lives.

Next
STEPS

Discussion Question:

"Following your reflections on Next STEPS in the past couple of weeks - what became clearer to you after hearing Father Michael's message?"

Next
STEPS

Prayer & Reflection:

Invite your table participants to pray together for God's wisdom and guidance so that each member of the group can find their Next STEP, then take a moment to reflect / make notes in your Next STEPS booklet.

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- It's completely up to you how to approach this. You can lead this prayer, or ask if someone else would like to. You can use a prayer of your own, the Holy Family Mission prayer, or you can be spontaneous.
- You should invite others to say a few words of prayer of course, but respect that some may not wish to pray out loud, and you should take care to avoid anyone feeling any pressure to do so.

ALL
 CHAPTERS

Discussion Question:

Ask yourself: *“What, up to now, has prevented me from making more of a personal contribution to the life of the parish?”*

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- This question is asked on the basis that every single one of us has room to grow.
- It might be good to clarify that however much, or however little someone might contribute – there are many things which can legitimately prevent them from being more involved. Nobody should feel like they are being “called out” for not living up to expectations – the intention is to help identify obstacles which can be removed!

 CHAPTER
13&14
Discussion Question:

“What culture, and other factors are important in ensuring that we have the right volunteers, staff and leadership in the church?”

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- Some people may wish to share stories or anecdotes, but the real value will be to clarify our ideal culture, strategies and principles. Chapters 13 & 14 of the book are full of many great points.

TABLE GROUP ACTIVITY QUESTION:

“What practical actions, habits, or behaviours could transform our parish culture, if every parishioner adopted them?”

- Take 5 quiet minutes (no discussion yet) to consider the above question and write down some answers. To assist you:
 - Review your notes / reflections on the Rebuilt book
 - Reflect on what has been discussed at your table
 - Consider your own experiences (good and bad)

- Take 5 minutes to share your answers in your table group, and have one person write them down on the brainstorm sheet.

- Take 5 minutes as a group to identify your table’s “top 3 – model behaviours”.

CALL TO ACTION:

Put into practise this week – either the top 3 from your table group, or your own top 3 model behaviours.
