

FORMING PARISHES OF INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES



— FORMING —
INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLES



The Path to Knowing
and Following Jesus

Sherry A. Weddell

READING GUIDE

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Aim

This guide is intended to be used by parish groups as a way of engaging in reflection and learning about the ideas presented in *Forming Intentional Disciples*, by Sherry Weddell. It will build relationships around a shared vision and understanding, leading to a renewed focus on effective evangelisation within the parish.

The Group

The Reading Group will consist of the parish priest and a small number of parishioners. The group should have no more than six participants, including the priest and any facilitators.

Each Session

Participants will be expected to have read the relevant chapters before each session, and to prepare a reflection. The book is divided into twelve chapters. Each session will cover two chapters of the book.

Each Session

- An opening prayer
 - A time of reflection. Each participant will share on the following points:
 1. What struck you the most?
 2. What ramifications does this have for your parish culture and for your ministry?
- This sharing can be guided by personal reflection using the Chapter Reflections on the following page. It is suggested that this be done in prayer, and with the use of a journal. Each session will cover two chapters at a time.
- A time of discussion. The above-mentioned personal reflections can assist in stimulating a full and vibrant conversation about the ideas being presented in the book.
 - A closing prayer.

The Chapter Reflections

Week One

Chapter 1 - God Has No Grandchildren

Did you grow up Catholic?

If so, what kind of relationship with God was modelled for you?

Chapter 2 - We Don't Know What Normal Is

What is your experience of the "Don't ask, don't tell" culture? Have you had someone talk to you about his or her relationship with God?

What effect did this have on you?

Week Two

Chapter 3 - The Fruit Of Discipleship

"Disciples pray with passion. Disciples worship. Disciples love the Church and serve her with energy and joy. Disciples give lavishly. Disciples hunger to learn more about their faith. Disciples fill every formation class in a parish or diocese. Disciples manifest charisms and discern vocations. They clamour to discern God's call because they long to live it. Disciples evangelise because they have really good news to share. Disciples share their faith with their children. Disciples care about the poor and about issues of justice. Disciples take risks for the Kingdom of God." (page 81)

What do you identify with in this list? In which area would you like to grow?

Chapter 4 - Grace And The Great Quest

Describe your attitude towards receiving the sacraments. Has it changed since reading this chapter?

Week Three

Chapter 5 - Thresholds Of Conversion: Can I Trust You?

Reflect on your faith journey.

Has there been someone who was a “bridge of trust” for you? Have you been a “bridge of trust” for someone?

Chapter 6 - The Second Threshold: Curiosity

If you could ask God one question that you knew he would answer right away, what would it be?

Week Four

Chapter 7 - The Third Threshold: Openness

Consider a time in your life when you had to make a change that was challenging.

Can you recognise fruits from that decision?

Chapter 8 - Thresholds Of Conversion: Seeking And Intentional Discipleship

“We need to model what it means to seek after Christ and share how that is going”.

How would you describe your experience of prayer to someone else?

Week Five

Chapter 9 - Break The Silence

Reflect on your relationship with God up to this point in your life.

What moments in your life have you felt closest to God or been aware of his presence? Can you identify times in your life when you made progress in your relationship with God?

Chapter 10 - Do Tell: The Great Story Of Jesus

Can you identify parts of the "Great Story of Jesus" in your life story?

Week Six

Chapter 11 - Personally Encountering Jesus In His Church

What is your relationship with the Holy Spirit like?

Do you find it easy to recognise your gifts and the gifts of others?

What gifts has God given you, and how do you use them?

Chapter 12 - Expect Conversion

What is your dream for your parish? Describe what it would look like.

A portrait of Sherry Weddell, a woman with short brown hair, smiling and resting her head on her hand. She is wearing a dark blue patterned shirt and a blue patterned scarf. The background is a light blue gradient.

SHERRY WEDDELL

Author

Sherry Anne Weddell created the first charism discernment process specifically designed for Catholics in 1993. She co-founded and serves as co-Director of the Catherine of Siena Institute, an affiliated international ministry of the Western Dominican Province.

Sherry has developed numerous unique formation resources that are used around the world. She trains and leads an international team of teachers and trainers who have worked directly with over 140,000 ordained, religious, and lay Catholics in over 500 parishes in 175 dioceses on 5 continents.