

PRAYING THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES TOGETHER

Introductory session

Here are provided for your group 12 meeting plans based on the General Principles of CLC. These General Principles are a description of CLC's vision and charism. They are not a set of rules and regulations, but a particular vision for living out in community Christ's invitation to be church in a unique way. The General Principles were approved at the CLC World Assembly in Guadalajara on September 7, 1990 and by The Pontifical Council for the Laity later that same year.

The GPs are fundamental to CLC's way of living, but few of us are familiar with them. These sessions are not intended to be prayed through one after the other in a row, rather, your group can select three or four to be covered in a year, and then, after 3 or 4 years, you could come back to them again.

Grace: We ask to appreciate more the value and purpose of our small groups.

Opening activity:

As a group, try to identify the 12 General Principles with a word or phrase. When you stop, check this against the handout of GPs. Scores: 1-3 (lost sheep!), 4-6 (disciples!), 7-10 (apostles!), 11-12 (inspired by the Spirit!)

Reflection

The Aim of the Local CLC Group.

In the opening statement of the Christian Life Community Handbook, one sentence speaks of the aim of the local CLC group. Think about how you would articulate the aim of your local CLC group.

- What do you see as the purpose of your group?
- Why do you meet together each week or fortnight?

Each local CLC is a group of people who meet together regularly to help one another to know Christ better and to seek and respond to what He is asking of them individually and collectively. Here we see three elements of this aim:

1. To help one another: In particular, the CLC group process invites us to help one another by listening contemplatively to one another. I also help them by my sharing my own story of Christ in my life, honestly and openly, entrusting myself to the group.

2. Helping each other to do what? a) To know Christ better: This is at the heart of CLC identity. As a Christian vocation, the CLC way of life is grounded in union with Christ which is grounded on felt-knowledge, heart-knowledge. b) To seek what He is asking: From this heart-knowledge of Christ, we can come to know his desires for us, where he is leading, what he is asking, how he wants us to follow. c) To respond to what He is asking.

3. Individually and collectively: Our aim is also about helping one another to know Christ as a group – for the group to know what Christ is asking of them collectively, for the group to respond collectively to his leading.

Scripture: Eph 1: 13 - 20

Reflection questions

Have you been growing in heart-knowledge of Christ?

Has this CLC group helped you to do this? How?

Am I aware of a collective response of this group to the call of Christ?

Song: Enya, 'Pilgrim'