Small Group Format and Content – March and April 2022

90 Minute Meeting:

30 minutes - gather and chat

30 minutes - read upcoming Sunday Readings and watch Jeff Cavins' reflection

- Option 1
 - Choose someone to read the 1st reading and Psalm
 - Choose someone to read the 2nd reading
 - Choose someone to read the Gospel
- Option 2
 - Listen to readings From the USCCB
 - 1. Click here to access USCCB website
 - **2.** Select Date from calendar
 - **3.** At top of screen select 'Listen Podcast' to access audio for readings
 - 4. To begin playing audio click red arrow

(Note: You may choose to select another reflection. Go to <u>Sunday Readings - Videos</u> (sundayprep.org)

Link to readings: Year C: <u>Daily Bible Readings, Audio and Video Every Morning | USCCB</u> Links to Jeff Cavins' Reflections:

March 6: First Sunday of Lent - YouTube

March 13: Second Sunday of Lent - YouTube

March 20: <u>3rd Sunday of Lent - YouTube</u>

March 27: Fourth Sunday of Lent - YouTube

April 3: <u>5th Sunday of Lent - YouTube</u>

April 10 (Palm Sunday): Palm Sunday - YouTube

April 17 (Easter Sunday): <u>Easter Sunday - YouTube</u>

April 24 (Divine Mercy Sunday): Divine Mercy Sunday - YouTube

30 Minutes - discuss the readings and answer the discussion questions

March 6 Discussion Questions

- 1. The first temptation or testing is about relying on material things rather than on spiritual. Which have priority in your life?
- 2. The second temptation is about relying on power to bring happiness. What do you need to give up in order to find simplicity and inner freedom in your life?
- 3. Faith is saying to God: "Thy will be done," not expecting God to work miracles just for you. When has humble trust in God already brought you through to the other side of a difficult time?
- 4. What temptation do you think our society, or our church has fallen into? How might we return to faithful service of the gospel?

March 13 Discussion Questions

- 1. When have you experienced the glory of Jesus? When did he become for you not just your Teacher but your Savior and Lord?
- 2. Are you so focused on your own sins and unworthiness that you cannot believe that God's is guiding you to glory through this Lenten journey?
- 3. Have you kept silent like the disciples, or have you told others of how God's grace is at work within you?
- 4. Which person's goodness have you been most blind to?

March 20 Discussion Questions

- 1. Do you still think of God as an accountant totaling up your good and bad deeds? What other image of God do you have?
- 2. Which person has shown you the liberating power of trust in God's love for you?
- 3. How do you still need to be pruned in order to bear fruit?
- 4. What needs to be changed in our church or society for God's kingdom/reign to be revealed?

March 27 Discussion Questions

- 1. Which son are you most like?
- 2. Who, like the father, has brought you forgiveness and reconciliation?
- 3. To whom have you brought those two gifts?
- 4. In our church or society how are they being denied to people?

April 3 Discussion Questions

- 1. What words or phrases caught your attention in the readings for Sunday?
- 2. Have you ever been too willing to "cast the first stone" when you disapproved of someone's behavior?
- 3. How can you resist these feelings?
- 4. What can you do this week to "live the Gospel"?

April 10 Discussion Questions

- 1. What words or phrases caught your attention in the readings for Sunday?
- 2. When have you felt that you betrayed the confidence of another, as Peter did when he denied Jesus?
- 3. How will you prepare your heart, and home for the Passion of Christ?
- 4. How can you spend time with God this week?

April 17 Discussion Questions

- 1. What change could the hope of the resurrection of Christ inspire you to make?
- 2. Why are we so tempted to fear? How does the good news of Easter put fear to death?
- 3. What is your biggest fear? How does surrendering your life to Jesus put that fear to death?
- 4. Why is Easter a big deal? What is the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection? If you've been living in fear, would you trust your life to Him? He is Risen indeed!

April 24 Discussion Questions

- 1. When has your faith in the living Christ helped you overcome fear?
- 2. In what way does this account of Peter encourage you?
- 3. What is it that makes your soul beautiful? Prayer.
- 4. What is it that keeps you from sin?