



Session 6 | Go Forth! Ethics in Action

Coordinator / Facilitator Checklist

- ☐ Have nametags and markers available.
- ☐ Do a dry run with the video, so you know it will work and the system you are using will be visible and loud enough for people sitting farthest from the video screen.
- ☐ If you have the time and space to form several small groups, then make certain you have recruited and trained one facilitator for each small group. Meet with your small-group leaders before the beginning to make sure they are supported with materials and information. It is also perfectly acceptable to have one large-group discussion.
- ☐ Review all the scripted and spoken parts of the session, paying particular attention to the things you should read aloud to the large group. The shaded boxes are your script – improvise as you see fit.
- ☐ Confirm with the set-up and clean-up volunteers. Remember to thank your volunteers.
- ☐ Copy participant materials for this session. Make sure to make a few more than you think you need in case you have some unexpected guests.
- ☐ Ask for volunteer(s) to read the Opening Collect, and the Reading, if so desired

Coordinator / Facilitator Introduction

Timeline

- 0:00 Welcome and Introduction. Opening Collect and the reading
- 0:05 Introduce the video, show the video
- 0:15 Transition into small groups
- 0:45 Issue instructions for writing the dismissal
- 0:55 Hand out take-home materials. Give the dismissal.
- 1:00 Go forth

Flow of the Session

Begin your time together by welcoming your participants to **via media values** and reviewing the flow of your time together. If you have people attending who are new to

your community, please remember to tell them about your space, including where the restrooms are. Once you have welcomed people, offer the Confession.

- In some groups, it is easy to stay in one large room at small-group tables. In other communities, it's easier to break out into separate corners to do the small-group work, in still other communities, circles of chairs, or a single great circle is preferred.
- If you will be holding small-group discussions, divide people up into the small groups they will be in for discussing the video and ask the groups to gather.
- We recommend that the small groups you form for the first sessions stay together throughout the series in order that community and trust can form. The balance to strike is to make certain that groups can stay open to new participants, should they arrive as the series continues.
- During small-group meeting time, the coordinator may wish to join one group, permanently, or change each week. Keep an eye on the clock, and give small groups a warning shortly before you are going to call the large group back together.

Coordinator Role

If you have the time and space to form small groups, then you will have two different volunteer positions available. One is for the coordinator, the other(s) are for facilitators.

The coordinator plays an important role in running **via media values**. Working with Christian education staff or volunteers, clergy, and members of the community, the coordinator's job begins weeks before **via media values** with promotion and advertising. During the sessions it's best if a coordinator is a part of the action, ushering each transition with the scripted parts. As the host of the session, the coordinator sets the tone for radical welcome.

Short speaking bits have been scripted for use by the coordinator to introduce the videos and to transition from one part of the session to another. This is a lot to do! Remember not to take on too much yourself – involve volunteers in the sessions to help with things like set-up and clean-up.

Facilitator Role

The small-group facilitator's task is essentially to guide the small group into the discussion. Following the video presentation, participants will be experiencing various emotions: some might be shocked by what they have seen or heard, while others might be ready to jump right in and tackle the hard questions. Once the conversation starts, try to keep it moving.

Discussion Questions

It is important that you prepare each week by deciding which question to use to begin your discussion. It is also important to guide, not control, the conversation by letting the group discussion proceed naturally unless the people veer off the session's topic. Also, not every question may be of interest, or appropriate, in your small group. Use what feels right to you.

Dismissal

As the series has progressed from week to week, you have been teaching your group members about the importance of the dismissal and what it calls them to do. Each week the dismissal itself has been less scripted and more tailored to the community. This week, your group is going to write and deliver its own dismissal, to underscore the importance of going forth into the world, and taking the communion of the Table into the community of the world.

Tip of the Week

You are at the end of the series and your time together is almost over. One of the most important things left for you to do is decide how you will thank each member of your group. You might want to write a thank-you note to each person and share your appreciation about some specific thing that they said that you enjoyed. Or you might find a small token that symbolized each person's role within your small group. Or find your own way to express your thanks. The important thing is that it be something specific for each person.



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Session Summary

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People We will!

When we say these words at the end of the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation, we are making a very public statement of our responsibilities and our commitment to each other and to our community. We are engaging with them on a life-long journey of support and mutual love not only when we are gathered together in church, but in our daily life and work out in the world.

When we trace our lives from Sunday to Sunday, we notice the depth and breadth of our workings in the world. Some of us spend 40 or more hours of that week working to support ourselves and our families; many of us raise families or care for friends or loved-ones; still more of us volunteer in local and national organizations. There is no end to the variety of jobs, activities, and communities that our individual lives touch, and there is no limit to the ways in which we can use those relationships and affiliations to spread the work of God in the world.

In every way, the work in which we are engaged in our daily lives is as sacred as the time we spend together in the Eucharist or in Fellowship. Jesus gives us two great commandments: love God, and love neighbor, and teaches us that loving and serving are the same. When we feed the hungry, we are serving soup to our community. When we clothe the naked, we are providing shade to a sun-scorched earth. When we heal the sick, we are healing the nations.

When we promise to do all in our power to support each other in our life in Christ, we are promising that no one will have to do God's work alone. It is not solely the job of the Deacon to spread the Word of God. It is not solely the responsibility of the Priest to heal the sick and feed the hungry. It is not solely the role of the Bishop to lead the Church and to shape the policies that affect it. We are all called, and therefore all empowered to take our Baptismal promises into the world, to be transformed, to transform others.

The Community Gathers

From the Ordination of Deacons (adapted)

Make us, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let our lives and teachings so reflect your commandments, that through us many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may we share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

The people in a loud voice respond Amen.

The Word is spoken

Reader

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 22:24-27 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Introduction to the Video (these or other words to be read by the coordinator)

At this point, we will show a short video. You may hear things that resonate deep within you, causing you to engage with agreement or disagreement with what the speakers are saying. Whether you agree or disagree, my hope is that you will listen deeply with your heart as well as your head. Allow yourself to enter into the conversation. This is a powerful way to learn what we really believe and why. Part of what it means to be the Church is to provide a space where we can share all of ourselves with God and one another. That can be scary sometimes; it is always an opportunity for healing and for growth.

The Community Shares

The Transition to Small Groups

After viewing the video, the participants gather in their discussion groups to continue the conversation begun in the video. The coordinator will introduce the transition from the video into the small group discussions, and you will take over.

Discussion Questions

- Deacon Anthony Turney asks: “What does that charge, ‘to go out into the world to serve God’ mean for you?”
- Does God ever ask us to do work that is dangerous? Challenging? What are some of your experiences with that?
- It has been said that Jesus’ life was more important than Jesus’ death. Agree or disagree with this statement, and discuss.
- Throughout the ages, prophets have called us back into relationship with God, often charging us, as the Deacon does today, to go into the world and proclaim the newness and love of God. Who are our modern prophets? What are the messages they give us?
- Do the individual choices you make really affect the global big picture?
- Is there a relationship between how you spend your money and what you believe about the poor and needy in the world?

The Dismissal

Introduction to the Dismissal (these, or other words to be said by the coordinator)

At the end of every Eucharist is the dismissal, the instructions from the Deacon or the Celebrant to take what we have learned from the lessons and readings, and the community we have nurtured and shared out into the world with us. Often we overlook these important words, their meaning lost as we shuffle our service leaflets, search for our jackets, or decide which committee meeting we will be able to attend at coffee hour. These final moments bring us to confront our baptismal promises, carrying inward grace outward with us as we return to our jobs, our families, and our friends. Each session of this series will end with a dismissal, a chance for the community to take what we have shared together and shape our lives until we can meet again.

Week by week we have examined various dismissals, each week drawing on the experience of our community. This week we will write our own words based on the needs and values of our community. I will begin the Dismissal, in turn, each person will have an opportunity to contribute, adding his or her own desires for action in our community, service in our world, or healing in our nation. These thoughts may be expressed in words spoken aloud, or words spoken only in our hearts. As you are finished, say “Amen,” this will signal the end of your dismissal and allow the next person in turn to add their own.

Read in Turn

Let us go forth into the world _____. Amen. (give pause for each member of your group to add their dismissal, each one concluding with the words “Amen.”)

When all are finished, the Dismissal ends in the traditional way:

Thanks be to God.

From the Easter Vigil through the Day of Pentecost “Alleluia, alleluia!” may be added to the dismissal.



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Take-Home Materials

Introduction to the Take-Home Materials (these, or other words to be said by the coordinator)

Each week you will be provided some suggestions to put the promises made during Baptism into practical, modern practice. These are a few examples of activities, tasks, and challenges which can shape some of your interactions in the days to come.

Our public and private exploration of the Baptismal Covenant over the last few weeks brings us all to a new awareness of the gravity and the joys of the promises we have made in the past. In the video, Marty Coleman says of her experience of the call to serve: “I could not go on living the way I was. I was transformed.” It is true for many of us; when we hear the words of Jesus, we are changed. When we see the great needs of the world around us, we feel called to make a difference. When we experience injustice or institutional bigotry, we are compelled to speak out.

As you leave this series, consider some of the following ways to stay involved with this theological and social conversation. Expand on this list as your community and awareness expands.

- Join your parish’s outreach committee, or volunteer to form one
- Identify needs in your community and ways that people in your parish can become involved in addressing those needs
- Pray for the people on your community’s prayer list often
- Join a local charity or volunteer your time somewhere
- Teach your children about the power of volunteering
- Become involved in politics at the local, state, or national level; working on campaigns, writing letters, or simply by being an informed voter
- Keep track of the places you shop and how you spend your money. Are you supporting local businesses? Do you agree with the ethics of corporations when you buy their products?
- Support those in your community who are engaged in social ministry or outreach

When you put on Christ in Baptism and when you engage in the work of God through your covenant, your life changes. The power of engaging with the word of God in community is that we never have to do this hard work alone. We wish you well on the journey.