

# Talking About Jesus

## CALL TO PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, help us to make our relationship with you primary in our lives. Without that relationship, it becomes impossible for us to live your commandments. Help us to make love our highest goal, and in that love, be obedient to all you ask. We ask this in your name. Amen.*

## Summary

When faced with someone who is closed off to the Church, a renewed invitation into relationship with Jesus Christ is the most effective strategy. This, along with continued invitation and welcoming, will allow space for a process of interior conversion.

It is important to remember that relationship with Christ is the key to understanding and assenting to the teachings of Christ and the Church. Inviting people into that relationship is far more effective than leading with debates about moral teachings. Once relationship develops and conversion deepens, there is an opportunity to discuss teachings and issues. Relationship must precede rules.

## NOTES

# Words That Inspire

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*Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” – **John 6:67–69***

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*It is by looking to him (Jesus Christ) in faith that Christ’s faithful can hope that he himself fulfills his promises in them, and that, by loving him with the same love with which he has loved them, they may perform works in keeping with their dignity. – **CCC 1698***

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*Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity. – **Catechesi Tradendae 5***

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## Small Group Discussion Questions

1. How have you resisted rules because of a lack of relationship?
2. How has your relationship with Christ led you to more fully assent to and grasp his teachings?
3. Based on Fr. Josh's point about relationship preceding rules, how could your own approach be developed and improved?
4. Where have you seen the phenomenon that Fr. Josh describes play out in parish life?

## Team Workshop Prompt

Creating an environment in which people can grow in relationship with Jesus—and, as a result, be open to the fullness of his teachings—can be a strategic, intentional project. Fr. Josh mentioned small groups, Eucharistic adoration, and Bible study as tools to help people encounter Christ and enter into an ever deeper relationship with him. As a team, consider the ministries that are represented by those present. List them and discuss how each could reach out and help someone like the student Fr. Josh described grow in relationship and become more open.

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## Personal Prompt

Reflect on your current acceptance of—and comfort level with—the Church’s teachings. Are there particular teachings that give you difficulty? Reflect also on your relationship with Jesus. Are you with Peter who says, “Lord, to whom shall we go?” You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:68-69)? Write down some things that have challenged you or that you were unsure about in the past and are now at peace with. What did that journey look like? What can you learn from your experience and how can that help you in relating to others?

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