

Women as Witnesses to the joy of the Gospel

Young and Free: Witness, Model and Mentor

Facilitated by Gabrielle Sinclair

PRAYER (10 mins)

God of wonder,
you stir in us a desire to know you more.
Continue to call us into relationship with your Son, Jesus,
so that we might be your witnesses, in all that we do.

The Gospel According to Luke...

Luke 10:38-42

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."
The gospel of the lord...

All:

I am called....

GAME (5 mins)

*Breaking the ice – **Line up in order** ---*

Shortest to longest distanced travelled to be here

Oldest to youngest

YOUNG WOMEN TODAY (15 mins)

It is important today as we look a young women today that we don't remember a time gone by through rose coloured glasses, we must not forget that growing up is tough and finding your place in this world, and what exactly is your unique path, is a struggle that we have all faced.

Small group/partner discussion

Distractions – What are the things you see as distractions for young women today, that pull them away from time at the master feet?

Young women are confronted with a constant bombardment of imagery telling them how to look and behave that undermines their self worth. Studies show that our current cohort of adolescents and young adulthoods are experiencing unprecedented rates of depression, with one in four experiencing some form of mental illness.

Illusions – What are the illusions or images that young women are faced with that undermine their self worth?

Women as Witnesses to the joy of the Gospel

We are still grappling with inequality, yet some young women are relatively clueless of the hard earned progress that has been made by strong and determined women. Society will often still put us in one of three categories (the whore, the virgin or the mother), separating integral features of our humanity to disempower and often turn us against ourselves. I mention this not to enter into a debate on these issues but to name them as a reality.

*Pope Francis talks about needing to overcome the **many forms of slavery**:
Of **commodification, of mutilation***

Model – Who are the positive role models that young women see, and aspire to be like?

YOUNG WOMEN IN THE CHURCH (20 mins)

Personal Reflection 5 mins – share stories with your neighbour

“You women know how to embody the tender face of God, his mercy, which is translated into a willingness to give time rather than to occupy space, to welcome rather than to exclude. In this sense, I like to describe the feminine dimension of the Church as the welcoming womb which regenerates life.”

Pope Francis – challenged the church and stating “we haven’t yet come up with a **deep theology of women** in the church”

So how will we get there?

We need a global consultation, led by female theologians and women religious, tasked with listening and learning from stories of everyday women and the social data that provide the context for those personal narratives.

Sharing Personal Narratives

Mentor – Who were or are the women in your lives that connected you to the faith community?

Pope Francis has already issued us a challenge: “we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations” [214]

How are we accompanying women to navigate through the emotional challenges, confronting decisions of adolescence and adulthood? Who will be their guide? As women of faith, we are called to be witness, model and mentor to young women in our faith communities.

Pope Francis – talking about women in the church - quote

DRAMATIC READING – THE VISITATION

CONCLUDING PRAYER