Ethics for Congregations

Bible Study #1

Instructions

Rather than expect one person to be an expert in reading the Bible, we believe the Holy Spirit guides each of us to understand the scriptures together.

This Bible study is designed so that small groups of 3-5 people will prayerfully listen to and discuss the passage. The passage will be read a total of three times by a different person in the group. A focusing question has been provided to guide the conversation after each reading.

I Peter 2:11-17

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.

Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Discussion Questions

First Reading— What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?

Second Reading— Why are good deeds so important for the Christian community?

Third Reading— What are you invited to do, be, or change through this passage?