



Small Group Newsletter
St. Mary of the Visitation Parish
Cambridge, (H) ONT.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 18, 2018

Introduction to the Word:

We get offended, put off and angry by so many things - traffic, being late, relationships, not meeting our goals. So often its over little things and sometimes over everything! Of course this slows us down and wears us out. Often all we need to do is "get over it", but the how can be a stumbling block. In our new series for the season of Lent we will ask ourselves what are the stumbling blocks to getting over stuff.

Warm-up Activity: (5-10 minutes)

What at times prevents people from coming to see Jesus? What are some of the greatest challenges today in people's lives to spending time with the Lord?

Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts,
and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart
to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit
so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities.
This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

GOSPEL (John 12:20-33)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. The person who loves their life loses it, and the person who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An Angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as a Small Group



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Reflection:

This is the final week of our Lenten Message series. We have travelled far. From the desert where we began looking at the whole question of temptation: “*the invitation to embrace self-interest.*” One temptation we decided we need to get over was “ourselves” - our need to focus only on ourselves - for when our life perspective is about our self - we not only limit our selves but we can lose ourselves in the process - missing out on opportunities to grow.

Then we moved to the mountain of transfiguration where we sought to get a better view - a God perspective to the things of life- up the Mountain of Transfiguration along with Peter, James and John and see God’s plan, His view, His Game Plan for you this Lent. Our second week was about focussing on perspective – how did we do?

Then we moved to the temple where Jesus in the midst of deep disappointment at its use cleared it and in that reaction we were called to consider our own reactions - we react to so many things - but do our reactions speak of ourselves (you know the one we were called to get over) or do they speak of God and His work in our life? Our trust in Him?

Then to the Gospel last week - the best quoted of all - John 3:16 - were we were invited to look at the Cross - and examine the crosses in our lives - asking ourselves during it all - do we know His love, do we embrace and seek His love, do we share His love and do we even see the Cross and the crosses of our life as symbols of His love?

Our final Gospel for Lent takes us to a Greek Citizen who says - “**Sir I wish to see Jesus**”. He wants to see Jesus - but will he, can He, should he? He seems almost afraid to grow in his relationship with Jesus. At times there are things which can hold us back – almost quarantine us from growing in our relationship with Jesus... often it is Sin - and when we recognize that, it becomes a moment where we ask ‘ What Are You Waiting For?’” [We explore the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prepare for our Day of Mercy on March 22, 2018](#)

Questions for Discussion: (15-20 minutes)

- Spend time reflecting on the [Examination of Conscience](#) – what areas do you find the most difficult to explore?
- As we wrap up this series, what has been your biggest lesson learned? What will you change as a result of this series?

Moving Forward in Prayer (15-20 minutes)

This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. It is also intended to provide moments to “outreach” to the community.

- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.
- How is your group preparing for Holy Week? How can your group prepare for the

Leader: **Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray: [Hail Mary](#)**