

SUNDAY BY SUNDAY

How to Use Each Issue

S*UNDAY BY SUNDAY* asks adults to become companions on a faith journey together and nourish each other through faith sharing, scripture reflection, and prayer. In the give and take of conversation, we witness how God acts in our lives, we remember Jesus' story, and we glimpse ways to transform ourselves, our homes, our workplaces, our parishes, and our human future together.

When we gather to share our faith and study the scriptures, we are gathering together as Church. Jesus has promised to be with us whenever two or more gather in his name.

1 Pray Each issue of *SUNDAY BY SUNDAY* begins and ends with prayer and often with a simple ritual. Praying together at the beginning of the session invites participants into the gospel theme of the Sunday.

2 Share Life Experience The cover introduces the gospel theme and invites group members to bring their life experience into the gospel conversation. People have holy and amazing spiritual experiences in their daily lives that can nourish the whole group. Have one person read the cover aloud or take turns reading paragraphs, then stop and talk about the question.

3 Proclaim the Gospel *SUNDAY BY SUNDAY* provides the gospel in reader parts, which brings to life Jesus' dialogues with

people in the gospels and invites us hearers into the conversation. Take parts and proclaim the Word.

4 Reflect on the Gospel and Life Each *SUNDAY BY SUNDAY* helps readers place the Sunday passage within the whole gospel narrative and liturgical year. Questions are what *SUNDAY BY SUNDAY* does best, encouraging group members to connect their life experiences and Jesus' teaching in the gospel. These openended questions invite faith sharing, talk that transforms us.

5 Explore the First Reading Each weekly issue provides historical background on the first Sunday reading, reflection on the reading itself, and questions for faith sharing.

6 Pray and Make Commitments Sharing petitions and commitments at the close sharpens each person's awareness of the network that makes community.

Charity and Justice

This feature suggests ways for groups and individuals to put faith into action. The works of charity—staffing food shelves, for instance—help provide for people's basic needs. The work of justice involves us in changing systems that have adverse effects on our neighbors in our city, country, world.



Frequently Asked Questions

◆ Who can lead a group?

Almost anyone. *SUNDAY BY SUNDAY* is ready to use. A leader simply helps move a group through an issue. Because *SUNDAY BY SUNDAY* is about living the gospel, everyone is an expert. Participants can take turns leading.

◆ Do we have to talk about all the questions?

Engage the questions that interest the group. Questions aim at different age and interest groups. No one group needs to talk about them all.

◆ How can we encourage everyone to participate?

Use a mutual invitation process. The first person to respond to a question invites another to speak. The second person can comment or pass and in turn invites a third person to respond. Continue until all have joined in.

Consider agreeing as a group to allow all to make a first comment before anyone makes a second.