

# Suy Niệm và Chia Sẻ Lời Chúa Ngành Thiếu

Sa Mac Cap 2 Ngành Thieu – August 2014, Mien Trung – Tr. Evan Pham

- Explain the necessary components of a Sharing the Word session:
  - 1) Select a passage beforehand. Prepare by praying with it, asking the Spirit to speak to us.
  - 2) Let the students see and hear you pray for guidance. They need to learn by your example.
  - 3) When selecting readings, beware of passage length. If the reading is too long, break it down so that the students can focus on a few main points.
  - 4) Use a trustworthy Catholic study Bible, e.g. the Ignatius Study Bible. Have it with you for reference.
  - 5) When reading Scripture, remember that it is Sacred:
    - Avoid placing the Bible on the ground
    - Hold the Bible respectfully
    - Invest in a decent looking cover for your Bible (to show that you care about it)
    - Kiss the passage you read after you finish
  
- Identify specific challenges when sharing the Word of God with Nganh Thieu:
  - 1) Like most Catholics, the students are unfamiliar with the Bible. Instead of teaching plain facts about it though, focus on introducing the Word of God to them.
  - 2) Read the passage yourself, aloud and clearly to the students. If you want them to have the chance to read it, make sure to read it to them, and have them read it again. Scripture has many difficult unfamiliar words and names that can confuse or intimidate anyone.
  - 3) Because HT may be unfamiliar with the Bible, if we share Scripture with the students, we risk misinforming them. We must grow closer to the Word of God, become familiar with the symbolism, historical background, themes, stories, setting, characters, layout, interconnections, etc. This does not mean we need to memorize it, but that we need to know it enough to share it from your heart and memory.
  - 4) The Bible is not a normal book. It is a library of 73 books that have been translated from ancient languages (Hebrew and Greek). This is not supposed to be easy, but with the struggle comes much growth.
  - 5) The curiosity of this age group will test your familiarity with Scripture. Don't be afraid to admit that you don't know about something. Instead, tell them you don't know, and then find an answer for the next time. This is actually a great way to motivate yourself to learn more, because now you are learning not for yourself, but for the students.
  
- Describe techniques that are effective for Nganh Thieu:
  - 1) Everyone wants a testimonial more than a text. Share a passage that is from your favorite story, or something that is important to you personally. The more you are willing to share with the students, the more they are willing to share with you their own thoughts and respect. If appropriate, relate the selected Scripture with something from everyday life.
  - 2) Share your favorite readings, quotes, verses, stories, etc. This cannot be emphasized enough: the Bible does not need to be read from start to finish – we can skip around. There are large parts of the Old Testament that are even obsolete and function best as reference and

historical documents. If you are excited about sharing your favorites, then the students will be also. My personal favorites: Tobit, Song of Songs, Creation and the Fall, Revelation.

- 3) Read at a comfortable pace and volume. Change your tone as appropriate. This is the Word of God coming from your lips: practice pronouncing and announcing it!
  - 4) Beware of resources from movies (Exodus, Noah, Passion of the Christ, Son of God, etc.) that you can use to help the students visualize Scripture. However, view these sources critically and be able to explain how artistic license works and differences between Scripture and cinema.
  - 5) A few introductory lessons will help students and HT prepare for future regular Scripture sharing sessions. In this lesson, explain the basics of the Bible, what it is, and how rich it is:
    - a. How the Bible is divided, and how it became that way
    - b. How the Catholic Church put together and preserved the Bible
    - c. What the Bible is and how important it is to us Christians
    - d. How the Bible is not just a book of the past, but is alive today and is God speaking to us
    - e. To help HT and students understand how much they know and don't know Scripture, consider playing a few rounds of PickUrScripture (instructions included at the end).
- Create a plan for one session of Sharing the Word:
    - 1) Open with prayer for ourselves as instructors and for the students. Sample: "Lord Jesus, please help me and all teachers today to do your will, to speak only what you give us to speak, to share what you have given us, and to be generous, wise, patient and loving. Help all the students to be open to You, the Truth, the Way and the Life. Help us all demand Truth, Beauty and Goodness, and nothing else but You. Oh Mary, lead us to your Son always. Amen."
    - 2) Scripture passage options to share: (a) John 21:25, (b) John 2: 1-11 (Wedding at Cana).
      - a) If option (a) is shared, incorporate PickUrScripture group activity
      - b) If option (b) is shared, relate its personal significance in my Marian encounter. Then, relate how God's timing is perfect in our lives. We should trust Him and be patient.
    - 3) After either option, have students quietly reflect and journal/draw:
      - a. For option (a): Use your imagination! Since even John said not everything Jesus did can be written down, what other things do you think Jesus said or did while He lived on Earth? Then, use your imagination and see how it would be like if you were actually with Jesus while he was here (don't forget that Jesus was once a kid like you, too!). Using your imagination this way to think about the Bible is called Ignatian meditation and contemplation.
      - b. For option (b): Have you ever experienced something that was perfectly timed? Like you running into a friend you haven't seen in a long time? Or that your favorite food was on the table waiting for you when you were starving? Think about times like that and try to see how God set it up just for you. Remember, there is no such thing as coincidences!