

## **Fail Forward Wk 4**

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Locater Question**

- How is it with your soul?
  - *This kind of language may be churchy for some. So think: How are you on the inside? Downcast? Joy-filled? Weary? Well?*

#### **Guiding Scripture**

- Acts 2:38-47, CEB

#### **Scripture Discussion**

- What do you think Peter means by, “Change your hearts and minds?” (Luke 2:38)
- People committed pretty quickly to follow Jesus. Why do you think that is? (Acts 2:41)
- What unique things do you notice about the beginning of the Christian movement?

#### **Scripture Application**

- In Acts, we read that we should turn and be baptized. What does Baptism mean to you? Is it important? Why or Why not? (Acts 2:38-29)
- In Acts, we read that we ought to get out of this perverse culture. Does that apply today? Why or Why not? (Acts 2:40)
- What can you take for today from Acts 2:42-47 about Christian community today?

#### **Theological Reflection**

- The Greek word for “perverse” used in Acts 2:40 is σκολιᾶς (skolias). In English it means “to twist and turn” (think scoliosis). With this as the origin of the word, what do you think the point the author of Acts is trying to make?
- Our ecclesiology\* is primarily based on Acts (invitation and growth in community discipleship). In your theological opinion, is this a correct approach for our ecclesiology? If not, what would you shift?

#### **Transformation Question**

- How might the Holy Spirit be speaking and moving in your life?
  - *We often feel little nudges in life. This question helps us to put more intention towards noticing, naming and defining a purpose behind the nudges God places into the daily rhythm of life.*

#### **Weekly Roadmap**

- Commit to reading the scripture for week 2:
- Twice this week engage in *The Prayer of Examen*\*\* . Use the attached file to guide your prayer time.
- Spend time daily in individual prayer asking God: In what ways do I need to reorient yourself towards Christ?
- As you continue to look and pray for places of impact, ask yourself, what is the best next step you can take this week?

#### **Closing Prayer**

*\*is the study of the Christian Church, the origins of Christianity, its relationship to Jesus, its role in salvation, its polity, its discipline, its destiny, and its leadership.*

*\*\*The Examen Prayer card and instructions are attached (examen.png)*



# the EXAMEN

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** **Ask God for light.**  
*I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.*
- 2** **Give thanks.**  
*The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.*
- 3** **Review the day.**  
*I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- 4** **Face your shortcomings.**  
*I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.*
- 5** **Look toward the day to come.**  
*I ask where I need God in the day to come.*

Version of the Examen from *A Simple, Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney © Loyola Press