



SESSION 2 SEEKING

GOAL

The goal of this session is to assist the teens in examining their desires, specifically the root of those desires, how they connect to our innate human desires, and where these desires truly point (toward God).

KEY CONCEPTS

We are all created with deep-rooted desires and spend our lives trying to discover and fulfill them.

When we try to fill our deepest longings with things other than God, we often feel empty and disappointed.

There is something greater in store for us. Our earthly desires point us in the direction of our heavenly yearning.

KEY TERMS

Concupiscence: Human desires which remain disordered due to the temporal consequences of original sin, which remain even after baptism, and which produce an inclination to sin.

Happiness: Regularly used in Scripture to describe the lot of those who are blessed by God for doing His will, and the reward of the just for their faithful service on Earth. Happiness is a divine gift but requires human's cooperation to be gained.

Yearning: A feeling of intense longing.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:27, Joshua 24:15

CATECHISM: 27, 1214, 1285

ABOUT THIS CONFIRMATION SESSION

The Gather is based on the game charades, in which a teen picks a desire they have and acts it out for the rest of the group. The Proclaim examines our innate human desires and where they come from, and encourages the teens to begin to question the deeper root of their longings. The Break is an adaptation of a root cause identification tool called, "The Five Whys." It is designed to help the teens realize that some of their desires have a deeper root than they realize. The Send encourages the teens to continue to examine and track their desires and discover ways to fulfill their deeper longings throughout their Confirmation journey.

ENVIRONMENT

Create a slideshow of things that people in the world today desire, like money, popularity, new cars, etc.

AS YOU GET STARTED

For a *prayer-centered Send*, consider having the teens pray for courage. Give each teen a piece of paper and a pen. Invite them to name and reflect on their desires. Encourage them to write a prayer to God, asking for the courage to conform their desire to God's desire for us. After they are finished with their prayers, invite a teen to lead the group in a closing prayer.

SUMMIT

Welcome and Opening Prayer (5 min)

Gather the teens in the main meeting space. Welcome them to the session and begin in prayer.

Summit (20 min)

Divide the teens into small groups of six to eight with one Core Member in each group; these will be their small groups for the remainder of the Confirmation preparation program. Use the modified *Summit* session to lead the teens through a lectio divina based reflection on the Sunday readings.

GATHER

Charades (15 min)

Gather the teens in the main meeting space and instruct them to remain with their Confirmation small groups. Prior to the session, write different desires on slips of paper. Give each Core Member enough slips of paper so each teen in the small group can have one. When instructed to do so, each teen acts out the desire on their slip of paper. The teens have 30 seconds to act out their desire while the other teens in the group guess what the desire is. If the teens guess correctly, their small group receives one point. The small group with the most points at the end of the game wins.

The following are some sample desires:

- To be loved
- To have a lot of friends
- To be rich
- To have a new phone
- To be famous
- To have a family
- To go to a good high school
- To make a difference in the world
- To go to sleep
- To eat at your favorite restaurant
- To have a close group of friends

Seeking Video (5 min)

Play the video "Seeking" before transitioning into the teaching.

PROCLAIM

“Seeking” Teaching (10 min)

Yearning

Have you ever found yourself drawn to something with no explanation?

Ask the teens to name a few of the desires they have in their lives.

We all have some desire, a deep-rooted longing that we do not really have an answer for. Sometimes we try to mask it or fill it with other things.

All humans seek happiness, a basic desire that we all share. But why is happiness so important? Where does it come from? How can we be truly happy?

One of the main desires we all share as humans is a desire to be loved and cared for. Think about when you are most weak — when you are sick or sad. What kinds of things do you want in those moments? How do you feel? What do you need?

Have some of the teens share their answers to the previous questions.

God created each of us with human desires, with needs. But what does that mean? It is a calling deep within us that leads us back to the way in which we were made and who made us. Something is calling us and in this confusing world, it is sometimes hard to hear and answer that call. As we prepare for Confirmation, we will be exploring what those desires are and how we fulfill them.

CCC 33

Disordered Desires

Unfortunately, we live in a far from perfect world. We know that there is human suffering and that suffering is sometimes the result of someone’s desire or emotion causing them to harm someone else. Our desires can also leave us feeling empty. We seek to fill our lives with things that end up not being good for us or things that do not last. In the chaos of this world, we are told all kinds of lies about what we need or deserve. And when we pursue them, we are left with a certain emptiness, some greater than others.

How many of you can think of a time when you tried to get something that ended up not being what you actually wanted? How do we even know what we really want?

In the example that you thought of, why do you think you were not happy with what you got? What do you think you were actually looking for?

Have some of the teens share their answers to the previous questions.

We sometimes struggle with articulating our desires or needs. In some cases, we may not even know what it is we are really looking for. Everyone knows that one person whose response is always, “I do not care,” when in reality, they do care. The conversation goes something like this:

“Where do you want to go to dinner?”
“I don’t care.”
“How about hamburgers?”
“Naw, I don’t really want burgers.”
“OK, what about Italian food?”
“Mmm, that doesn’t really sound good.”
“Ooook, pizza?”
“Nah...”

It is even difficult for us to know what we want and need in our daily lives. If we cannot figure out what we want, how are we supposed to figure out what God wants? Our true desires are written on our hearts, they are a part of how we were made. But do we know our own heart? Can we even understand how we were created and what we really need?

CCC 27

Growing Up

As we grow and mature, so do our desires and longings. Think of what you wanted as a kid versus now. As life is a journey of growing up, so too is your faith. What you needed as a kid is not the same as what you need in your faith now. The time you spent learning about your faith as a child is not the same as what you need now. When you were baptized, your parents stood before the Church and declared that they would raise you in the faith. You were plunged into the water and rose a new creation. But that was their choice, their decision. Your parents still play a huge role in your life, but as you continue to grow up and enter into high school, there will be more and more decisions you have to make on your own.

CCC 1214

The Journey

Confirmation is just the beginning of your faith journey. It is the moment that you stand up, as an adult in the Church, and take ownership of your faith. It is no longer the faith of your parents, but your own. It is the beginning of your journey toward true happiness, fulfilling the things you desire in a way that lasts, and chasing not what is fleeting but what is eternal. As we will learn over the course of this program, life is bigger than what happens in our families, with our friends, in our homes, and in our schools. There is something bigger going on around us. There is a deeper meaning to the things we want and the things we continue to seek.

Confirmation completes the grace that was given to us at our baptism, which was your parent’s decision. Now it is your turn to stand up and make your own decision for your faith, to “choose today whom you will serve.”

CCC 1285; Joshua 24:15

Everyone on this Earth is looking for something. We all have desires — yearnings — that we are seeking to fill. The purpose of our lives becomes how we choose to fill them. A lot of people spend their days distracted by everything around them and do not often stop to wonder if there is more to life. Luckily for us, this world is not the only thing on our horizon. Spoiler alert: the journey we are embarking on over the course of this program can be previewed by a special saint, Thérèse of Lisieux, who wrote, “The world’s thy ship, not thy home.”

BREAK

Small Group Discussion (15 min)

Divide the teens into their Confirmation small groups. Begin in prayer and then use the following questions to facilitate a discussion:

- What is something you really want right now?
- Why do you think you want it?
- Have you ever wanted something but were disappointed when you actually received it? What was it and why did you feel that way?
- What is the most exciting thing in your life right now? What about it makes you happy?

The 5 Whys (10 min)

After the discussion, challenge the teens to think more deeply about the root of their desires. Give each teen a pen and a copy of *The Five Whys* handout. Use the following example to help them find the root of their desires:

Desire: I want to be popular.

Why? Because I want people to know who I am.

Why? Because I want lots of friends.

Why? Because I want to always have someone to hang out with.

Why? Because I do not like being alone.

Why? Because I get sad when I am lonely.

Invite the teens to take a few minutes to reflect on their desires using *The Five Whys* handout. After several minutes, use the following questions to process the activity:

- Do you want to share one of the root desires you identified? Did it surprise you?
- Was this activity easy or difficult for you? Why?
- Why is it important to think about why we want things? What do you think would happen if you never stopped to think about why you want the things that you want?

SEND

The World's Thy Ship (15 min)

Gather the teens in the main meeting space and use the following to transition into the activity:

As you heard in the teaching, St. Thérèse of Lisieux wrote, "The world's thy ship, not thy home." Think about how this quote relates to your life. If the ship is your life, where is your ship heading? Is it heading toward our heavenly destination or elsewhere? What are one or two things that are moving your life in the direction it is going? Do the things you want direct where your ship is going? If you wanted different things, do you think it would change the direction of your journey? Why or why not?

Give each teen art supplies and a copy of *The World's Thy Ship* handout. Instruct them to reflect on the questions and, when they are ready, using the ideas from their reflection to decorate the handout. Have them take the handout with them and hang it in a prominent place to serve as a reminder of how their desires direct their journey toward their heavenly destination.