

## 2007-08 BSP#2 Group Time Discussion

*L –Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.*

### (A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for Reflection and Discussion (Time available: 20 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [L] If marriage creates “one flesh” (Gen 2:24), of which offspring are living signs, what does that suggest about divorce? Read also Matthew 19:1-6 and CCC 1647-8 below.

1647 夫婦之愛的忠貞最深入的緣由，是來自天主對其盟約、和基督對其教會的忠貞。婚姻聖事賦予夫婦能力，去重現(**represent**)這分忠貞，並為之作証。藉著聖事，婚姻的不可拆散性得到一個新而更深刻的意義。

1648 與一個人一輩子結合在一起，似乎是太難，甚至視為不可能。因此，更須宣告這一喜訊：天主以堅定不移的愛來愛我們，夫妻分享這愛，而這愛扶助和支持他們。他們藉著彼此的忠貞，能成為天主信實之愛的見證人。靠天主聖寵的助佑，夫妻往往在十分困難的情況下，仍忠實作証，實應獲得教會團體的感謝和支持。

**1647** The deepest reason is found in the fidelity of God to his covenant, in that of Christ to his Church. Through the sacrament of Matrimony the spouses are enabled to represent this fidelity and witness to it. Through the sacrament, the indissolubility of marriage receives a new and deeper meaning.

**1648** It can seem difficult, even impossible, to bind oneself for life to another human being. This makes it all the more important to proclaim the Good News that God loves us with a definitive and irrevocable love, that married couples share in this love, that it supports and sustains them, and that by their own faithfulness they can be witnesses to God's faithful love. Spouses who with God's grace give this witness, often in very difficult conditions, deserve the gratitude and support of the ecclesial community.

2. [M] Read Genesis 2:4-7. Up until now, the Creator has been referred to as “God” or “Elohim” in Hebrew, meaning “Master”. Beginning in 2:4, He is called “Lord God,” or “Yahweh.” This was the personal, covenant name of God used by the people of Israel. What do you think is the reason for the change in God’s name? What does the change signify?
3. [L] Read God’s creation of Eden in Genesis 2:8-14. If, at creation, the place on earth where God communed with man was full of beauty, what might we expect to be characteristic of all other places on earth where God communes with man? In view of this, do you think the construction of majestic and awe-inspiring cathedrals is necessarily “a luxury”?

4. [H] Read Genesis 2:16-17. Why would a loving God, whom we just saw carefully create all things “good” and make a beautiful dwelling place for His children, put a desirable but deadly and forbidden tree in the middle of the Garden? Read also CCC 396 below:

*God created man in his image and established him in his friendship. A spiritual creature, man can live this friendship only in free submission to God. The prohibition against eating “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” spells this out: “for in the day that you eat of it, you shall die.” The “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” symbolically evokes the insurmountable limits that man, being a creature, must freely recognize and respect with trust. Man is dependent on his Creator and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom.*

天主按自己的肖象造了人，並讓人享有祂的友誼。作為有靈的受造物，人只有自由地服從天主，才能維持此種友誼。這就是禁止人吃知善惡樹果子的意義，「因為那一天你吃了，必定要死」(創 2:17)。「知善惡樹」(創 2:17)象徵性地指出不可跨越的界限，作為受造物的人必須甘願服膺，並懷著信心予以尊重。人隸屬於造物主，應服從創造的規律和倫理法則，因為這些規律和法則引導人使用自由。

(B) **“Did Not Our Hearts Burn?”** – Question(s) for Group Meditation and Prayer  
(Suggested time: 10 minutes)

1. Our hearts will burn with joy when we consciously open them wide to God’s Word. Scripture memorization is a good way to get that started. Here is a suggested memory verse:

*You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. (Gen 2:16-17)*

「樂園中各樹上的果子，你都可吃，只有知善惡樹上的果子你不可吃。」  
(創 2:16-17)

2. The choice put before Adam and Eve, and represented by the trees of life and of death, echoes throughout Scripture and throughout our lives. It is the choice to obey God and to live as He has asked us to live.
3. Go around the table of your group and come up with 5 choices you face in each day of your life (e.g. attending BSP vs. having bubble tea with a friend; a friend seeking your support and encouragement to abort her baby – be specific).
4. Facilitator or assigned person to lead your group to close today’s Group Time with a brief prayer: Choices become habits. Ask God to give you and your group members the grace to examine your habits to see if you are choosing wisely. Thank God for making His will known to men through the Scripture and the

Church so that you know how to choose. Thank Him most of all for His Son's saving grace so that He will pick you up when you fall.