



Each One, Brings Something

Each One, Bring One – most people understand the meaning of this simple message. It is an invitation for each of us to bring someone along with us to an event or a Mass. Another way to explore this idea might offer a deeper meaning. It can be a way to help another find their own spiritual path. Each one brings their own story. There are several ways where this idea is transforming lives here. For instance, some of our scripture study groups have experienced remarkable successes.

My scripture group, led by Ben Parma, meets on Thursday nights at members' homes. We open every session with a group prayer. When we first started, it was very difficult to get people to share open prayer. Most people would pass, saying nothing. Many people were afraid to offer a prayer, perhaps thinking theirs was not worth sharing to a group they hardly knew. Now, after several years of being together, everyone in our group contributes to our communal prayer. It is what brings us closer. We have gotten to know one another in ways that other social settings do not normally allow. In the intimacy of this space, we have created a safe haven.

Ben spoke to me about his role: "It's my job to take the lead, to set the stage. You want the others to know that you are along with them. Everyone brings their own story, and people like to talk about their journey, but many feel reluctant to share. It feels good when others listen and you are not ridiculed or dismissed. People respond to a comfortable, non-judgmental setting. I often try to motivate the speaker by asking leading questions, like 'Tell us more.' It is important to create a nurturing environment."

The real work of these sessions is to read Scripture texts and discuss the material. In the beginning, it was a challenge to get people to express more than even the simplest of answers. Most adults feel apprehensive about volunteering answers, especially about scripture study. But, if you create an environment where everyone feels valued, good things come.

Each One, Bring One is an open invitation to join, but it's real power is when you draw people out and let them in. It has been inspiring to see how our little group has helped us find our own spiritual voice.

By Rob Orr

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Each One, Bring One

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Christ's Mission with others.



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