

# *Relationship Matters*

Intentional Accompaniment  
Masterclass | Session 2



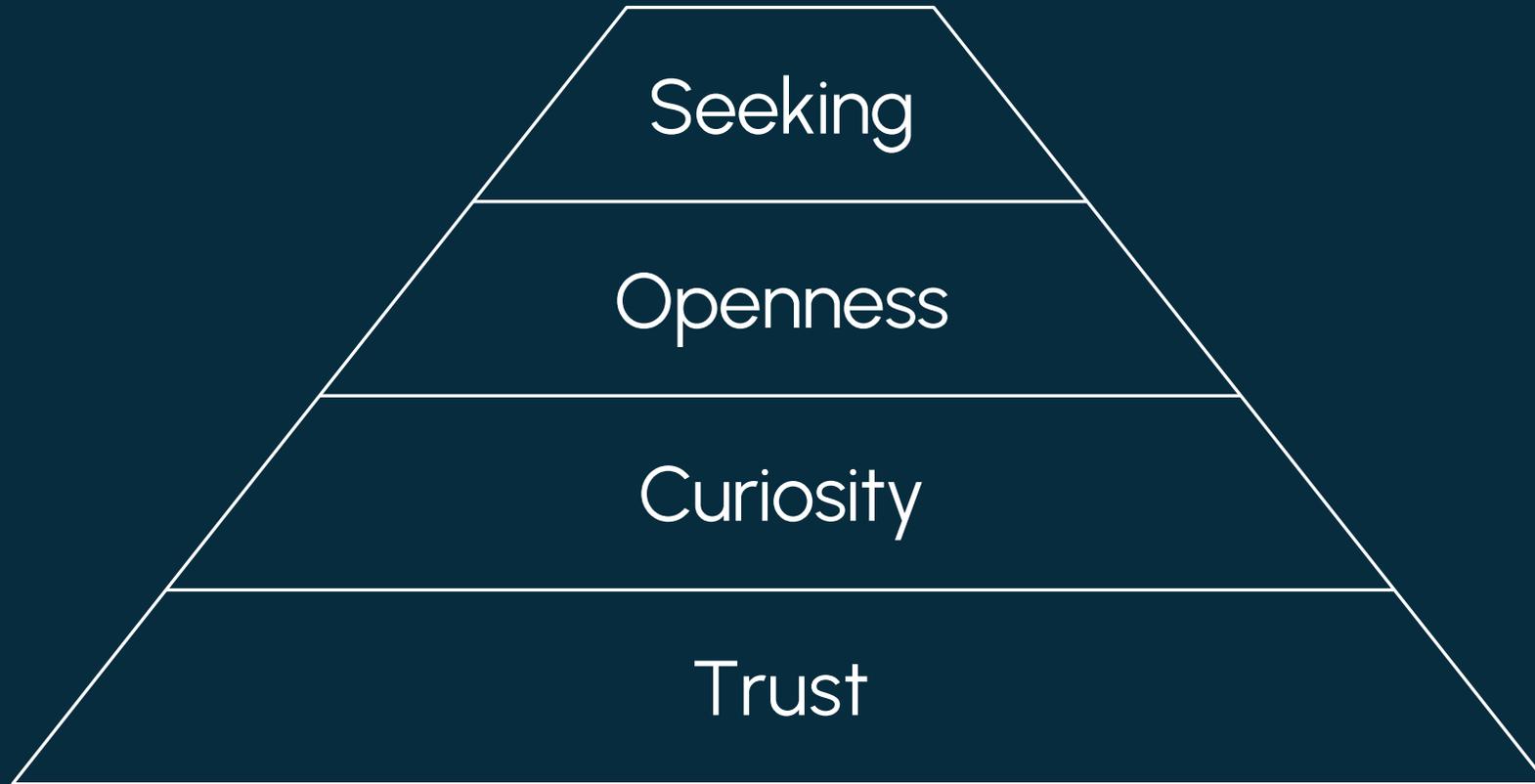
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# *Check In on “Homework”*

*Think about one person in your life who does not know Jesus or know Him well enough and where they are at in the thresholds of conversion. Then, determine one concrete step you can take to bring them closer to the next threshold.*

How did this go? Any examples to share?

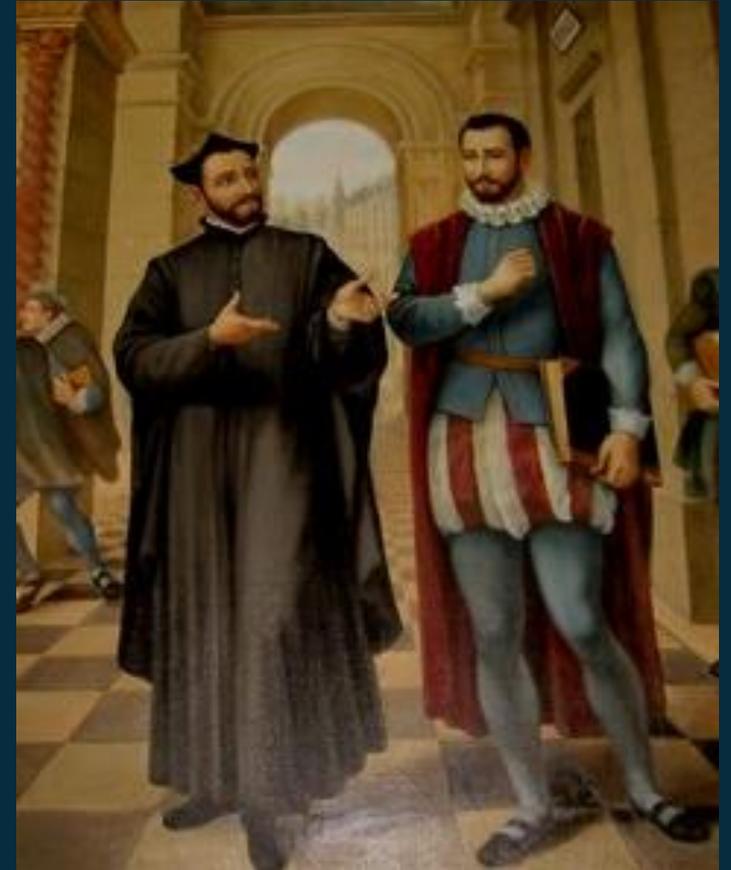
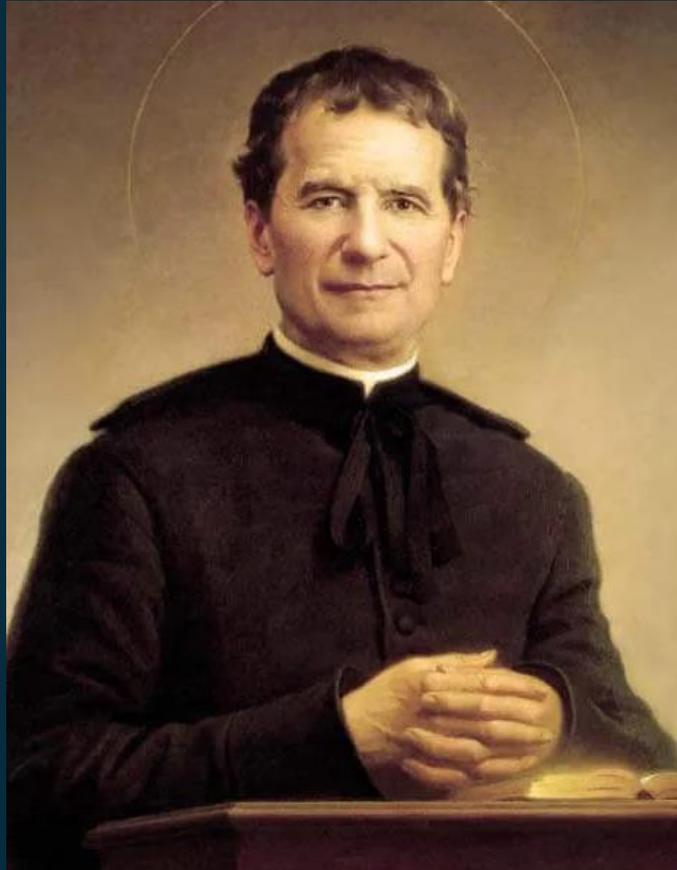
# *Initial Conversion*



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# *Listening & Questions*





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Today more than ever we need men and women who, on the basis of their experience of accompanying others, are familiar with processes which call for **prudence, understanding, patience and docility to the Spirit**, so that they can protect the sheep from wolves who would scatter the flock. We need to practice the **art of listening**, which is more than simply hearing.

*Evangelii Gaudium 171*

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Listening, in communication, is an **openness of heart** which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur. Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word which shows that we are more than simply bystanders. Only through such respectful and **compassionate listening** can we enter on the paths of true growth and **awaken a yearning for the Christian ideal**: the desire to respond fully to God's love and to bring to fruition what he has sown in our lives.

IT'S **NOT**  
ABOUT  
THE  
NAIL



# *Empathic Listening*

Listening to understand what really matters to the other person, not necessarily to agree or provide solutions.



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# *Practices of Active Listening*

- Be fully present
- Consider body language
- Consider space
- Reflect what you hear
- Be aware of your own prejudices / ideas
- Listen for what might be left unsaid
- Be comfortable with silence

# *Why Are Questions Important?*

- Provide insight into the other person's worldview
- Raises the other person's awareness of things they think about
- Signals genuine interest in that person's life
- Sparks curiosity
- Can move a conversation into a spiritual conversation

# *Three Types of Questions*

## *Closed*

- Can be answered with yes/no
- Does not elicit a heart response

## *Leading*

- Suggest or prompt an answer
- Can indicate only one correct answer

## *Open*

- Invite a depth of response
- Encourage individual to share rich information

# *Practice Scenario #1*

You encounter a PREP parent after Spring Break. They share that over the break, they went on vacation with their family.

Brainstorm some questions you might ask during the conversation and share in the chat. Open questions, closed questions, and leading questions are all good to share.

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## *Practice Scenario #2*

A parent you meet at the parish asks you how they can be baptized. What are some questions you might ask them?

Brainstorm some questions you might ask during the conversation and share in the chat. Open questions, closed questions, and leading questions are all good to share.

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# *Discussion (Breakout #1)*

- What practice of active listening do you find most challenging?
- Can you share a time when a well-asked question led to deeper growth or understanding for you or someone you accompanied?

# *Listening to the Holy Spirit*

*Icon of the Pentecost at St. Mary and St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church, Richmond Hill, ON*



The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church. It is He who **explains to the faithful the deep meaning of the teaching of Jesus and of His mystery**. It is the Holy Spirit who, today just as at the beginning of the Church, **acts in every evangelizer** who allows himself to be possessed and led by Him.

*Evangelii Nuntiandi 75*

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The Holy Spirit **places on his lips the words which he could not find by himself**, and at the same time the Holy Spirit **predisposes the soul of the hearer** to be open and receptive to the Good News and to the kingdom being proclaimed.

*Evangelii Nuntiandi 75*

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Techniques of evangelization are good, but even the most advanced ones could not replace the gentle action of the Holy Spirit. **The most perfect preparation of the evangelizer has no effect without the Holy Spirit.** Without the Holy Spirit the most convincing dialectic has no power over the heart of man. Without Him the most highly developed schemas resting on a sociological or psychological basis are quickly seen to be quite valueless.

*Evangelii Nuntiandi 75*

**Proclaim**

It must be said that the **Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelization**: it is He who impels each individual to proclaim the Gospel, and it is He who in the depths of consciences causes the word of salvation to be **accepted and understood**.

*Evangelii Nuntiandi 75*

**Proclaim**

# *Dispositions of Listening with the Holy Spirit*

- *Direction* – where are we going?
- *Docility* – who controls the process?
- *Detachment* – who controls the outcome?

# *Application This Week*

- Choose one of the tips for active listening and consciously put it into practice in your conversation with someone this week.
- Jesus asks over 300 questions in the Gospels. Find one instance/passage where He asks questions and note what the result of asking those questions was.

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