

BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE JANUARY 2018

# BEC Reflection

## CLOSING PRAYER:

Invite another member of the BEC to say the concluding prayer.



## CLOSING HYMN:

### HEAVENLY FATHER

Heavenly Father, I appreciate you (2x)  
I love you, adore you  
I bow down before you  
Heavenly Father, I appreciate you

Son of God, what a wonder you are (2x)  
You cleansed my soul from sin  
Sent the Holy Spirit within  
Son of God, what a wonder you are

Holy Spirit, what a comfort you are (2x)  
You lead me, you guide me  
You live right inside me  
Holy Spirit, what a comfort you are

A stylized illustration of a man and a woman. The man, on the right, has a beard and is wearing a white robe with a dark sash. He is looking upwards with his hands clasped in prayer. The woman, on the left, is wearing a headscarf and a dark dress, looking up at the man with her hands clasped. The background is a light, textured wash.

HOPE:  
Experiencing  
Christ As I Am

**FOCUS:** An intimate relationship with Christ through personal and community prayer and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

## INTRODUCTION:

There are many verses in the New Testament speaking about our organic union with Christ, and one of the greatest verses in the bible is 1 Cor 6:17, "He who is joined to the Lord is in one spirit". What does it really mean to be one spirit with the Lord? This union implies that Christ is in us, we are in him, and it also implies that he has joined and mingled himself with us making us both one. How wonderful we are to be one in Spirit with the Lord. Being one with the Lord, we can 'Experience Christ as I am'. (PMPT Core Team)



## OPENING HYMN:

### HE (GOD)

He can turn the tides and calm the angry sea  
He alone decides who writes a symphony  
He lights ev'ry star that makes our darkness bright  
He keeps watch all thro' each long and lonely night  
He still finds the time to hear a child's final prayer  
Saint or sinner call and always find him there  
Tho' it makes Him sad to see the way we live.  
He'll always say "I forgive"

He will come to us and heal our sinful soul  
He alone can say, "Thy sins I forgive thee"  
He will light your way and make your darkness bright  
He keeps watch all thro' the lonely years ahead  
He still finds the time to wipe our tears away  
Saint or sinner still He loves us all the same  
Tho' it hurts Him much to see the way we live.  
He'll always say "I forgive"

## OPENING PRAYER:

Invite a member of the BEC to say the opening prayer.

## DIALOGUE: A Personal Journey of Faith

I am a Kadazan and my husband is Chinese. We have four children. At the time of our marriage in the Catholic church, my husband was a Buddhist. Even before marriage, I have always placed faith as important in my personal life as a Catholic. I serve in the Music Ministry during Mass.

Being a wife and mother, I was busy with my family commitments but I did not neglect my faith and my service in the Church. I always brought my children with me to church. I was very grateful to God that my husband never stopped me from going to church with my children. Whenever I saw all my friends coming to church as a family, I felt sad and wanted my whole family to become a Catholic family too.

With the support and prayer of Priests, Religious Sisters and friends, my faith was reinforced and I continued to pray

that God would change the lives of my family. In my mind, I knew it might not be easy for my husband to change his beliefs, but with firmness of faith, I continued to pray and also invited the Religious Sisters to my home for BEC gatherings, Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayer. At times, I felt the responsibility of caring for my family tiring, but I always experienced joy and comfort in being involved. I believe it is the power of God.

With steadfast faith, I kept on praying that my husband's heart and mind would be enlightened to meet and know the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Praise be to God after 10 years, my earnest longing and hope has come true. My husband and our four children were baptised in the Catholic Church in 2017. My happiness knew no bounds- except to praise the greatness of Almighty God who is always accompanying, protecting and blessing my family.

**Buzz with the person next to you. Buzz a second time with another Person**

- What touched you from the sharing above?
- Share your personal experience with God.

## DISCERNMENT:

### John 15:5

*Source: Jerusalem Bible*

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

### Reflection:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for openness to encounter Christ and to be encountered by Christ
2. Read the text two or three times
3. Be in silence with the text - read silently by your own
4. What words or phrase caught your attention? Write it down
5. (Choose only one from #4): What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Write it down
6. Share in small groups (3-4 persons) on # 4 and #5

### Deeds:

Take a time of silence.  
What concrete actions can you take to experience God MORE in your life? (Share with the person next to you)