

Program Summary

Gift, Gratitude, and Joy is a six-session program that takes participants through the main themes of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The series is designed for small group discussion, either in-person or remotely, and can be adapted to larger groups with breakouts into small groups for sharing. Each session builds upon the previous themes. Alternatively, any of the sessions can be used as a single learning/sharing opportunity. Each session is designed to be 90 minutes in length, however you can customize the material and length to suit your group.

For this program we encourage you to:

- Meet weekly for six weeks for 90 minutes in an environment that allows people to see and hear each other easily without obstructions between them.
- Have a computer and video screen set up for easy viewing of the videos and the “Making It Real” interactive material by the group.
- Stress to participants that they will get more out of this program if they participate in at least one “Adventure” each week.

The six sessions include:

Session 1: The Gospel of Creation / Considering Water

Session 2: How We Know God, A Franciscan Perspective / Considering Food

Session 3: Sharing Gift with Gratitude / Considering Waste

Session 4: Finding Joy in Simplicity / Considering Consumption

Session 5: We Are “All in All” in God / Considering Energy

Session 6: Seeing with New Eyes

In each meeting you will:

- Introduce the session “Title/Theme” and the environmental “Consideration,” such as water, food, etc., that will be covered in the “Making It Real” portion of the session.
- Begin by welcoming and sharing participant “Adventures” introduced in the previous session (for sessions 2-6).
- Pray, read, and reflect on Scripture in a small group.
- Explore the theme by viewing and reflecting on a video (sessions 1-5) or an activity (session 6).
- Close with prayer.

The resources for this program are located at

www.GiftGratitudeJoy.org

Program Resources include:

- All videos
- “Making it Real” materials
- “Sending off with an Adventure” resources
- Session 1 Ice Breaker
- Participant Guide

Leader Resources include:

- Promotional Materials.
- Ideas for group agreements for setting shared expectations for participation in the program...
- Suggestions for small group facilitation and small group participation.
- Additional guidance on remote hosting of this program via Zoom or other remote video software.