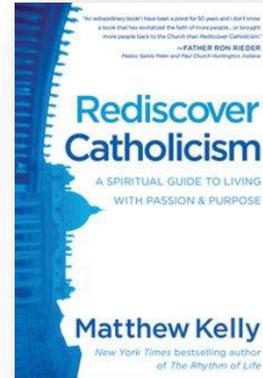




Rediscovering Catholicism by Matthew Kelly

Facilitator Preparation: In addition to reading the book, take a look at DynamicCatholic.com. There are lots of **FREE!** Resources, to include CDs and books to share in your community.

Because this book has such great depth, consider splitting this into a three-part series. If you plan to do a series, plan to cover about 8 questions per week. If this will be a one-time program, you might want to plan to cover only 5-7 of the questions to accommodate a greater depth of discussion.



Program Set up: As a charge to evangelism to the book club participants, consider ordering CDs and encouraging participants to reach within the community or outside of the community to someone they know who is getting active in the faith. Encourage them to share the CD with someone else and to follow up with more discussion. Recommended centerpiece is a bouquet of images that evoke evangelism and Catholicism.

Hospitality and fellowship (10 min): Given the timing of your book club, consider incorporating potluck breakfast, refreshments, coffee/tea, and prayer requests.

Icebreaker (10 min): Share with your neighbor your first memory of Catholicism. Facilitator should use the stories to drive home that we all come to the Church from different backgrounds, ages, experiences. The common thread is the Holy Spirit, probably hospitality, the Sacraments, fellowship, etc.

Discussion Questions (40-60 min):

Part One: We Become What We Celebrate. What does this mean? What do you celebrate?
Page 49: "Celebration is the genius and the fundamental orientation of our faith."

1. Why do you think he labels this section Appearance vs. The Authentic: Kelly mentions the surprise we feel with someone's honesty and integrity. (pg. 8) What do you think?
2. On page 11 Kelly says: "...they don't want to hear your amazing story of conversion. They want the real thing." What do you think he means by this? This idea of witness? "Don't tell me, show me!"



3. In the *Prevailing Philosophy* section (pg. 17) he focuses on three faults that separate us from our faith: Individualism, Hedonism, and Minimalism. [My rights are more important than others' rights, I must have pleasure, I must have things.] What's in it for me? If it feels good, do it. (pg. 18) What is the least I can do? How are these self-destructive philosophies? How have you combated this?
4. "They may seem real, but they are just shadows of something infinitely greater." (p. 25)
5. "It is easy to be a follower, but to be a disciple requires discipline." (p.26). What is the difference between following, leading and being a disciple. Look at Matt 28:19. Also think about pg. 47 – Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and only when necessary use words." WOW! How can we let our lives speak?
6. Why does Kelly talk about the need to possess one's self? (p. 29) How does this relate to this concept of discipline?
7. Kelly uses quite a few analogies. How does he use the analogy of sports to compare to the discipline of our faith? (p. 38)
8. Catholicism as a Lifestyle: authentic life = lifestyle. Pg. 45 "When our children know more about teen pop-idols than they do about Jesus Christ, it is time to reassess the place and priority our faith has in our lives."
9. Part Two: The Authentic Life- Kelly asks on Page 64 "What is your view of holiness?" Let's answer this!
10. Page 66 Kelly says: "The surest signs of holiness are an insatiable desire to improve oneself and an unquenchable concern for unholy people." The second half of this statement seems judgmental...what do you think? What about when he says "virtue is ultimately attractive"? (pg. 67)
11. The-Best-Version-of-Yourself: Kelly says we have posters of sports heroes and pictures of others we admire...why is it not acceptable in secular society to have a poster of St. Francis? When studying how to be something or do something we study those who were successful. Why not study the saints to be better Christians? Pg. 77.
12. Going back to destructive philosophies-Judging mass, our faith by what we get out of it- Individualism, etc pg 81. Kelly says we place our heroes too high on a pedestal and that is why we don't try to live up to them, because we think we can't. What do you think? Instead of imitate them we venerate them...what are we charged to do? Pg. 83.



13. “The overwhelming number of activities our children are engaged in is serving only to distract them from acquiring any real discipline in their lives, and as a result they are being firmly grounded in the superficiality that is ruling our age.” (pg. 85) What does he mean by this? And what about when he talks about his mother running him and his siblings around everywhere?
14. “Jesus is my role model. He is my hero. While I learn from many people, he is the one whom I wish to imitate.” (pg. 91) [Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa, John Vianney, Thomas More, and John Paul II] Why did he share these particular examples with us when he could have chosen many more?
15. Francis= Spirit of uncompromising commitment (e.g. discipline) pg. 95; Teresa= “Every person is Christ for me, and since there is only one Jesus, the person I am meeting is the one person in the world at that moment.” Pg. 99 (love); More= committed to truth (selfless and virtuous leadership) pg. 110; John Paul= Loves life but always finds his inner strength through God in prayer.
16. “The will of God is that you become the-best-version-of-yourself.” Pg. 125. The value of singleness of purpose...See page 127. The book becomes a Self-Help book essentially-To learn better habits! What habits do you have? If you want to become better...have better habits!
17. Who do you surround yourself with? (pg. 134) “They don’t preach endless sermons, and they don’t try to impose their views on others-they challenge, inspire, and encourage us simply by living their own lives to the fullest.”
18. Kelly mentions that Jesus was a storyteller. Is Kelly a storyteller? How does learning about our faith not only through non-fiction, but also through fiction help us to learn about our faith? (pg. 142)
19. Kelly then asks, what are you willing to live for? “What are you giving your life to? (pg. 145) “I have a mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.” John Newman (pg. 151).