



Ryan O'Hara

EVERYDAY APOSTLES

Ordinary Methods to Share
An Extraordinary Message

How to Use this Guide

This guide is designed to help you get the most out of the course *Everyday Apostles* by Ryan O'Hara. We've discovered that this course is incredibly effective for a small group setting -- your parish staff, a few volunteers, a parish finance council, or even your Bible Study. The questions and reflection prompts are perfect for these groups!

Taking the course alone? Awesome! Find a journal and reflect on the questions and suggested prompts to go deeper with the course content.

Section 1: Introduction

Course Chapters 1-3

Reflection Question

Where are you at in your journey as a Catholic who evangelizes? Are you a regular everyday missionary? Or perhaps, do you love Jesus and love your Catholic faith but aren't sure how to share that love with others? Take some time to reflect upon where you are currently at on the journey. Then, imagine, pray, and journal with the image of yourself as a missionary - completely confident and at peace sharing your faith with others. What does this look like? Who are you sharing Jesus with? How are they responding?

Section 1: Introduction

Course Chapters 1-3

Discussion Question

In your parish, how many of your parishioners are sacramentalized (they have gone through all of the sacraments of initiation), but not evangelized (introduced to Jesus and asked to respond)? Discuss why this might be the case at your particular parish.

What do you hope to gain from this course? Discuss.

Section 2: Obstacles, Myths, and Mindsets

Course Chapters: 4-7

Reflection Question

What is the greatest challenge (for you, personally) when it comes to sharing Jesus Christ with others? If we are looking at ourselves honestly, we all hold fast to one or two of the obstacles/myths Ryan discussed. Which ones resonated with you the most? Write them down and then take them to prayer. (Space to write on the next page!)

Obstacles: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fear2. Negligence3. Shame4. False Ideas	Myths: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words."2. There are many different routes (religions) to the same place (Heaven).3. Somebody else will do it.4. I am not qualified.
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Section 2: Obstacles, Myths and Mindsets

Course Chapters: 4-7

Reflection Question

Discussion Question

Ryan talks about the four mindsets we need to battle the eight obstacles and myths to evangelization. Which mindset(s) need to be adopted in your life and in your parish? Discuss.

Mindset #1: Relationships are an end unto themselves. Let love lead.

Mindset #2: The results are not my responsibility.

Mindset #3: Just move the ball down the field.

Mindset #4: Cooperate with grace.

Section 3: Essential Marks of a Missionary Disciple

Course Chapters: 8-13

Reflection Question

Ryan outlines four marks of a missionary disciple: Contagious, Courageous, Curious, and Catechized. Which of these stood out to you the most? Spend some time writing and praying about how you will implement that “marker” more into your life. If you are struggling to come up with practical ways to implement it, Ryan gives some great tips in these chapters! Feel free to go back and watch them again!

Discussion Questions

1. Ryan gives us three categories of questions we can ask others in order to become better listeners (1. Facts, 2. Fascinate, and 3. Feelings). Come up with one example question for each of these categories. Then, discuss the examples. Would they be effective? How can you implement these this week? (Space on next page to write!)

2. You have to “know your audience” to be able to catechize them. Discuss how you would explain the concept of the Eucharist to these three audiences:

1. Sharen: a stay-at-home mom who comes to mass weekly but does not know Jesus personally
2. Glenn: an accomplished businessman and a professed “none” who believes that religion restricts a person’s freedom and happiness
3. Ellie: a 13-year-old girl who attends youth group but isn’t quite sold on the whole “Catholic thing” and is questioning why we believe what we believe about the Eucharist

Be creative and specific. Do you think you would be able to answer the question on the spot or would you meet with them regularly for coffee to discuss it further? What language would you use? Would you use metaphors or the Catechism? Would you have them listen to videos or go through apologetic documents together? Getting specific in this discussion will give you the confidence to approach these different kinds of audiences. (Space on the next page to write!)

Section 3: Essential Marks of a Missionary Disciple

Course Chapters: 8-13

Discussion Questions

Section 4: Key Habits of Person to Person Ministry

Course Chapters: 14-18

Reflection Question

The four key habits of a person who evangelizes are Intercede, Invoke, Invest, and Invite. Ryan makes the point, however, that we may not be able to use all of these habits for every single person we meet. We can certainly do this for at least one person or one family, though.

Take these four habits to prayer and ask the Lord to reveal to you the person or family He has in mind for you to intercede for, invoke on behalf of, invest in, and invite. How will you begin to do this? Make an action plan.

Section 4: Key Habits of Person to Person Ministry

Course Chapters: 14-18

Discussion Questions

There are three levels of investment (Take Notice, Time Together, and Sacrificial Generosity). Think of how you can live these out practically. Discuss examples, particularly in a parish context.

How can we teach others to become evangelists? A great way to start would be sharing the three levels of investment (listed above) and the four types of invitations (Sharing a Resource, An Invitation into Your Life, An Invitation to an Event, An Invitation to a Commitment).

Whether you work at a parish or not, how can you begin to share these methods of simple and effective relational-evangelization to empower others around you? If you work at a parish, discuss how you can model this to your parishioners and share these principles with them.

Section 5: Actually Sharing Your Faith

Course Chapters: 19-24

Reflection Question

Now that you have completed the course, take some time to pray and imagine what it would look like for you to confidently and boldly share your faith naturally, relationally, and charitably.

Picture the specific concepts and examples that most stood out to you (As Ryan calls it, your “Three Takeaways”). Imagine Jesus and His desire for you to be a fearless disciple, while charitably meeting people where they are. Imagine a person or family that you feel called to begin forming this relationship with. Imagine the courage to have one and a half (or more!) spiritual conversations a month. Journal about this prayer, the images that come up, the feelings, fears, hopes, and the call from the Lord to “go therefore and make disciples”. Then, make a resolution to act.

Discussion Questions

What is your one-sentence testimony? Write it here, and practice sharing it with others in your discussion group.

“I know in my life God has ____ and freed me from ____.”

Section 5: Actually Sharing Your Faith

Course Chapters: 19-24

Discussion Questions

The “Fundamental Message” is summarized as this: Love, Sin, Son, Lord. Discuss how you would share this fundamental message in a “moment of grace” (when someone is sharing their burdens with you).

Then, discuss how this Fundamental Message should be proclaimed in your parish so as to address the needs of people.

What are the shared burdens, experiences, hurts, and happenings going on right now in your parish? Do you know? If not, find out and discuss how the message of Jesus’s love should be shared to meet them in a particular way on a large scale.

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