Journaling Questions

How did your letter s make you feel?

Did you relate to anything that Jon talked about?

Who are you? What defines you?

If something were to happen to a major part of your identity, how would that affect you? For example, if you were no longer able to be an athlete or a musician because of a tragic accident, would you still be you? If you could no longer participate in something that you loved, or be part of a particular group, what would change? What if you and your boyfriend/girlfriend break up?

What do you think it mans to place your identity in Jesus? What would your life look like if you first identified as a son or daughter of Jesus?

As the creation of the Creator, we bear His image in ourselves. We are always revealing something about God. What are you saying about God through the way you live?

If you were to look at your life closely, are there any ways that you are pretending to be someone or something you’re really not?

**Read Matthew 16:13-20**

Jesus is not concerned with what other people say about him, he wants to know what the disciples say. Imagine that Jesus is speaking to you—how do you respond? Who do you say that Jesus is? Is Jesus just a prophet, a teacher, is he anything at all? Is Jesus, God? Your Savior? A friend? In other words, define your relationship status with Jesus.

What if you asked a bunch of your friends, “Who do you say that I am?” How would they answer? What if God is trying to tell you there is bigger truth behind who you are?

Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Who does Jesus say that YOU are? Now read John 15:15. What is your reaction?

What does it mean for God to love you not because of what you’ve done but because of who you are in Christ?

**Read John 6:63-71**

This has to be one of St. Peter’s finer moments. Just think of the power, the tenderness, the love, and the utter honesty of that heartfelt, moving prayer. “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life.”

Peter declares this beautiful statement after Jesus asked his disciples if they want to leave because others did leave. Why did people turn their back on Jesus? Because the teaching and life of Jesus wasn’t always easy to understand or to live.

Most of the time, we don’t understand what God is saying…

Most of the time, we can’t make much sense of what God is doing…

Most of the time, we find God and His Church teachings difficult…

But, Peter? He knows that it’s tough, but he doesn’t care…he KNOWS that Jesus is all he has.

Have you ever struggled with your relationship with God?

What are some times that you didn’t understand what His purpose was (or His will)?

Or, I other words, have there ever been times that God’s plan was just too hard to understand?

Have you ever struggled with the teachings of God or His Church?

Can you, like Peter, know that even though being a Christian, being a Catholic isn’t easy, that there is no where else to go?

What will it take for you to trust fully in God?

What will it take for you to declare, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life!”?

God’s love is the ONLY love that will make us who we are; it is the only love that will make us full; it is the only love that will make us happy.

CHALLENGE:

We challenge you to know who you are, to be real with God and to experience the freedom and joy that comes from knowing who God is and who He has made you to be!

**Read Luke 24: 13-35**

The disciples were heading to Emmaus when Jesus appeared to them. They did not recognize Jesus as Christ when He was walking with them. Do you recognize Christ in your life? What stops you? Are the choices in your life leading you to God or away?

Maybe it’s tough to recognize Jesus because of how busy you are, or overcommitted you are. Don’t beat yourself up; God loves you no matter what. One of the cool things about this story in the bible is that Jesus walks with the disciples *even when* they do not recognize him. You know what that means? He is walking with you too; even if you don’t feel Him or even believe in Him. Did you know that God knows you better than you know yourself? It is easy to get caught up in all the “head knowledge” of Jesus. You have to memorize a bunch of stuff and get all these requirements in to be confirmed; maybe it is just one more thing on your busy plate! Well, for just a bit, don’t worry about anything, take time and focus on you and the God that created you. God loves you. You’ve heard that before. Has it really sunk in? God loves you. What can you do to recognize Jesus more often in your life?