

*Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent*

**Session 1 Turn      Small Group Facilitators 2/18/21**

Potential Check-In Questions:

What is your name and religious background, and how long have you been a part of this faith community (Holy Spirit, St. Paul's, or Other)?

Why did you decide to participate in these sessions? What are you hoping to experience?

What is your favorite routine of your day?

Small Group Discussion: Turn

In his letter to the Romans, Paul lays out his theological belief that baptism is the TURNING point in our new life with Christ. It is the time that we leave the life of sin and death behind us to be born into life that is eternal.

Divide into smaller groups to discuss the lesson and answer some of these questions. NOTE: You may not have time for all of these, so feel free to pick a few that will have the most impact for your group.

- Paul's vision of a baptismal life is one lived free from the weight of everlasting sin and death. What does it mean to be free from that burden? How much does sin weigh on you?
- Do you remember your baptism? If so, describe it for the group. If not, what might your baptism be like if you were to be baptized today?
- Turning is a practice that involves confessing our sins as well as forgiving others. Share a story about a time when you were forgiven. How did it feel?
- In your packet, you have been given a copy of the Easter Vigil. Take a moment to review the parts of the vigil with your group and make note of what sticks out to you. Have you ever been to an Easter Vigil? If so, what did you notice? If not, what part intrigues you?

- Discuss specific practices of turning away from forces that separate us from God and turning toward Christ. Formal examples include the General Confession (Book of Common Prayer, p. 359) and Reconciliation of a Penitent (Book of Common Prayer, p. 447). Informal examples include the Ignatian practice of examen to reflect on each day. The examen consists of asking pairs of questions, such as the following: What has brought you joy this day? What has brought you sorrow? Focus on those things that bring you joy. They are likely those that draw you closer to God.
- What are the places in your life that need to be turned back to God so that new life can break forth?