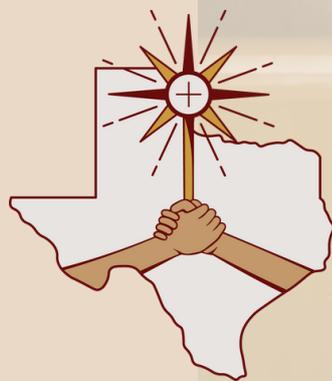


Deacon Harold Burke-Siver

Course Study Guide



**CATHOLIC
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For more information visit www.catholicbrothersforchrist.com



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Deacon Harold-Sivers' Study Guide

Session 1: Salt & Light

Reflects on the metaphor of salt's qualities relative to our faith and how Christ is a light to us. As salt seasons, we must season our hearts and our minds with the word of God. The Sacrament of Reconciliation purifies and the grace of God preserves us.

- *Group Discussion & Questions*
 - *Salt does three things:*
 - *Seasons – things taste better. We must season our hearts and our minds with the word of God. Open up the bible to see our lives and our stories. Nurtured and fed by the graces of the sacraments.*
 - *How do you currently season your mind with the word and the sacraments?*
 - *What is one step you can take to be better at seasoning your mind with the word and the sacraments?*
 - *Purifies – Sacrament of Reconciliation. We walk away and choose ourself over God.*
 - *Do you feel purified when you go to reconciliation?*
 - *How would you describe that to someone who does not go on a monthly basis?*
 - *Preserves – If we cooperate with the grace that God has given us in the sacrament of the church, we will preserve that everlasting life.*
 - *Out of your top 100 priorities where would you honestly rank your commitment to preserve everlasting life.*
 - *Light: Who is a great example of light (the Light of Christ) to you?*



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Session 2: Doing What We Need To Do To Get To Heaven

We often are so focused on ourselves that we forget the work we must do to build the kingdom of God. In this session, the deacon challenges us on the things we can do.

◦ *Group Discussion & Questions*

- Deacon's are ordained ministers of the Eucharist and lector. Sometimes we get so focused on ourselves instead of the work of building the kingdom of God.
 - Do you ever find yourself sweating the details of church politics?
- Definition of marriage – The supreme court has redefined it.
 - Where were we when this happened?
 - Were we men of prayer and men of action?
- What do you think the good deacon means when he says there are “No good people in heaven, only saints?”
- If the road to Heaven is narrow and few find it, if scripture asks us to be mature, whole and complete in our faith, what is the next step we can each take to follow the narrow path?
- Name one or two things that use your time that could be lessened or eliminated to make sure you have time for Mass and for doing ministry in the church?

Session 3: Excuses Why Men Don't Pray With Their Wives and Children

In this video, we learn the importance of being the spiritual head of our household.

- *Group Discussion & Questions*
- *Excuse # 1 – I don't have time.*
- *If you sleep for 10 hours there are only 840 minutes left in your day awake.*
- *Can you come up with a prayer with your kids and/or wife that is less than 3 minutes?*



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- Do you have 3 minutes for God?
- Excuse # 2 – She is the spiritual one.
 - What more can you do to be a better priest who sacrifices and gives up his life and dies to himself?
- Excuse # 3 – I am uncomfortable praying with my wife. She has her way and I have my way.
 - What was Christ’s prayer from the cross?
 - Deacon Harold likes Gregorian chant and to be choked out with incense. His wife prays extemporaneously. What does he do? Here is his prayer: Lord thank you for allowing me to see the light another day. So that I can give honor, glory and praise to your most holy name. Thank you for my life. Thank you for my wife. Thank you for our _____ years together. I thank you for my beautiful children. Lord, help me to be the man, husband and father that I need to be for them today.
 - Can you do that? Will you commit to doing that for the next 7 days?
 - Act like men of faith not men of the culture.
 - What is stopping us from being salt and light in the world today?
 - Are your priorities God, Family, Work, Community?
 - What would happen if you were no longer at your job?
 - What is stopping us is fear. One of the greatest warriors is David. In 1 Sam 16:7 “... God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart.”
 - What does that verse mean to you?



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Session 4 & 5: Mortal Sin & Your Goliath

Here we are challenged to be like David. Though he was an adulterer and murderer, In Acts, he was referred to as, “A man after God’s own heart”(Acts 13:22). What do we need to do, in spite of our sins, to become a “man after God’s heart.” What are our Goliath’s?

◦ Group Discussion & Questions

- The spirit of the Lord came upon David. He was an adulterer and murderer. However, Acts says he was, “A man after God’s own heart.”
 - What do we have to be willing to do to be a man after God’s heart?
- What Goliath is mocking you?
 - What giants are in your life that you need to conquer?
 - Find a partner and have them pray for you.
 - You can name the giant or call it a special intention.
 - Promise one other man that you will pray for them.
 - Get a note-card or set an alarm on your phone to contact them once per day. We NEED to pray for our brothers.
- Do you want to go to the next level? Are you ready to bust a cap in the devil’s butt?
- Why do men think they can overcome Satan with the weapons of man?
- How are David’s sling and the rosary similar?
- How often should you pray the rosary? Will you?
- Where does the church get the idea that there are mortal and venial sins?
- What three conditions must be present for a sin to be mortal?



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Session 6: Why Do I Need To Go To A Priest for Reconciliation

Learn the scriptural support for the answer to this often asked question.

- From Tim Staples: *The Catholic Church acknowledges what Scripture:*
<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/is-confession-in-scripture>
 - *If a man lies carnally with a woman... they shall not be put to death... But he shall bring a guilt offering for himself to the Lord... And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord for his sin which he has committed; and the sin which he has committed shall be forgiven him (Leviticus 19:20-22).*
 - *This concept is equally unequivocal. Jesus made this remarkably clear when he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)*
 - *Is any one among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. (James 5:14-17)*
- **Group Discussion & Questions**
 - Where in scripture did Jesus say, "just have people pray to me and their sins will be forgiven?"
 - Where in scripture did Jesus give priests authority to forgive sins?
 - Without confession, what guarantee do you have that your sins are forgiven?
 - How do you feel about having a guarantee?
 - In your own words, share why it is vital that you confess your sins to a priest?



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Session 7: Why Don't A Lot of Guys Go To Confession?

This session reflects on the difference between shame and guilt.

o Group Discussion & Questions

- Do you confuse guilt with shame? What is the difference?
- What is the priest there for? Should you worry what he thinks of you?
- Why do you have to go to confession?
- What is an indulgence? How does it relate to purgatory?
- What are the three requirements of an indulgence?
- How are you fed at mass?

Session 8: What Will Jesus Say At The End Of Your Life?

Mark Twain states, "The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why."

o Group Discussion & Questions

- At the moment of your death, do you believe you will see Jesus Christ?
- What motivates you more: fear of hell or hope in heaven?
- How do you feel about the fact that your sins held Jesus on the cross?
- "I don't remember." What more do you have to do, have or become to get this response?
- Have you ever experienced someone's passing? How can family members find peace in that moment?
- Mark Twain states, "The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." Can you think of a time when you were in touch with your why?
- How can you get back to that place? Make a commitment to your brothers at the table.



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Links to Course:

- *Link to all sessions and related study group questions: <https://youtu.be/G8CS9qmJRyY?t=158>*
- *Individual Links:*
 - *Session 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8CS9qmJRyY&feature=emb_imp_woyt*
 - *Session 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MQFyhYaRdI&feature=emb_imp_woyt*
 - *Session 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WrUbDGOjhU&feature=emb_imp_woyt*
 - *Session 4: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUxIwOEtLw0&feature=emb_imp_woyt*
 - *Session 5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0Qsp878S8Q&feature=emb_imp_woyt*
 - *Session 6: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eia4r3j_GC4&feature=emb_imp_woyt*
 - *Session 7: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo9skxwe1pE&feature=emb_imp_woyt*
 - *Session 8: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo9skxwe1pE&feature=emb_imp_woyt*



CATHOLIC BROTHERS *for* CHRIST

The Catholic Brothers for Christ (CBC) are a group of men, of various ages and places in life, who are deeply committed to having a relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing the Gospel through the witness of lively brotherhood rooted in prayer, the Sacraments, mentorship, and service.

