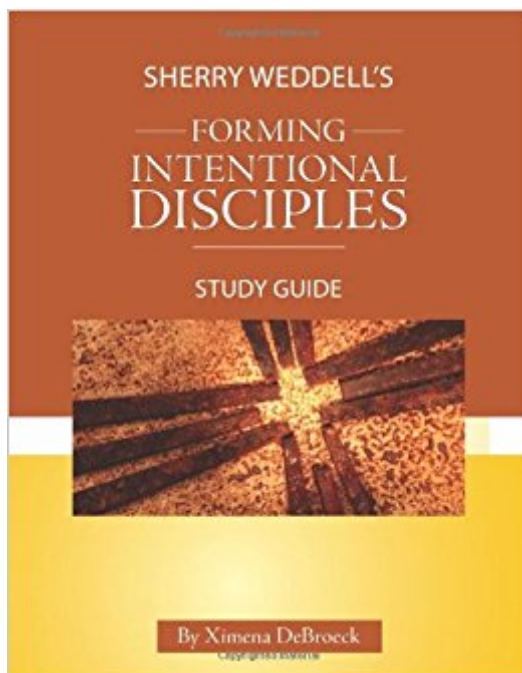


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Sherry Weddell's Forming Intentional Disciples Study Guide



Synopsis

What is keeping so many of us, and so many of our parishes, from becoming powerhouses of faith and evangelization is that we don't have a living relationship with Christ that transforms us into intentional disciples. *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* (Our Sunday Visitor, 2012) has become one of the most talked-about books of the decade in Catholic parishes across the country. Written by Sherry Weddell, co-founder and co-director of the Catherine of Siena Institute, *Forming Intentional Disciples* takes a clear-eyed look at the state of the Church today. Based on more than a decade of research with Catholics from across the country, the issues and opportunities in this book connect seamlessly with Pope Francis' call for evangelization as we open wide the doors of faith! Now the book that is changing hearts has a study guide that will help you change your parish or small faith community. Created by people who have experienced the transformative impact of discipleship firsthand, the *Forming Intentional Disciples Study Guide* provides tools and resources to "break the silence," initiate conversations, share the story of faith, and begin walking the path of discipleship together.

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Customer Reviews

Great overview of the serious problem we face today in evangelizing a new generation and older generations. The present lack of understanding of the basics of our Catholic Christian faith is sobering and reveals the very serious challenge we face! The five thresholds of intentional discipleship offers a helpful way of conceptualizing the Holy Spirit led process of conversion to full

intentional discipleship. What is lacking in this presentation -- and the subject for yet another book-- is how postmodernism itself is at the root of this problem and how postmodernism is impacting these faith trends in young adults. We need to identify the specific (and often unchallenged) postmodernist's assumptions that are at the root of these trends. Our current media and dominant secular culture has saturated our young people's worlds with postmodernist ideas for the last 20 + years and this trend of postmodernism is only accelerating. Young adults have been uncritically absorbing these beliefs along with their parents who are oblivious to their impact on their faith formation and conversion. No wonder we are not equipped to intelligently and critically respond to these postmodernist beliefs? No wonder it is impacting the passing on of our faith! We do not even yet acknowledge their existence! We need specific assessment tools to systematically address the impact of postmodernism and concrete strategies for responding creatively to preaching the Good News. This book demonstrates how we can begin to respond to these challenges.

This is the companion book to *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*. In a talk in a local parish, Sherry Weddell recommended that we think about reading this in a series group sessions. The study guide is suitable for small groups to do just that. Study groups can be arranged in a variety of ways. This is something quite popular. For instance, anyone who has led or participated in such a group for something like *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation 2.0* with Jeff Cavins or any other of his other courses like *The Great Adventure Matthew DVDs* or *James Pearls for Wise Living* would find it easy to lead such a group. To say something about the actual book itself, I'll tie it in this way. In *Go Forth with Hearts on Fire: A Pastoral Letter on the New Evangelization*, Bishop Paul S. Loverde, of the Diocese of Arlington speaks about "lighting" this fire so necessary for the Evangelization he is promoting and then tending to it. He recommends three age-old practices of the Church that provide ongoing renewal: The Eucharist, Confession, and Daily Prayer. In the section preceding this is a quote that he has taken from this book, imbedded between a short description of "disciple" and the always encouraging words of Pope Francis. What a great commentary of this book: * "Disciple" comes from the Latin verb that means "to learn." The Lord Jesus is continually teaching us as He draws us closer to Him. After our initial encounter with Christ, a lifelong journey with Him awaits. In ever more beautiful and compelling ways, we learn to become intentional disciples, that is, disciples who consciously intend to learn from the Teacher and to follow the Beloved.* In *Forming Intentional Disciples*, Sherry Weddell writes, "Intentional discipleship is not accidental or merely cultural. It is not just a matter of 'following the rules' ... But discipleship begins when 'persons at last have the

occasion to hear the kerygma, renew their own baptism, consciously choose Christ as their own personal Lord and Savior, and commit themselves actively in the life of their Church.'""* Without this intentionality, our faith weakens, our desire to learn from Him diminishes, and our initial love for Christ wanes and fades. Without truth, our faith is, in the words of Pope Francis, "reduced to a lofty sentiment which brings consolation and cheer, yet remains prey to the vagaries of our spirit and the changing seasons, incapable of sustaining a steady journey through life ... If love is not tied to truth, it falls prey to fickle emotions and cannot stand the test of time." In our careers and professional undertakings, we recognize the need to continually grow and develop. All the more so, as evangelists on a mission, we need the ongoing renewal that the following three practices offer to us in our life of faith.

This might be the best book on building an authentic Catholic parish that I have ever read. It will give all of us in ministry a reality check and challenge us to confront "the pink elephant" that has created the prospective culture of denial since Vatican II. Everyone training in ministry would benefit from reading this book!

WOW! This is a life-changing book for forming disciples.

This is a profound and important. It is an eyeopener for Catholics, Protestants and those who check the "none" box when asked what is their religious preference.

I took on a position on Parish Pastoral Council and was looking for a book to help me start a program within our group to strengthen our faith. Love this book and hope to use it Parish wide.

This book really inspired me to wake up and start living as a disciple; but after attending Sherry Weddell's seminar yesterday, I am really pumped!! Wish every Catholic would read this!

A wonderful contemporary book on evangelization; intentional discipleship or improving one's relationship with Jesus is the key.

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