

I am able to do something you are not able to ...



PRAY

Father in heaven, you put us from the very beginning into a community with other men; we shall complement and support each other. You gave us good divine order on our way, so that we treat one another carefully and beneficially. Yes, Lord, we want to root all forms of violence out from our midst. Give us your grace, therefore, and bestow the spirit of appreciation, of reconciliation and mutual acceptance. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#DOCATChallenge: Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.



Ex 18:18-21

You will surely wear yourself out, and not only yourself but also these people with you. The task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. Now, listen to me, and I will give you some advice, that God may be with you. Act as the people's representative before God, bringing to him whatever they have to say. Enlighten them in regard to the decisions and regulations, showing them how they are to live and what they are to do. But you should also look among all the people for able and God-fearing men, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain, and set them as officers over groups of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

95

What does the principle of subsidiarity involve ?

Every societal task is always assigned in the first place to the smallest possible group that can perform it. A group at a higher level may assume responsibility only if the smaller association is not capable of resolving the problem. If the smaller association needs help, however, the higher level must help. This arrangement is summed up in the → principle of subsidiarity and the → offer of assistance. For example, if a family has problems, the state can intervene only if the family or the parents are overburdened and cannot resolve them. This principle of subsidiarity is supposed to strengthen the freedom of the individual and of groups and associations, preventing too much centralization. Private initiative should be encouraged, because being able to help oneself is an important component of the dignity of the human person. The principle of subsidiarity was first formulated in 1931, in the Encyclical *Quadragesimo anno* by Pope Pius XI.

1. The social sin against the principle of subsidiarity consists in the abuse. What are the rights of a family, for instance, which no abusive state authority is allowed to take away?
2. What happens to social nucleuses (families, villages, associations, groups) if the tasks they are able to fulfill by themselves are taken away?
3. Why is the principle „help for self-help“ strengthening the dignity of men?
4. Give some examples of superior authorities (municipal administration, school, state)

Build two groups and have a role play.

Group A is called „THE STATE FRIENDS“. This group would like the state to control and set up rules for the people as much as possible. Group B is called „THE FAMILY PEOPLE“. This group would like to set up rules by itself as much as possible. Collect arguments within your group and discuss together.

Do you take on this challenge?

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