

**PRAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your holy spirit so that he might awaken, refresh, inspire and send us anew on the way. We need to be enthused from above over the love which you brought new into the world.

May your holy spirit bring us together, so we can perform new and unexpected deeds and thus bring your Kingdom of peace, justice and love within reach.  
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](mailto:feedback@youcat.org).

**#DOCATChallenge:** Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.

**Deut 30:19**

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live.

**308****What is the Christian way of living together?**

If “power” is central, then societies are structured according to the principle of “Might makes right.” That, of course, is not Christian; life together in society then becomes a battle for self-preservation. If “work” is held up as the pinnacle of meaning in societal coexistence, then people soon feel that they are harnessed to a meaningless machine and enslaved. Nor does God want us to take “luck” or “comfort” as our highest good. Life would then resemble a lottery that often favors those who cheat; we would follow our instincts and drives and impose all sorts of constraints on ourselves in order to prevent the worst from happening. Catholic social doctrine says: God’s master plan for human coexistence is social charity. When we live in the sight of a personal God who willed us and has some purpose for us, then we are children of a common father, brothers and sisters to one another. Then gratitude, meaning, and responsibility determine our individual and common life. A culture of mutual respect comes about. Then trust, consolation, and joy in life make sense. Social charity overcomes the spirit of impersonality, creates emotional cohesion in society, and makes possible a social consciousness that even transcends denominational boundaries.

1. What consequences follow if power, work and happiness are considered the highest goods in life?
2. What is „social charity“? What does it look like? How can it be visualized?
3. What is rotten in a society where people have an „impersonal“ approach?
4. What did Pope Benedict mean when he said that we, Christians, were given the certainty „that we are being loved completely and will not forget that we are not a product of chance but of love“?

Call somebody who may be slightly forgotten because people maybe consider him „different“ or because he might be overshadowed for some reasons by others, and speak to him personally during the next week. Listen to him and ask about his wellbeing!

Do you take on this challenge?

**PRAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your holy spirit so that he might awaken, refresh, inspire and send us anew on the way. We need to be enthused from above over the love which you brought new into the world.

May your holy spirit bring us together, so we can perform new and unexpected deeds and thus bring your Kingdom of peace, justice and love within reach.  
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](mailto:feedback@youcat.org).

**#DOCATChallenge:** *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*

**Deut 30:19**

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live.

**308****What is the Christian way of living together?**

If “power” is central, then societies are structured according to the principle of “Might makes right.” That, of course, is not Christian; life together in society then becomes a battle for self-preservation. If “work” is held up as the pinnacle of meaning in societal coexistence, then people soon feel that they are harnessed to a meaningless machine and enslaved. Nor does God want us to take “luck” or “comfort” as our highest good. Life would then resemble a lottery that often favors those who cheat; we would follow our instincts and drives and impose all sorts of constraints on ourselves in order to prevent the worst from happening. Catholic social doctrine says: God’s master plan for human coexistence is social charity. When we live in the sight of a personal God who willed us and has some purpose for us, then we are children of a common father, brothers and sisters to one another. Then gratitude, meaning, and responsibility determine our individual and common life. A culture of mutual respect comes about. Then trust, consolation, and joy in life make sense. Social charity overcomes the spirit of impersonality, creates emotional cohesion in society, and makes possible a social consciousness that even transcends denominational boundaries.

1. What consequences follow if power, work and happiness are considered the highest goods in life?
2. What is „social charity“? What does it look like? How can it be visualized?
3. What is rotten in a society where people have an „impersonal“ approach?
4. What did Pope Benedict mean when he said that we, Christians, were given the certainty „that we are being loved completely and will not forget that we are not a product of chance but of love“?

Call somebody who may be slightly forgotten because people maybe consider him „different“ or because he might be overshadowed for some reasons by others, and speak to him personally during the next week. Listen to him and ask about his wellbeing!

Do you take on this challenge?