

## Session on Chapter 7 of Cherished Belonging

### 1. Welcome & Opening (10 min)

- Greet everyone warmly.
- Remind people of the ground rules (confidentiality, respect, listening with love).

### 2. Get-to-Know-You Activity (15 min) – “Windows and Mirrors ”

- Ask participants: *Think of a time when they felt truly seen by someone else (a mirror) and a time when they saw something in a new way through another person’s experience (a window).*
- Have them pair up or form small groups to briefly share their experiences.
- After a few minutes, invite a few volunteers to share with the larger group.

### 3. Opening Prayer (5 min)

*Let us begin, In the name of the Father...*

*Loving God, You are the light that helps us see beyond ourselves. Open our hearts today to become windows of your grace—allowing others to be seen, known, and cherished. May we recognize the divine in each person we encounter and walk with greater compassion. Amen.*

### 4. Discussion Questions (30 min) – Based on Chapter Seven Make Windows

1. Father Greg uses *windows* as a metaphor, inviting us to see the world and others in a more loving way. What was your takeaway from this idea? How has it changed the way you view others?
2. Father Greg suggests that *loving is home. Once you know that, you’re never homesick.* Can you recall a time when you loved without expecting anything in return? How did that experience shape you?
3. Fr. Boyle urges us *not to have any enemies.* Are there people in your life whom you struggle to see with love? How might this faith community help you move toward reconciliation and friendship?
4. Frida, one of the matriarchs of Dolores Mission, appeared to Father Greg in a dream and said, *“We are all born. And we will all die. And all we have left is the tender time in between.”* Embracing this perspective, is there anything in your life that you would like to change or approach differently?

5. Boyle reminds us that *wholeness does not mean unbroken; it means welcoming and growing more and more at home with yourself*. How can you grow more at home with yourself, embracing both your strengths and your struggles?
6. *Grounded people can be anchors for others*. Who in your life serves as an anchor for you? How have they helped you remain steady in difficult times?
7. Saint John of the Cross prayed, “*Burn whatever stands between me and union with the Beloved.*” What in your life needs to be let go or transformed so that you can draw closer to God and others?

*(Encourage openness, active listening, and understanding. Attempt to learn from one another.)*

#### 5. Closing Reflection & Prayer (10 min)

- Invite each person to share one takeaway or a word that summarizes what they received today.
- Close with a short prayer of petition and gratitude for the week ahead.

*For whom and what shall we pray? (Allow people to state their petitions.)*

*God of love, thank You for the wisdom shared today. May we be windows of Your grace, offering others a glimpse of their own worth and belovedness. Help us listen more deeply, love more freely, and walk alongside those who need to be reminded that they belong. Let us go forth as bearers of light and hope. Amen.*

#### 6. Next Steps & Goodbyes (5 min)

- Share a preview of the next session, including the chapter(s) you’ll be discussing.
- If you plan to share facilitation, discuss who will lead the next session.
- If refreshments are part of your gatherings, Thank the person who brought the goodies and remind the next volunteer.
- Express gratitude for each person’s presence and participation, and close with a warm thank-you.

## Session on Chapter 7 of Cherished Belonging

Handout 7

### Opening Prayer

*Let us begin, In the name of the Father...*

*Loving God, You are the light that helps us see beyond ourselves. Open our hearts today to become windows of your grace—allowing others to be seen, known, and cherished. May we recognize the divine in each person we encounter and walk with greater compassion. Amen.*

### 4. Discussion Questions (30 min) – Based on Chapter Seven Make Windows

1. Father Greg uses *windows* as a metaphor, inviting us to see the world and others in a more loving way. What was your takeaway from this idea? How has it changed the way you view others?
2. Father Greg suggests that *loving is home. Once you know that, you're never homesick.* Can you recall a time when you loved without expecting anything in return? How did that experience shape you?
3. Fr. Boyle urges us *not to have any enemies.* Are there people in your life whom you struggle to see with love? How might this faith community help you move toward reconciliation and friendship?
4. Frida, one of the matriarchs of Dolores Mission, appeared to Father Greg in a dream and said, *"We are all born. And we will all die. And all we have left is the tender time in between."* Embracing this perspective, is there anything in your life that you would like to change or approach differently?
5. Boyle reminds us that *wholeness does not mean unbroken; it means welcoming and growing more and more at home with yourself.* How can you grow more at home with yourself, embracing both your strengths and your struggles?
6. *Grounded people can be anchors for others.* Who in your life serves as an anchor for you? How have they helped you remain steady in difficult times?
7. Saint John of the Cross prayed, *"Burn whatever stands between me and union with the Beloved."* What in your life needs to be let go or transformed so that you can draw closer to God and others?

### 5. Closing Prayer

*For whom and what shall we pray? (Allow people to state their petitions.)*

*God of love, thank You for the wisdom shared today. May we be windows of Your grace, offering others a glimpse of their own worth and belovedness. Help us listen more*

*deeply, love more freely, and walk alongside those who need to be reminded that they belong. Let us go forth as bearers of light and hope. Amen.*