



**Session 2:
GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND
THE PRINCIPLES OF HOLY CONFERCING
FACILITATOR'S GUIDE**

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Facilitator's Note: Each person should have a study guide before the video is shared with the group. Give a brief introduction and purpose of your using this series with your church, committee, ministry team, governing body, etc.

Video Teaching Notes:

The sweet spot of Christian Conferencing, is a means of grace.

“Little Christs” (Χριστός)

The basic principles, or attitudes, of good sportsmanship:

Principle #1 Let prayer prevail.

Principle #2 Remember every person is a child of God.

Principle #3 Treat one another with respect.

Principle #4 Listen patiently.

Principle #5 Understand the other's perspective.

Principle #6 Reflect the views of others.

Principle #7 Agree to disagree.

Principle #8 Speak about issues.

Principle #9 People are defined by their relationship with God

Facilitator's Note: Ask the group the following questions and allow them to share their thoughts. If the group is larger than 12, you may wish to form smaller groups for discussion questions 1 - 6. Discuss questions 7 and 8 as a large group.



1. According to Rev. Klein, Holy Conferencing is a means of grace. How?
2. Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, shared an example of Buck O'Neil and the "Golden Rule." What does this story tell us about the character of Buck O'Neil and the finding the sweet spot of being present in the midst of adversity with integrity and faith? What struck you as important, and a true sign of character, in this story?
3. What does it mean to be a "little Christ"? Is this the first time you've heard this phrase? What does being a "little Christ" imply about our finding the sweet spot and practicing the means of grace known as Holy Conferencing? Who has been a good example for you as someone who practices the presence of Christ in the world?
4. Review the basic principles. How do they help us, as a people of faith, to engage others in holy conversations around difficult topics and divisive issues?
5. Are there some that seem more difficult than others?
6. What are the principles necessary for God's grace to be fully experienced and for God's good to be fulfilled?
7. How might your church share, learn, and practice these principles in order to be better prepared for time of conflict, disagreement, and tension?
8. For what purpose might your church consider being intentional about sharing, learning and putting into practice these principles?

Facilitator's Note: Summarize in your own words, or share the following script:

"The following Prayer for Peace is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. To be "little Christs" requires that we interact with people in ways that are counterintuitive to our human nature and the ways of the world. This prayer reminds us to 1) intentionally seek to find the sweet spot, and 2) practice the principles of Holy Conferencing. Let's use this prayer as our guiding prayer for closing this teaching time, but also as a daily prayer focus until we meet again."



Closing Prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life. Amen.

Go Deeper:

- Brother Lawrence. *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Double Day, 1977.
 - Full audiobook version (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQS9mbXJ5UU>).
- Bishop Sally Dyck. “Eight Principles of Holy Conferencing: A Study Guide for Churches and Groups,” 2012.
- Rev. Dr. Scott Hughes, Discipleship Ministries, [Courageous Conversations](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/courageous-conversations-overview), <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/courageous-conversations-overview>