**06. Introduction of the prayer with the scripture**

* Do you identify with the message you accept here? Why do you keep coming? Do you feel that something is missing? Dissatisfaction, emptiness, incompleteness? Life has already hit you and opened your ears?
* I am the Lord your God ... how easily we think we know God ... your God is not the same. Do you have a personal, trying relationship? That endures every misfortune, the absurdity of life? Or do you know it only by hearing? Why have you not yet known God in reality?
* It is because you are an atheist? No. On the contrary! Atheists do not exist! He actually believes in idols. You seek life from things that you fantasize as happiness for you. They are less important than you, but you serve them devoutly, they bother you. You are afraid of losing them... even if they disappoint you, you always fall! You crash like a fly against glass. Why? Need help! Life is uncertain. **You need security, stability. Idols cause suffering. It is the alarm to understand that you are on the wrong path.**
* Do you know God? Do you have a relationship with Him? Remember Job. Why we don’t know yet God? We seek God for interest or duty/need/sick/trouble/ fear. We fear him because he is stronger than us, but our love goes to the idol. We produce them when we feel unsecure/not safe/. Life controllers: here's the idol. Idols: promises happiness but it drains you/ sucks your blood/seeks life, but THE IDOL early or late **disappoints**. The risk is: when you finish with one, you start to produce an another. How can you escape from idolatry?
* The second commandment: “Do not take God's name in vain ... Taking someone's name upon you: **expressing a relationship.**
* God is asking to have with you a **true relationship**. Love! He does not love interest or duty. Everything is within the relationship.
* **In vain/Useless!** Authentic/inauthentic relationship. Formal. Hypocrisy: acting (younger sister in high school). For interest/profit or duty/rules: marriage, fellowship, ordination. Can you accept such relationships? Cunning. I quickly learn to say what you expect to hear from me. It depends on the environment. Opportunist.
* Today we are going to meet again Peter. He met Jesus in the seashore Jesus called him and changed his name: You are not any more Simon but Peter = it means ROCK.
* When Jesus asked the disciples: Who do you think I am? Peter answered and said: You are the Messiah! (so the relation between Peter and Jesus was great)
* At a certain point Jesus said to his disciples: what I am asking is difficult for you? Would you like to go too? (in fact many people already left)
* Peter answered: where should we go? You have the WORDS of eternal life.
* When Jesus was directed towards Jerusalem He told to Peter (Jn 13, 33.36): now you cannot follow me. And Peter says why?
* What does Peter miss still?
* Gethsemane: The capture of Jesus: Peter fights, he is not afraid. Jesus says to him: You don't understand anything! The high priest questions Jesus.

• Lk 22, 54-62: Peter denies Jesus in His sight. Two things: He discovered that he was not the man he believed himself to be. It didn't work!!! He discovered that Jesus loved him in his weakness.

A story: **a couple having a baby.** They left the baby under the care of a relative. He is, in fact, a sadistic criminal who tortures the baby. What do parents experience? Imagine that the parents allow this because it is the only possibility for the healing of this man... this is the story of Christ! CROSS

* God has given us his Son to be tortured so that **we would no longer fear Him**. How can you be afraid of one who, willingly accepting suffering, loved you like this? "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength!"
* Why does God love you? Because He is good? Not only. Because HE knows who you are! He loves you because it's worth it! Loving you is worth! You are precious! This Cross proves that you are worth the blood of the Son of God!

• You don't know what love is until you have **experienced mercy**! Peter has discovered a true relationship with Jesus when he realized that He loved him and chose him with the awareness that he would have betrayed him.

• Who is just, perfect, does not need mercy, is not capable of loving anyone.

• Why do all the gospels tell us about Peter's betrayal? Why does Paul tell us that he persecuted Christians, the martyrdom of Stephen? Why haven't they deleted\disappeared these shameful stories? It is an indispensable part of religion. Guilt is at the heart of a true relationship with God.

• **To obey the second commandment means to know the name of God, but also your name.** God's name is MERCY! Your name? Who are you really? Last dinner. John 13, 6-8. Jesus washes the disciples' feet. The dirtiest part of you\the dirtiest and most unpresentable part of you! If you do not allow yourself to be needed (loved) in this part, you are not in a relationship with God. The only barrier between us and God's love is our false righteousness.

**Prayer with the scripture**

**Sharing**