

Session 8: Integration + Wrap

Eight weeks of formation, brought to a close. Real cases from our own lives, worked through Reason, Religion, and Loving-kindness together.

Welcome back

Eight weeks. Foundation, Reason, Religion, Loving-kindness, twice each. Today we put them all together.

No new pillar today. No new passage. Today we bring the hardest current case from our own lives, and we work it through all three pillars at the table. Then we name what we keep, what changes Monday, and who we are going to bring this to next.

The contract has held us. Today we name what it formed.

Opening prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. John Bosco, you took the hardest cases and formed them into men. Help us to take the souls God has placed under our care, our wives, our children, the men we sponsor, and form them with the same patience, the same reason, the same love that you used. Teach us to be present before we are productive, to be patient before we are pleased, and to lead with our hearts before we lead with our authority. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. John Bosco, ora pro nobis.

Today's reading

The closing of Don Bosco's 1877 treatise. He has been writing for fellow Salesians on how to form difficult boys. He ends with this.

If this system is put into practice in our houses, I believe that we will be able to obtain great results without ever resorting to the lash or to other violent punishments. For nearly forty years now I have worked with the young, and I do not remember having used any punishment of any kind. With the help of God I have always obtained not only what was a matter of duty, but even what I simply desired, and obtained it from those very boys for whom every hope of a good outcome seemed lost.

Fr. John Bosco, Priest (Sac. Gio. Bosco)

Today's structure

We deviate from the usual rhythm. Today is a **case clinic**, not a reading + discussion.

1. Each man names his hardest current case in one sentence. A specific person, a specific situation where the Preventive System feels stuck or impossible.

2. The group picks two or three cases to work together.
 3. For each chosen case, we ask three questions in order:
 - **What does Reason say?** Where is the explanation we owe? What's the why we're skipping?
 - **What does Religion say?** Where is the grace we're not yet drawing on? What sacrament is missing?
 - **What does Loving-kindness say?** Where is the love deposit that needs to be made? Where do we climb down from the cathedra?
 4. Then each man names what he is keeping from this curriculum for the rest of his life, and one specific person he will introduce to the Preventive System.
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Closing questions

1. Across these 8 weeks, which pillar has been hardest for YOU? Which has been most natural?
 2. What is ONE thing from this study you are keeping for the rest of your life?
 3. Who is ONE specific person you are going to introduce to the Preventive System? Your wife. Another father in your parish. Another man in E90. Someone you sponsor. Name them.
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Monday-morning commitment

This week's commitment is for life, not just this week. Name it out loud at the table so the brothers know what you are holding.

The ONE thing I am keeping for the rest of my life:

The ONE specific person I will introduce to the Preventive System:

When I will do that introduction:

Closing prayer

Father, we thank you for the wisdom of your servant John Bosco, and for these eight weeks of brothers around this table. We thank you for forming us as sons before You ask us to be fathers. Take what you have begun in us and finish it. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sancte Ioannes Bosco, ora pro nobis. Sancte Francisce Salesii, ora pro nobis.

The full 8-week arc, the source translations, and all session handouts are at <https://don-bosco.studiovellum.ai>. The library stays online for as long as we keep paying for the domain. Share it.