

## **IDEALS AND CHRISTIAN MATURITY**

(15 minutes. Discussion, poster and summary sharing to follow. This talk is given by an outside team member.)

Please limit your talk to the time allowed for this talk. In order to successfully complete the program every effort must be made to be on schedule. Time is of the essence and your cooperation is extremely important. If you are witnessing, please do it within the theme and within the outline of this talk.

Open with a short prayer.

Purpose: This talk follows the Theme for Day 1: Dying and Changing and it is not only the first formal talk of the weekend but also the first talk to develop the theme of dying and changing. The audience is not ready yet for heavy talks. This talk must be alive and to the point. The dying and changing should reflect the difference between the ideals and goals of your youth versus the mature ideals and goals of adulthood achieved with God's grace and through his will. Without diminishing the importance and seriousness of this talk the speaker should use it as an icebreaker helping the men to feel at ease and relaxed. They still don't know what REC is all about. Don't bore them or put them to sleep from the very beginning.

### Points to cover in your talk:

1. What were your ideals as a child?
2. What were your ideals as a teenager?
3. What did you expect your adulthood to be like?
4. When you were a child/teenager where - if anywhere - did God, church and the sacraments fit in?
5. Now that you are an adult, where does God, church and the sacraments fit in? Is this a change? Why?
6. What is your personal ideal?
7. How have your goals changed and matured?
8. How has God's presence in your life altered or shaped your adult ideal?
9. What are you specifically doing now to reach the ideal that God has set before you?
10. How much and what are you willing to sacrifice in order to fulfill God's purpose for your life?
11. How are numbers 8, 9 and 10 reflected in prison environment and in inmates' personal lives in jail?

Lead the men into the table discussion of your talk. You can ask them to respond to a question and to write down that question. You can challenge them and offer a theme related to your talk for discussion. You can provoke and stimulate the discussion in the best way you can.