



## BE A COMMITTEE OF ONE!

### LEADER: INTRODUCTION

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking at a dinner, called upon all citizens who were interested in retaining popular government to constitute themselves a “**Committee of One**” to spread the facts against opposition bent on “hiding or distorting” the truth. Roosevelt was unlikely the first person to use this term “committee of one”, but his message resonated with his supporters. During his 1936 reelection campaign over a million voters joined the “Committee of One” and pledged themselves to do whatever they could, whenever they could, no matter how big or small, to promote the President’s reelection.

This concept remains relevant today emphasizing that we do not have to wait for others, or a committee, or a group, or a meeting ....because it is often in the waiting that nothing gets done....to do something positive in the world, in our community, in our church, in our family. **The popularity of the “Committee of One” lay in its simplicity!** The initiative allows people to do whatever they can to be sensitive to others or to a cause. Nothing is too little! Back in the 30’s it could have meant simply wearing a campaign button on a coat, putting up a sign, speaking positively about the government at a social gathering, or just casting a vote.

The challenge in becoming a “Committee of One” is to embrace the moment as well as your time and talents. Change can happen for you and for others!

### PAUSE and REFLECT QUIETLY

### FIRST READING: Ezra 10:4

Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it.

**SONG:** ONE Music by – Eric Carlson (YouTube)

One song can spark a moment,  
One flower can wake the dream,  
One tree can start a forest,  
One bird can herald spring.  
One smile begins a friendship,  
One handclasp lifts a soul,  
One star can guide a ship at sea,  
One word can frame the goal.

**CHORUS:** One voice can speak with wisdom,  
One heart can know what's true,  
One life can make a difference,  
You see it's up to you!

One vote can change a nation,  
One sunbeam lights a room,  
One candle wipes out darkness,  
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start a journey,  
One word must start each prayer,  
One hope will raise our spirits,  
One touch can show you care.

**CHORUS:** (sung and repeated)

## **SECOND READING:** Luke10: 30-37

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down the road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and water. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn....."

## **REFLECT and SHARE:**

What are some examples from your own life when someone "made a difference" in your life through a look, a word, a touch, an action?

What does the phrase "Committee of One" mean to you?

Explore with each other some very simple examples from everyday life of how you can be a "Committee of One" and make a difference.

## **CLOSING INTERSESSIONS: RESPONSE – Lord hear our prayer**

That the Spirit touches me deeply so I will find a sense of self which makes me glad to be who I am, we pray to the Lord.

That I will be able to recognize a restlessness at being anything less than I can become in this world, we pray to the Lord.

That I will be honest enough not to expect truth to be painless and brave enough not to sing all my songs in private, we pray to the Lord.

That I will recognize the strength in my small acts of kindness, compassion and listening that can bring about hope and joy to others, we pray to the Lord.

That I will always have an all embracing love for others and the world as modeled by Saint Francis, we prayer to the Lord.

And for what else shall we pray.....

**PRAYER:** Taken from, Guerrillas of Grace (by, Ted Loder)

In this moment draw me to yourself, Lord, and make me aware not so much of what I've given as of all I have received and so have to share. Send me forth in power and gladness and with great courage to live out in the world what I pray and profess, that, in sharing, I may do justice, make peace, grow in love, enjoy myself, other people and your world now, and forever. Amen

**CONCLUDE** with the song: ONE

**OTHER QUOTES** that could be considered as part of the prayer service.

One suggestion is to type each quote on a piece of paper. Turn the quote face down and have each participant take a quote as "their quote" to take with them.

"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be

any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result."

- Mahatma Gandhi

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man (a woman) stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strike out against injustice, he (she) sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

- Robert Kennedy

"Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work."

– William Arthur Ward

"Never forget that you are one of a kind. Never forget that if there weren't any need for you in all your uniqueness to be on this earth, you wouldn't be here in the first place. And never forget, no matter how overwhelming life's challenges and problems seem to be, that one person can make a difference in the world. In fact, it is always because of one person that all the changes that matter in the world come about. So be that one person."

- R. Buckminster Fuller

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do,"

- Edward Everett Hale

I have one life and one chance to make it count for something.....My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."

- Jimmy Carter

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson