

2022 "Union with God and Prayer" 2023

Today, I discovered Heaven



**Modularized Gen 4 Program
on "Union with God and Prayer"
year 2022-2023**



Introduction:



To prepare the material, we started by rereading and meditating various themes prepared by Chiara¹ on this topic, highlighting those aspects which seemed to us more suitable for the gen 4. For many of these aspects, there are also specific materials prepared by Chiara herself for this age (ideas from her story and from answers that Chiara gave to the gen 4 over the years).

We have chosen 7 suggested points in consecutive modules, with a program that is also according to the Indigo formation on the Sacred Scriptures which we would like our Gen 4 to undergo.

For each module, we have indicated:

A) some ideas taken from Chiara's themes for the preparation—meditation for the assistants.

B) the objectives that these ideas suggested to us for the gen 4 meeting.

C) some content which can be used to help achieve these objectives, “drops of light” taken from the Sacred Scriptures (Indigo program for the Gen 4) and from the Spirituality (still material for the Gen 4). Specifically,



for every part, we indicate which excerpt from Chiara's story or which of her answers given to the Gen 4 can be used, which episodes in the Sacred Scriptures seem to fit this point. Every episode in the Sacred Scripture which is proposed is also accompanied by illustrated experiences which can be useful material to reinforce the point. D) Finally, through a beautiful collaboration with a team of assistants from all over the world, some ideas for conducting the meeting were also prepared, also to enrich it with songs, games, drawings and various activities.

The type of proposal that we can offer this year, being "modular" and not already structured as in the previous years, can also be more easily adapted to any situation. We are sure that the sensitivity of each assistant would know how to choose, among these proposals, the elements that are more suitable to the group of gen 4 entrusted to him or her. There are plenty of materials, precisely to provide the possibility of choosing: It is NOT necessary to do all of them!

As you will then see, also in the choice of Chiara's themes (to prepare the assistants), talks made for the most varied audiences were sought, in order to have interreligious and ecumenical richness in mind as



much as possible. We would like to remind you that the ecumenical dimension is very much present in all Indigo programs and in the revisions of the passages from the Sacred Scriptures suited to children, as well as in the contributions of the notes accompanying the text; there were contributions from focolarine and focolarini of various Churches.

The general title of the program which we propose for year 2022-2023 is: **Today, I discovered Heaven.**

¹Reference of texts consulted:

- C. Lubich, Tokyo (Japan), December 28, 1981, to the members of Rissho Kosei Kai, "La mia esperienza spirituale".
- C. Lubich, Faenza, April 10, 1988, to the families, "La preghiera in famiglia".
- C. Lubich, to the focolarinos, Castel Gandolfo, December 23, 1988, La "Via Mariae".
- C. Lubich, – Collegamento CH, February 23, 1989, "I quattro modi di pregare" (published in: C.Lubich, Cercando le cose di lassù, Rome 1992, 4th ed., p. 128-130).
- C. Lubich, Collegamento CH, Mariapoli Luminosa, May 24, 1990, "Vivere il 'Già'" (published in: C. Lubich, Santi insieme, Rome 1995, 3rd ed., (1st ed.: 1994), p. 35-38).
- C. Lubich, Castel Gandolfo, December 24, 1998, to the focolarinos, "V° tema della spiritualità collettiva – III° aspetto: 'L'amore eleva'".
- C. Lubich, Castel Gandolfo, October 25, 1999, meeting of Muslim friends of the Focolare Movement, "La preghiera, la meditazione e l'unione con Dio".
- C. Lubich, Castel Gandolfo, January 4, 2004, to the focolarinos and focolarinas, "L'unione con Dio si sente, si percepisce - La cultura della Risurrezione".
- C. Lubich, Castel Gandolfo, February 16, 2004, to the Bishops friends of the Focolare Movement, "L'unione con Dio".
- C. Lubich, Castel Gandolfo, April 18, 2004, at the Hindu-Christian Symposium, "L'unione con Dio".



Module n. 6:

The Golden Rule

All of us can live the law of heaven

A) For the assistants.



Ideas from Chiara's themes: Each man has a relationship with God – Praying is pleasing for man.

1) Already in 1981, speaking to Buddhist members of the Rissho Kosei Kai in a talk mentioned also in other modules, Chiara, after having spoken about the spreading of the Movement “among Catholics of almost all the nations of the world,” and “in Christian churches of other traditions,” then continued in this way: “[...] And since in the world one often encounters brothers of other faiths, one makes a wonderful experience. **Every man, shaped in the image of God, has the possibility of a certain personal relationship with him. It is rather his being man that leads him to this communion. Here, then, are the various affinities that we ascertain among our religion and the others that exist today.** And these affinities, which we also find in you, dearest brothers and sisters, which allow us to walk side by side, for the Holy Journey of life towards the Goal, which awaits us, and to collaborate, united, for the good of humanity. [...]”¹

In 1999, she would repeat the same concept to the Muslims: **“That it is pleasing for man to pray, this is also understood in our contact with our brothers of other religions. One discovers in them profound experiences of prayer, which testify to a secret but effective action of God which pushes man to pray. [...]”**²

B) Objectives of the Gen 4 Meeting

- To discover the universality of the relationship with God and its importance for every man.
- To discover that the “secrets of the dice of love” can be lived by all humanity because everyone can share the “Golden Rule”

C) Gen 4 Meeting Content: drops of light with life experiences and with the Sacred Scriptures

- Gen 4 Experience (taken from the second part of the video: Chiara and us Gen 4)

The secrets of love that unite everyone in the world: the Golden Rule

Narrator: Markus lives in a city in Germany and has many friends. Among them is Yasir, a Muslim boy. Just this afternoon they decided to go to the park to play. They are always happy together because they have discovered that they have many beautiful things to share.

Today it was Yasir who stopped for a moment and said:

Yasir: "Do you know that I pray five times a day?!"

Narrator: Markus listened attentively and remembered that with the Gen 4 they had decided that before doing anything, they would say: "For you, Jesus." So he told Yasir:

Markus: "I always pray, too."

Narrator: The two of them looked at each other happily and went on playing.

Yasir does not know the Gospel, but he has the Qur'an, the holy book of Muslims. When Markus went to Yasir's house, he found out that they too try to help each other in the family and to love the people they meet. There is love among all!

Narrator: Like Markus and Yasir, many children of different religions live the secrets of the cube of love as they find them written in their Sacred Books, and are more attentive and able to discover many beautiful things that they can live together and really become true friends.

Indeed, at the center of the sacred books of many religions is love, like a wise law that is called the "Golden Rule": there are many different ways of saying the same thing. Here are some of them:

In the Gospel, Jesus said: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" "

An important text for the Jews: "Do to no one what you yourself dislike"

And an ancient Muslim book says: "None of you are true believers until you wish for your neighbor what you wish for yourself"

Buddha said to his monks: "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful"

In a Holy Book of Hindus we read: "Do not do to others that which would cause you pain if done to you"

Sacred Scriptures:

Episode of the Good Samaritan: *when one listens to the good voice of the heart, everyone is capable of loving* (Attachment C2)

D) Ideas and other material for conducting the meeting:

Attachments D

¹C. Lubich, Tokyo (Japan), December 28, 1981, to the members of Rissho Kosei Kai, "La mia esperienza spirituale".

²C. Lubich, Castel Gandolfo, October 25, 1999, meeting of Muslim friends, "La preghiera, la meditazione e l'unione con Dio".

³See Lk 6:31

⁴See Tb 4:15

⁵See Hadith 13, Al Bukhari

⁶See The Buddha, Udana-Varga 5.18

⁷See Mahabharata 5: 1517

