

# ALICE AND THE CAT

*From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.  
Published by Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.*

## Intent of the session.

- ✓ *On having goals and aims in life*
- ✓ *Check on: Are you on the right path? Are you drifting?*
- ✓ *If you are drifting, you will reach somewhere: but, what that “some where” will be?*
- ✓ *Where” you should you really want to go?*
- ✓ *To awaken the participants to the thought that life has a purpose.*
- ✓ *To make them aware of the meaninglessness of many a human life.*
- ✓ *To set them thinking of their future.*

## Uses of these jottings

For a prayer sessions  
For personal reflection.  
For group reflection and sharing.

## Introductory Session.

Singing hymns and bhajans.  
Opening prayer.

## The Story

Once upon a time, in Wonderland, Alice got lost in a forest. Desperately, she tried to find a road that would lead her somewhere. She ran helter skelter all over the forest Exhausted and breathless, she arrived at a forking of roads. Puzzled and anxious she asked herself: What road should I take? I wish someone would tell me?”

Fortunately, she spotted a cat sitting on tree overlooking a forking of roads. Anxiously she asked: “Mr. Cat, I am lost in this forest. Please, tell me what road should I take?”

The Cat replied:”Darling, tell me where do you want to go?” Confused and fumbling for words, Alice replied:” Well... well...Mr. Cat I can’t tell you this. I myself do not know where I want to go. I am lost. Kindly, help me! I only want to reach somewhere”

Promptly, the Cat replied: “**If you do not know where you want to go, and you only want to reach somewhere, it doesn’t matter. Any road will do**”.

## Personal Work

### ASK YOURSELF FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

*As far as possible, put your reflections in writing.*

1. Do you really know where do want to go in life and what do you want to do?
2. Have you ever seriously decided what do you want to be and accomplish in your life?
3. Are you on the right path? Are you drifting? What makes you say so?

4. Do you allow others and the circumstances of life to take you where you wouldn't like to go?
5. Do you keep some companions that lead you astray? How will you break away from them?
6. Do you have some habits that keep you away from God?
7. Can you come back to the right path before it's too late? How?
8. What have you already accomplished in your life?
9. Is life worth living the way I do? Why?
10. What things have to change to make you life worth living?

### **Personal Prayer and Reflection.**

- Spend a few minutes alone praying over your answers to the questions above.
- Write a prayer to God asking him to show you the way you have to walk, and what have you to do in your future.
- Ask for the courage and strength to do it..

### **Group Sharing , Short Discussion and Prayer.**

- ✓ If the number of participants is too large divide them into smaller groups of not more than 10 each. Secure moderators for the small groups.
- ✓ All participants will share their reflections with their companions. *They will free to share only that much they feel comfortable to share.*
- ✓ After their sharing, they will pray spontaneously pray for one another.
- ✓ Close by singing appropriate hymns.

### **PRINCIPLES FOR RIGHT AND SUCCESSFUL LIVING.**

- **Do not allow things just to happen in your life. Make them happen!**
- **In life, be an Actor not a Reactor. Be an engine, not a coach.**
- **There is no use crying when it's too late. Chances, once gone, will never return.**
- **No use locking the stable when the horse has been robbed.** (Old proverb)