



ADVANCING THE MISSION

Tips for Organizing the Five Week Faith Sharing Groups

Recruit Leaders 4-6 weeks prior to your scheduled start of the Inspiration Phase. Begin to chart their schedule preferences and availability for facilitating a group for five weeks. This will enable your committee to begin publicizing which days of the week and different times of the day groups can be offered.

If your parish already sponsors Small Faith Sharing Groups or Bible Study sessions, capitalize on these existing communities and their structures as well.

Beginning 6 weeks prior to a “Sign Up Weekend” consider a weekly count-down schedule for announcements in the parish bulletin, newsletters, and web site. Suggestions are listed on the back side of this handout.

Determine how best to facilitate registration: forms in the parish bulletin, newsletters and web site; pre-printed cards in the pew; sign up tables in the gathering space; direct mailings to parishioners; and/or inserted into other mailings from the parish.

Recruit different people to make announcements at all parish liturgies—daily as well as on the weekends. Include a short overview of the five week program, an invitation, and a brief review of the sign up procedure. It would be great if these same folks could be available after the liturgies for a few minutes to answer questions.

Sort the sign up cards according to the days of the week and time preferences to set up the groups. Timely follow up with group leaders and participants is very important.

Work with parish staff and/or your RSI consultant in preparing enough booklets and in gathering resources leaders may need to facilitate the five sessions.

Invoke the aid of the Holy Spirit along the way. Blessings on all your efforts!

For more information or assistance in organizing Small Christian Communities or Faith Sharing Groups, contact Patti Christensen in the Department of Evangelization and Worship at 1-877-500-3580, ext. 8304.

Sample Bulletin Inserts

What is a Small Christian Community?

A Small Christian Community is a gathering of Christians who come together regularly to seek ways to respond to God's presence in their lives and in the world. Members share their human stories and their faith with one another. They read the scriptures together, they pray and they sometimes sing. Together they perform outreach/service as an extension of blessings received. They most often meet in one another's homes. There may be five or six people, or ten or twelve.

Our parish will soon offer a five week faith sharing opportunity as part of our Stewardship Campaign: *Advancing the Mission*. Interested in becoming involved? Contact _____ at _____.

Why do Small Christian Communities exist?

- For mutual support
- For on-going learning and formation in faith
- For reflection on scripture and church teaching and discernment of gospel responses appropriate to the concrete situations of life
- For encouragement and accountability of action on behalf of the gospel
- For prayer and worship

Our parish will facilitate the set up of small faith sharing groups and will provide materials for a five week study of prayer, service, and sharing in preparation for our Stewardship Campaign: *Advancing the Mission*. Contact _____ at _____ for more information.

Five Week Faith Sharing Groups to Focus on Prayer, Service, & Sharing

In conjunction with our parish Stewardship Campaign: *Advancing the Mission*—a series of small Christian Communities or Faith Sharing Groups will be organized soon. Watch for the sign-up form in the weekly bulletins or call _____ at _____ for more information.

Please consider joining a small faith sharing group for five weeks of shared prayer, reflection, and discussion on the stewardship themes of Prayer—Service—Sharing.

Five Week Faith Sharing Opportunity Sign Up Weekend

On the weekend of _____ please sign up after mass for a five week faith sharing group focused on our stewardship themes of prayer, service, and sharing. As part of the Stewardship Campaign: *Advancing the Mission*, our parish members will be challenged to ask God, “What do you want to accomplish through me?” Many people may welcome the opportunity to pray, reflect, and discuss this challenge with others in the context of a small faith sharing group. Come together for reflection on scripture and church teaching and discernment of gospel responses appropriate to the concrete situations of life. See what amazing responses the Holy Spirit might be generate through your participation! For more information, call _____ at _____.