



SMALL GROUPS

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

VISION

Connecting with a community of disciples regularly to share our faith using the Scriptures or other Catholic content will provide us with a source of mutual support, encouragement, and authentic friendship while helping us to encounter God, to grow closer to Him, to grow in our understanding of Him, His Church, and His will for us, and to become joyful, missionary disciples. As a joyful, missionary disciple we hope that as we grow in our relationship with God and each other, we may attract others to living the life of discipleship which may lead to forming additional small groups to accommodate more disciples.

TYPICAL MEETING STRUCTURE

(approximately 90 minutes)

Welcome (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Content and Discussion (1 hour)

Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Reminders/Other Business (5-10 minutes)

GROUP EXPECTATIONS

1. Members are expected to make the small group a priority in their schedule and expected to be on time for meetings.
2. All members have a responsibility to set a tone and group culture that is respectful, humble, open, honest, non-judgmental, and loving.
3. Silence in group discussion is to be expected and an important part of the experience.
4. Members are encouraged to share while maintaining a balance of participating without dominating.



5. Members listen respectfully and do not interrupt one another.
6. All members agree to keep confidential anything personal shared in the group, unless there is a risk of someone harming themselves or someone else.
7. Members are encouraged to pray for one another in between meetings.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MEETING ONLINE

1. Be familiar with the controls of the digital platform you are using (muting, video on/off, chat options, speaker vs. gallery view, etc.).
2. Remember that when your video is on, you can be seen by everyone; when your microphone is on, you (and all household noises) can be heard by everyone.
3. Turn your video on to better connect with the other participants.
4. When you are not speaking, mute your microphone to avoid background noise and echoes.
5. During group prayer or readings, it is best to have your microphone muted if you are not leading the prayer. If everyone is speaking out loud at the same time with their microphones on, it creates a delay in the sound, causing a significant distraction, and will prevent everyone from being able to pray/read in sync with each other.
6. Consider using screen share options to share prayers, readings, videos, etc. with the group.