

Holy Family Parish Book Club : Rebuilt

SESSION 3

Facilitators Guide - Session Outline

MORNING

- 10:00-10:05 Opening prayer and comments
- 10:05-10:15 Reflection on Session 2 CALL TO ACTION
- 10:15-10:20 Comments on the benefits of defining a specific “lost person”
- 10:20-10:40 Video #3
- 10:40-10:45 5 minute Break
- 10:45-11:10 Small group discussion
- 11:10-11:25 Explanation Next STEPS booklet and CALL TO ACTION
- 11:25-11:30 Closing comments and prayer

Facilitators Guide – Reflection & Video

CHAPTER
3&5

REFLECTION ON WEEK 2 CALL TO ACTION:

“Lets try to list some very specific challenges and objections to being open to coming to church. And please could we all be as brief as possible, so everyone has a chance to share.”

- Think about people in your life, who you’d love to see at church.
- Identify the person who would be the most difficult to convince.
- Reflect and write down the biggest challenges to convincing them to come to church, and what their main objections would be.

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- It’s possible that this could result in detailed stories of people, relationships, past experiences etc.
- If this happens, guide the discussion by saying something like: *“I love that you are sharing this story / experience / issue, but lets try to focus **less on the details**, and **more on the specific challenges & objections** they would have?”*
- Not only will this allow everyone to share, but it’s much easier to find solutions when we are clear and specific in this way.

The importance of identifying and defining those whom we seek to reach. (***)This is not a discussion question for the table group – it will be discussed by the coordinator of the book club session with the entire group).

Watch Video #3:

Our responsibility to seek lost people and bring them home to the Father

The religious leaders accused Jesus of being irreligious and breaking God’s law by eating with tax collectors and sinners – people who were far from God. In response Jesus tells the story of the Prodigal Son and reveals the Father’s heart for those who have walked away from a relationship with him. He reveals that God the Father is on the lookout for them and will greet them with open arms upon their return.

Will we - like the pharisees – hold onto what we seem rightly and fairly entitled to? Or will we share the responsibility to change our perspective from existing to maintain members, to reaching out to the lost with love as Jesus did?

Facilitators Guide – Small Group Discussion

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- Take 30 seconds to review the “Keep the Conversation Alive” guidelines on the Yellow sheet.
- Ask participants to have their books & study guides opened at the chapter  1 indicated next to the question.

CHAPTER

6

Discussion Question:

“What could we improve about our weekend experience to ensure that newcomers feel welcome and like they want to come back?”

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- Chapter 6 talks about music, hospitality / welcome, and creating an “irresistible environment”.
- Try to keep the discussion around these aspects, and what we can do on a parish, ministry and individual level.
- Avoid getting too deep into anything like the message from the pulpit, as this is covered in later chapters.

CHAPTER

7

Discussion Question:

“What practical steps can we take to ensure that we maximize engagement of: a) children b) youth c) young families ?”

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- This conversation might drift toward blaming parents for “not teaching the faith” and to secular society and media etc, for pulling young people away from the faith.
- If you see this starting to happen – **intervene quickly**, emphasizing that **laying blame will not change anything** – we need to focus our energy **not** on the problems themselves, but on **finding solutions** – working to reach out and engage young people – exactly where they are, in ways that they will find relevant.

Quick reflection:**“What’s your most memorable / impactful homily / homily series?”****FACILITATOR NOTE:**

- This should be very quick (5 mins max), with each person taking 30 seconds or less to share their favourite homily.
- If needed - ask them to briefly state 1) What the homily was about, 2) One powerful takeaway they got from it.

*****End of Small Group Discussion****Next
STEPS****CALL TO ACTION:****Take some time this week to read the Next STEPS booklet and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you to your next step.**

(***This is not a discussion question for the table group this week – it will be discussed by the coordinator of the book club session with the entire group).

FACILITATOR NOTE:

- After the coordinator explains the Next STEPS booklet and how to use it, encourage and inspire your participants to plan time this week for this CALL TO ACTION, and **draw their attention to the suggested prayer (*below)**.
- There is no time set aside in this week’s session to discuss, but of course as the session ends, if a discussion begins – engage with participants and let them share any initial thoughts, ideas or questions.

Suggested structure for prayer (plan for approx. 30 mins):

- **Begin with the Holy Family Mission Prayer**
- **Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you**
Use your favourite prayer, or simply speak your prayer naturally and from the heart. If you’d like to use St Augustine’s prayer to the Holy Spirit:
“Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy. Amen”
- **Slowly read each page of the booklet, pausing when a word or phrase speaks to your heart. Ask the Lord for grace and wisdom to discern what He is calling you to. Listen and write notes in your booklet or journal.**
- **Give God thanks and praise for giving you His love and His guidance (even if you wrote down little or nothing).**
- **End with the Holy Family Mission Prayer**
