



Young Family Small Group: Meeting Guide

This is your guide to leading fun, faithful, and fantastic small group meetings. As believers we recognize as we belong, we grow in our faith, and we serve others more as intentional disciples of Christ. We want you to succeed as parents, families, small groups and Catholics sharing faith with those around you. Here are some key guidelines and tools to ensure your small group is a blessing to you, your family, and the families around you!

Why small groups?

In short: Jesus had a small group and He was pretty successful

- Small groups allow us to belong and to know others, to recognize we are not alone
- Small groups allow us to meet new people, create lasting friendships, and a deeper sense of parish community
- Small groups challenge us in our prayer life and ability to discern God's Will in the day to day
- Small groups are a vehicle to share life with other families, so we can support and care for one another
- Small groups allow the larger parish to become small, personal and impactful
- Small groups beckon us to deepen our faith, to become a stronger witness of Christ to others

Best practices of a small group:

- 6-8 adults + kiddos
- Groups need a leader (person or couple)
 - Does not mean they are the host
 - Does not mean they are the only one who talks or has to prepare any content
 - It simply means they are the point person who communicates the gatherings to the group and stays connected with the parish
- Decide as a group to meet for 90 minutes up to 2 hours and respect the group's time
- Groups will meet weekly in Lent and then decided to stop, continue weekly, or continue 2 times/month
- We meet in homes just like the early church (Acts 2)
- Be on time, and communicate if you will be late or unable to attend the meeting
- Pray for the members of your small group daily, by name
- Hospitality, means being kind to all folks, even ones that are different from you
- Be authentic and open to sharing your story
- Respect others and listen well when they speak or share their reflections
- Call upon the Holy Spirit often:
 - Maybe the Lord is asking you to be a YFSG leader?
 - Maybe your group is too large and needs to split in half to welcome new families?
 - Maybe you want to live your faith, so your group plans a service project or family retreat?

For questions about Young Family Small Groups please contact:

Reid Leazier: phone 317-842-6778 x 232 or email reazier@sldmfishers.org



Young Family Small Groups: Sample for Group Leader to Complete

When will your small group meet? Tuesdays @ 6pm-730pm

Who will host? Joe and Jane Smith

Will Host rotate or stay the same? Rotate

Who is the leader/lead couple? Joe Smith

Child Care provisions: host hires sitter/grandparent

Food Plans: Host provides main dish + pitch-in from other families

What resources will be used? Bringing Lent Home with St. John Paul II (daily) + Bridges to contemplative living (weekly)

Dedication devotion: Rosary

Patron Saint: St. Louis de Montfort

Meeting Outline

- 25 minutes of Gathering, welcome and fellowship (meal time as families)
- 15 minutes Families pray together (dedicated devotion: rosary, chaplet, etc)
- 40 minutes Formation for adults
 - Kids go into another room/space for childcare
- 5 minutes Closing Prayer (family blessing, prayer intentions, and ask for intercession of the Patron Saint)
- 5 minutes Sending

Lent will be a 6 week series with daily resource for families to walk with at home

For groups hoping to continue a weekly or 2 times/month basis

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