



## SMALL GROUPS

# GETTING STARTED

### WHY

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Connecting with a community of disciples regularly to share our faith using the Scriptures and other Catholic content will provide us with a source of mutual support, encouragement, and authentic friendship while helping us to encounter God, grow closer to Him, grow in our understanding of Him and His Church, and 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.

### WHO

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Ask the Holy Spirit in prayer who to invite to your small group. Invite the people who God presents to you to join you weekly in sharing your faith and growing together as disciples while you study the Bible or some other Catholic content. If you only have 3 or 4 people, that's ok. 6-8 is ideal. Limit your group to 8 people. It is recommended that small groups be all female or all male since this allows for the opportunity to share more comfortably with others. However, groups can also be mixed.

### WHERE

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Select the meeting place or which digital platform your small group will use. This could be someone's home, a coffee shop, restaurant, park, parish, etc. It should be a place the group can comfortably sit, see and hear one another, and have enough privacy for the conversation. Some platforms that could be used to meet online include Zoom, Google Meet, Facebook Messenger, and Skype.

### WHAT

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Choose which content will be used for your small group (the Bible itself, a Bible or faith study guide, etc.) If needed, order any study materials. [\*See suggested content here.\*](#)



## WHEN

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Set a start date and a schedule that works for all the participants for the duration of the series. It is recommended to meet for about 90 minutes weekly (or at least twice a month). Begin with a short commitment of 6-8 weeks after which people can decide if they'd like to continue for longer.

## BE CLEAR

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Share and review the *Participant Guide* with your group so that you have clarity about the vision and group format with clear, shared expectations of each other in the group. Also, decide on the best way for the group to communicate with each other outside of meetings (text, email, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, etc.)

## GET STARTED

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Use the *Facilitator Guide* to help you prepare for group meetings. Start your small group on the scheduled day and let God begin to work through all of you! At your first meeting, introduce yourselves and share the vision of your group, sharing the hopes and goals of the group. Share the vision that as we grow as joyful, missionary disciples, we will want to invite others to into the life of discipleship and even form additional small groups of disciples of Christ as we grow in numbers.

## AT THE END

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In your second to last session of your series (usually 6-8 weeks), discuss with your group how the small group is going and ask whether people would like to continue to meet, and what content would they like for the next series. Questions to consider could include: What was most meaningful or helpful to you from this series? What worked best in this environment? What could be improved? What are some other topics you would like to explore in a small group?