



ARISE Parish Team Meeting Seven: Reflection, Celebration, and Evaluation—Season Five

Where?	At the parish level
When?	Early Advent
Who?	ARISE parish team and small-community leaders
How?	Invitations to all small-community leaders two to three weeks prior to event
What?	A “pot luck” supper/luncheon or dessert and coffee
Time?	1.5 to 2 hours

In the name of the pastor, the *ARISE Together in Christ* parish team welcomes all small-community leaders to this event.

Goals

- Thank the small-community leaders for their service.
- Gather in gratitude for what Christ has done for us through *ARISE*.
- Share “good news” stories.
- Support one another in the challenges.
- Gather information from the small communities to assist the *ARISE* parish team coordinator in completing the Season Five evaluation survey. (A copy of the evaluation survey is available via the link sent to Coordinators in an email.)

Process

- Welcome and introductions (have name tags available)
- Overview of the evening

Opening Song

Use an appropriate Advent song.

Invitation to Pray

All: Come, Lord Jesus. You have nurtured us in word and sacrament in the Church, which is your body. During this season when we prepare to celebrate your birth long ago, teach us that we can also celebrate your coming every day.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent we hail.

Amen.

Proclaim the Gospel

Please choose the Gospel for the Sunday in Advent closest to your meeting date.

Invitation to Group Sharing (in groups of five or six)

Invite participants to close their eyes and think back to October and November, to remember the faces of those in their small groups.

1. As you look back on Season Five what moment do you remember when you shared the Good News?
2. Faith is one of the gifts of the Spirit listed by St. Paul. In what way has taking part in this *ARISE* process renewed the way you think about your faith?
3. Using the questions from the evaluation survey (which you received in an email), please share responses.

Reconvene the small groups into one and ask for some "good news" stories to be shared with the entire group.

Invitation to Closing Prayer

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for insights gained, for prayers answered, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with the following:

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we rejoice that you sent your Son to us in Bethlehem, and as we wait for his return at the end of time, we live in hope. May our hearts be filled with the joy you promised when we live this life you gave us. Help us to bring a sign of your love to those in our lives, not that they may praise us, but that they, too, may taste the joy of the one who is to come in glory.

We ask these things through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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