



Welcoming Small-Community Leaders

Purpose

- to prepare the small-community leaders for their role in the *ARISE Together in Christ* small communities

Materials Needed

- copy of the *ARISE* Prayer (Handout 29)
- Bible or *Lectionary* for the Sunday Gospel reading
- copy of *PRAYER TIME*
- *ARISE* Season Three CD and CD player
- Lists of the small communities and their members
- Season One Faith-Sharing Book: *Encountering Christ Today*
- *Sowing Seeds: Essentials for Small Community Leaders* (every small-community leader should have a copy of this guidebook)
- Website registration materials as found on page 65

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader Let us spend a few moments in quiet,
becoming more aware of God's presence ...
... God's presence in each one of us.
but especially in this community,
gathered in Jesus' name.

Song "God Has Chosen Me," Bernadette Farrell, (OCP)
(ARISE CD3, Track 3)
or *play or sing another appropriate song*

Leader Gracious God,
you desire to gather us as your family.
We ask that you send your Spirit
to open our minds and hearts
to the many ways we can share the Good News

with our brothers and sisters.
Help us understand that this is your work
and that you will be with us every step of the way.
This we ask in the name of your son Jesus Christ
and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Welcome (10 minutes)

Thank the leaders for their willingness to lead a small community for the first season of *ARISE Together in Christ*.

Have each person introduce him or herself and share why he or she responded to the invitation to be a leader of a small community.

Faith Sharing (15 minutes)

Faith sharing, or telling our faith stories, is being aware of or recalling times, life events, words, or moments of grace when God touched our lives, challenged us, or spoke to us.

- **Scripture**

Proclaim the Gospel for the coming Sunday.

- **Reflection**

You could

- use the reflection and one of the faith-sharing questions from *PRAYER TIME* for the appropriate Sunday.

Or you could

- allow time for reflection and ask:
“What word, phrase, or image from the scripture reading touched my heart or spoke to my life?”

Questions and Clarifications (25 minutes)

- Invite questions and answer them as best you can. In some cases, it will be to say that leaders will find the answers in *Sowing Seeds* (see below). Above all, assure leaders of your support and availability.
- Distribute the lists of members of the small communities and copies of Season One Faith-Sharing Book: *Encountering Christ Today*
- Give copies of *Sowing Seeds: Essentials for Small Community Leaders*, stress its value for their leadership role, and review the table of contents
- Explain to the leaders the significance of the *ARISE* commissioning ceremony for small-community-leaders that has been planned for _____ at _____.
Ask them to be present for it.

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Next Steps (2 minutes)

- Schedule a meeting of the small-community leaders at the end of Season One. The purpose of this meeting will be
 - to evaluate the past season
 - to celebrate together!
- Register on the RENEW International website

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

The leader should offer a brief prayer of quiet thanksgiving. Then:

Leader Let us pray for God's help and guidance.

Leader For Church and world leaders
that they may act with wisdom and courage,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader That our parish may be open
to spiritual growth and deeper faith development,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader For our small communities
that they may grow together
in their love for God and others,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader For the small-community leaders,
that they will be guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit
as they facilitate spiritual sharing,
we pray to the Lord:

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pause and invite others to offer intentions.

Leader Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us:

All **Our Father, ...**