



## Some Situations ... ... and Possible Responses

When inviting people to participate in *ARISE*, you might be asked some questions to which you do not have an immediate response. Here are samples of typical questions and suggested ways of formulating an appropriate response.

### **SITUATION**      **POSSIBLE RESPONSES**

- **“Why are you visiting/calling me?”**  
“Our parish \_\_\_\_\_  
is about to begin something very exciting and we want to share it with as many people as possible.”
- **“I’m no longer a practicing Catholic.”**  
“I am sorry to hear that. Do you mind if I ask you why?”  
*Many people leave the Catholic Church because of a particular situation, apathy, or busyness.*  
*Share how ARISE and meeting in small groups might address a hunger for the Word of God and for community.*  
*End with:*  
“I hope you will give us another try.”
- **“I’m angry at the Church because ...”**  
“The Church is a human institution as well as being divine. We are made up of saints and sinners. It is unfortunate that we cause pain to one another.  
*ARISE* and meeting in small communities can be a vehicle in which we come together and focus on the positive aspects of our faith.”
- **“I am divorced and don’t feel welcome at the church.”**  
“I am sorry we make you feel that way. I am calling because we want people to feel at home in our community. Being part of one of the small groups is a great way to develop deeper relationships. We would be honored to have you participate.”

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- **“How much of a time commitment is this?”**  
The groups meet once a week for 90 minutes for six weeks. I certainly realize that you are a busy person. Would you consider trying it?”
- **“I try a lot of different religions and don’t like to limit myself to just one.”**  
“Every religion has its richness, but this would give you a chance to really look at Catholicism and understand how it connects to God through Jesus.”
- **“I’m a very practical person—interested in facts, not sharing.”**  
“This is an opportunity to deepen our faith in the light of our lived experience, and to connect our faith to everyday life. What could be more practical than that!”
- **“I’m too busy at this time.”**  
“We will be meeting again during Lent (or the fall). Would you mind if I kept your name and called you again at that time?”
- **“I find your parish is too big.”**  
“Yes it is large, which is exactly why I am so excited about the small groups, because they enable us to get to know each other and to support each other at a different level.”

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