

ARISE Parish Team Meeting Five: Selecting Small-Community Leaders

Purpose

- to provide an opportunity through prayer and faith sharing for the *ARISE* parish team members to grow together as a community
- to select small-community leaders
- to plan ways to support and prepare the small-community leaders

Materials needed

- copy of the *ARISE* Prayer (Handout 29)
- Bible or *Lectionary* for the Sunday gospel reading
- copy of *PRAYER TIME* for the current liturgical year
- *ARISE* Seasons One CD and CD player
- Handout 11, “Preparing Small-Community Leaders”
- Handout 12, “Invitational Strategy: Four Easy Steps”
- Handout 13, “Estimating Participation in *ARISE* Small Christian Communities”
- *Sowing Seeds: Essentials for Small Community Leaders*

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 *Play or sing an appropriate song such as*
“We Are Called,” David Haas (GIA Publications, Inc.)
(ARISE CD 1, Track 12) or “Envía Tu Espíritu,” Bob Hurd (OCP)

Leader Let us pray together

All **Good and gracious God,
thank you for calling us to be your people.
Fill us with your Spirit.**

**Give us the gift of right judgment
and the strength to follow your will for us
as leaders in our parish.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Evaluation of Progress Since the Previous Meeting (10 minutes)

Invite each person to share the progress made thus far

- in communicating the vision of *ARISE* to the parish
- the status of invitational efforts: home visits, telephone, and email campaigns

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?”

Choosing Small-Group Leaders (40 minutes)

What are the small groups?

In the small groups, people commit to meeting together regularly to reflect on a passage from Scripture, pray about how that passage relates to their lives, support one another, and take action to live gospel values.

To facilitate the dynamics of this process the leader of such a group needs to be a person of faith with specific leadership skills.

The members of the parish team should now:

- reuse Handout 11, “Preparing Small-Community Leaders,” to launch a discussion on the qualities these leaders should have
- determine how many small groups there will be, and then how many leaders will be needed. If you do not know the number of small communities you have, then use the Handout 13, “Estimating Participation in *ARISE* Small Communities,” to calculate:
 - the potential number of participants in the *ARISE* small communities
 - the number of leaders needed for these communities

Break (10 minutes)

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Strategies for Invitation and Formation of Small-Community Leaders (30 minutes)

- Use Handout 12, “Invitational Strategy: Four Easy Steps”
- The leaders of the small groups in the parish will need support and ongoing formation.
- Provide a brief overview of the full contents of *Sowing Seeds: Essentials for Small Community Leaders*. (Purchase a copy of *Sowing Seeds: Essentials for Small Community Leaders* for each small-community leader. Every leader should have his or her own copy of this guide.)
- An essential element of ongoing support and formation for small-community leaders is attendance at the Small-Community Leader Formation Workshop offered by RENEW International.

Next Steps (2 minutes)

- Schedule the date for the next parish team planning meeting
- Invite potential and appropriate people to accept the ministry of small-community leader

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 our Church and world leaders
that they may be blessed with the strength and grace needed
to guide all people to unity and peace,
we pray to the Lord:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For our parish, that as we prepare for **ARISE**
we may all be open to the movement of the Spirit
and the call to grow deeper in relationship with God
and one another,
we pray to the Lord:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For our **ARISE** Parish Team
that we may listen to the Spirit in our decision making,
we pray to the Lord:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For the small-community leaders of the **ARISE** process,
that they will be empowered
to encourage spiritual growth in our parish,
we pray to the Lord:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Pause and invite others to offer intentions.

Leader Let us pray together the **ARISE** Prayer.

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