



D3-1: Faith Sharing Session with Parents

Partnering with Parents to Bring Home the Faith

Living and Sharing Your Faith

Note: This session uses the Strong Catholic Families PowerPoint D3-1, "Living and Sharing Your Faith," which can be obtained from the SCF Website (www.strongcatholicfamilies.org)

For: Those who attended the SCF Foundational Parent Presentation, any follow up gatherings, spouses, and other interested parents (note that at this meeting all parents are welcome regardless of the ages of their children).

Outcomes: Parents will take away from the gathering...

1. The kind words and blessing of the pastor/principal
2. Practical skills and tools for growing in faith as a family, including faith-sharing and prayer skills
3. Review of resources
4. The commitment to pray for one another
5. Specific plans for next steps

Materials:

- Refreshments
- Nametags, markers
- Handouts on faith-sharing and prayer ideas
- Pencils or pens
- Easel and newsprint, markers
- LCD projector, laptop, PPT presentation
- Take home resources and perhaps a small devotional gift
- Prayer handouts for opening and closing prayer

Agenda: A two hour gathering. Note that this meeting begins in the same way as the Parent Listening Session.

A. Hospitality (note this is vital and not to be skipped or rushed)

1. A comfortable, "adult" space, with furniture and environment conducive to a warm, welcoming, and comfortable adult conversation.
2. Food, drink, nametags, and designated greeters with a knack for putting people at ease welcome parents as they arrive.
3. Some social time before the formal beginning of the meeting can be very helpful (e.g., "come fifteen minutes early for coffee, soft drinks, snacks, and conversation").

B. Welcome, Introductions and Prayer (10 minutes)

1. Opening remarks (leader warmly welcomes participants, acknowledges their interest and commitment, commends them for their decision to come, then briefly explains the outcomes and agenda of the gathering)
2. Introductions (with the acknowledgment that we are probably our own best resources, the leader invites the participants to stand up, mingle, introduce themselves to several other people, and find out why they are in attendance).
3. Kind Words and Prayer (ideally, the pastor/principal would attend at least the first few minutes of the meeting, offer some affirming words, and lead a simple, suitable opening prayer, perhaps modeling one of the prayer forms modeled during the PowerPoint presentation to follow.

C. Dyad/Triad Conversation on Sharing Faith at Home (10 minutes)

Leader asks participants to cluster in twos and threes and share with one another:

1. One or two ways that you share faith with your family that you feel really good about.
2. One way that you wish you and your family could grow in sharing faith.

D. Parent Witness on Faith-Sharing at Home (10 minutes)

One or two parents who already model a good and positive home faith life are asked in advance to prepare and offer some remarks on how they share faith at home, what works well or not, and how they feel about their efforts.

E. PowerPoint Presentation on Growing in Faith as a Family (85 minutes)

1. Leader uses the Follow-Up Parent Session B PowerPoint, Sharing and Living Your Faith, to share specific skills, strategies, and other approaches to growing in faith as a family. Leader should refer to the trainer notes in the PowerPoint to walk through the various faith sharing ideas with the parents. Be sure to take your time as you review and model for them how to do the various prayer and faith sharing skills that are highlighted. All skills, and many not listed, can be found in the *Family Faith Resource Booklets* on pages 12-14.
2. Take a ten minute break at an appropriate time during the presentation.

F. Conclusion (5 minutes)

Leader concludes the meeting with:

1. Concluding remarks expressing gratitude, affirmation, and support.
2. Final reflection question: what will you do tomorrow or this week to bring this home and live your faith “between the Sundays?”
3. Evaluation of gathering.
4. Brief closing prayer.

G. Social time (time allowing, parents are welcome to stay and chat).