



## LEADING SHARING CHRIST SMALL GROUPS

### OVERVIEW

The purpose of the small group as well as the entire *Sharing Christ* course is to help Catholic men and women to become effective communicators of the Gospel. Small group leaders should embrace the goal of the *Sharing Christ* course:

1. To help you and the participants to personally embrace the mission of evangelization. It is the right and responsibility of all the baptized.
2. To encourage you to be ready and willing to follow the Holy Spirit as He leads you to share the love of God with others in witness of life and proclamation of the Gospel
3. To teach simple, practical skills for communicating the Gospel to another person and inviting that person to embrace Jesus in a personal relationship as a disciple in His Church

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Small groups are intended to help each person realize these goals through prayer, individual participation, discussion, and completion of the weekly *Step into the Mission* assignments. It is the place where theory is put to work. We learn how to use the tools presented in the talks. The small group leader is the craftsman/woman who helps the participants learn how to use the tools. They demonstrate their use by personal application. The small group leaders should be taking the course with the participants, working through all of the *Step into the Mission* assignments, lead by doing and by encouraging others to follow.

Most of the participants have encountered Jesus in *Discovering Christ* and are applying the basic principles of discipleship learned in *Following Christ* to deepen their walk with Jesus. Many of them now have a desire to share what they've experienced with others, but don't know how. They are timid, shy, fearful, untrained, and feel unqualified. *Sharing Christ* is designed to address these concerns and to provide the tools needed to motivate them and to give them the confidence to share their faith with others. It is in the small groups that the theory becomes practical. The responsibility of the small group leaders is helping the participants to learn to apply the teachings in sharing their faith. The small group leaders encourage, challenge, and motivate the participants. It is extremely important that we, as leaders, lead by doing all that the course asks of the participants.



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### GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Before *Sharing Christ* begins, those registered are assigned to small groups. The ideal group size is 6 participants and 2 leaders (a facilitator and a helper). In certain situations small groups will continue from *Following Christ* and *Discovering Christ*. We have found that groups composed of all women and all men work very well. If married couple asks to be in the same group as their spouse, we form couples groups. Also consider age when forming the groups. We have found that keeping young adults together works best.

### STEP INTO THE MISSION!

*God is with you!* The Lord wants to see each person in the small group grow in confidence and ability to share Christ with others. You may not feel up to the task of leading a *Sharing Christ* small group, but be assured that the Lord promises, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). Approach each session with expectant faith and see what God will do in the group!

*You are part of a larger team* if you are participating in a *Sharing Christ* course with several small groups in your parish or community. Lean on the Main Leader or Small Group Coordinator if any problems arise. They are there to help you.

*Be yourself!* One thing stressed in *Sharing Christ* is that God wants to use you according to your personality and gifting. So, don't try to be more or less than the person God made you to be. Don't try to answer questions that you don't know how to answer. You are simply *facilitating* discussion and prayer with other men and women who desire to learn how to share Christ.

*Pray daily for the members of the small group by name.* Listen to what is shared in the group and form your prayers around the specific needs and desires shared during the small group discussion.

*Prepare for the next session.* Be sure to pray and read this guide to prepare for the next session. Your prayer and preparation will profoundly impact individual growth and the effectiveness of the discussion. It is a privilege to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ!