

Return Program Outline

7 weeks

6:30-6:45pm: Welcoming/Hospitality

6:45-7:30pm: Speaker

7:30-8:00pm: Small Group Discussion

8-8:30pm: Prayer and Homework

Week 1-Who, What, Where and Why Speaker-Ryan O’Hara

Why are they leaving, where are they going and the 5 big myths of Fallen Away Catholics?

Goal: To have common language to understand the millennial generation as well as to gain insight into why our loved ones are leaving/or have left the Church.

Objectives:

- Be able to define the millennial generation
- Identify why our loved ones have left the Church
- Identify why are loved ones are drawn to other faith traditions
- Help participants start to overcome the guilt, hurt and frustrations they might have so that we can focus on the invitation back.

Prayer-Lectio Divina of the Sower and the Seed

Week 2-Take it to the Father

Speaker-TBD

Goals: Participants should begin to start to pray, fast and offer up the person that has left the Church. Participants will also better understand what will not work to bring their person back to the Church.

Objectives:

- Understand what not to do when trying to lead a person back to the faith.
- Understand the five thresholds of conversion and the process to discipleship.
- Understand how prayer, fasting and sacrifice play a key role in bringing their loved one back to the faith.
- Learn some simple ways to introduce prayer into one’s daily life.
- Learn to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit

Prayer-Tear-Drop Adoration Service

Week 3-Know Your Stuff

Speaker-Chris Kostelc

Goals: Participants will have a basic “toolbox” of Catholic resources that will be helpful in talking with their loved one.

Objectives:

- Gain confidence in using Catholic resources to help explain the faith
- Make a plan to read the Bible and Catechism more frequently
- Be better equipped to know where to go to get the answers

Prayer-St. Monica Novena

Week 4-Talk to Me

Speaker – Pat Millea

Goals: Participants will begin to understand how, when, and where to start having the faith conversation with their loved one. They will also develop ways to keep the dialogue open so that it can become a fruitful experience for both people.

Objectives:

- Understand that how, when and where the conversation happens directly impacts the ability for their loved one to listen openly.
- Gain a comfortability with active listening without becoming defensive
- Be able to develop a series of questions, including “shoe pebble” questions that are open in order to move the dialogue forward
- Understand that speaking with positivity and joy are the most important tool of evangelization

Prayer-Guided Meditation

Week 5-Share Your Story

Speaker – Ryan O’Hara

Goals: Participants will better understand and be able to articulate their own personal faith story.

Objectives:

- Understand what the term Evangelization means
- Gain confidence in their response to the question “Why am I Catholic?”
- Start to articulate their own personal faith story

Prayer- Handwritten Prayer

Week 6-Now What

Speaker-Molly Schorr

Goals: The goal of this session is to help give the participants ideas of “next steps” in their conversation with their loved one. This session will also help to identify the stages of discipleship and provide framework for their loved one’s journey.

Objectives:

- Understand how to keep the dialogue moving by inviting their loved one to connect
- Understand the stages of discipleship and be able to identify where their loved one is at
- Make a plan to invite their loved one to an event in the next month

Prayer- Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Week 7 - Follow-Up Night (usually 2- 3 weeks after week 6)

Speaker: No live speaker, this is facilitated by the parish host

Goals: The goal of this session is to reconnect with the small group and offer support, continued guidance and an opportunity to share success and not so successful stories. All past participants are invited to this night to share how the conversations are going for them as well.

Objectives:

- Remember that we are part of a larger community that supports one another as we pray for and with one another
- Brush up on skills from the previous 6 sessions
- Continue to make plans to talk to their loved one and reconnect with a supportive small group/accountability partner

Prayer-Intercessory prayer