



Small Church Community Living

Acts 2: 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and

had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day to day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

When SCCs turn to the Church's inheritance of scripture as a resource for sharing, they find many benefits. Ease of preparation - Simple facilitation - Christian instruction - Endless variety - Limitless depth – Infinite Love – JESUS Himself!

When a Small Church Community proclaims Sunday Scriptures as their subject for reflection and sharing, **they invite the Word, *who is Jesus*, into the room to –**

**speak first,
 set the subject and
 share His faith story.**

We learn to listen to scripture with the expectation that God is speaking to us in the present moment.

We pay attention to our interior reaction to what is being proclaimed.

Instead of studying or discussing, we share what seems significant to us and how we think God is guiding us personally in this moment. These spiritual insights bring us closer to Christ for his shepherding and closer to one another because of our vulnerable sharing from our souls.

Our goal as a *small* church becomes the same as the goal of the *whole* church –

**to become better disciples of Jesus Christ and to add to our numbers those who
 are being saved**

Beyond our meeting, we can become more comfortable with scripture in our daily lives. At Sunday Mass, the Word can come more alive because we carry our faith stories with us. Even without hearing the stories of others around us, we trust that God is working in their lives and we can be more bonded to them as well. Our hearts are more open for the shared unity in the breaking the bread, who is Jesus. The grace within our SCCs increases the desire to invite others to join us to receive the gift of faith and inspiration we receive in our gatherings.

Simple Scripture-Based SCC Agenda

2-hour basic format

Welcoming/Hospitality – PF Business/Announcements – 10 mins

Silent Recollection – 10 minutes

Take a moment to remember what you felt God was speaking to you at the last gathering of your SCC – and in the weeks since. Have you been faithful in prayer? How has your prayer borne fruit in your work & family?

Ask the Spirit to be with you, leading you and your SCC, as you gather this evening.

Opening Prayer related to theme of scriptures –3 minutes

Pray for those who need more faith – in general and by name. – 5 minutes

As a Church community, let us lift up those who do not have faith or the consolation of God's presence in their lives.

Name someone to whom you are called to witness. Let us pray together:

**Father, I thank you for the persons you put into my life.
Jesus, help me to love them enough to desire that they know you.
Holy Spirit, guide all that I say and do so that
You will be proclaimed in the world you entrust to me.
Amen**

Read Sunday scriptures twice each. (Psalm can be read once) – 10 minutes

Read slowly:

Once for the head.

Once for the heart.

Respond to these questions: - 50 minutes

What did I hear that is significant to me?

Why do I think God is bringing this to my attention?

Silent Recollection (Journaling optional): – 5 minutes

In what way has God been calling/speaking to me tonight?

What do I most want to “hold on to” from tonight’s meeting?

Who/what do I most want to hold in prayer in the coming weeks?

Is there anything I wish to offer to God tonight?

Share requests for prayer. Commit to pray between meetings. – 10 minutes

Answer the question: What can we hold in prayer for you?

This is where we continue to share about our lives. Note that the more personal and vulnerable the request, the better. PF can often set the tone and depth. Writing intentions down can be a help to our commitment to pray for one another.

The bonds between us are strengthened more during this prayer time between meetings than even when we are together.

Closing Prayer – 2 minutes

Social Time – 15 minutes