

General Process for using *So You're Seeking to Renew Your Faith*

There are many ways that this resource can be used:

- Candidates or catechumens in RCIA process
- at parish council meetings;
- for the preparation of parents for the baptism/confirmation of their child
- for marriage preparation, particularly inter-faith marriages;
- with youth and young adults;
- in nursing homes;
- with parents of school age children. (however, there is an edition of this material entitled *So, You're Sending Your child to a Catholic School* which may be more appropriate for this group.

The text is designed for individual reading and reflection or to be used in a small group.

SMALL GROUP PROCESS

1. Gather those who are going to take part;
2. Make sure participants know one another. If there are newcomers or strangers name-tags will be useful;
3. As people gather, even within a household or small group, play sacred music as a way of setting the stage and preparing the mind and heart;
4. Once everyone is introduced and settled, begin with an opening prayer or perhaps a reading of a sentence or two from next Sunday's gospel, and allow a few moments of reflective silence;
5. At the end of each gathering, make sure everyone knows when the next one will be held.

VARIETIES OF USE

Different workshop scenarios could be developed to introduce work groups to this book and to depth people's understanding of the content. Any workshop consists of content and methods. Given the variety of settings only the most general of guidelines is possible in this 'General Process'.

Content

The book itself, together with the life-experience of the workshop participants, would form the content of the workshop.

Methods

Depending on the group and their needs, different activities would be employed by which the content is offered.

PREPARATION.

1. Choose one chapter from the text (perhaps working through it from the first chapter *A Belief that begins with Jesus*).
2. Invite members of the group to read this chapter before the meeting is convened.
3. Allow time for introductions, where necessary, time for quiet reflection and prayer (as mentioned above).
4. Which idea/story/phrase stands out for you in this chapter? (Allow three or four minutes for personal reflection and then share in two's)
3. Can you recognise the reason that idea/story/phrase has significance for you? (Either share in two's, or if workable the facilitator can gently prompt a reply from each person in the group.)
4. How does the main issue of the chapter relate to the practical responsibilities undertaken in this workplace? (share ideas in groups 6/8).
5. Efforts to summarise some of the significant learning or insights of individuals or the group itself will be valuable.

GROUP SETTING

The facilitator can expect such workshops to touch personal stories and issues which could be significant. Attention to the place where people meet will be valuable – taped music, comfortable furniture, lighting etc.
Coffee, tea, water could be provided.

These notes are not intended to be complete or inclusive of all situations, but merely as a few ideas to start a process. Trust the experience in the group itself to fashion the future procedure.