

# *Tips for a Positive Household Experience*



## *Simple Guide for Facilitators*



### **Here are some guidelines to help create a comfortable experience:**

- Have one or two facilitators who welcome everyone to share and help keep the sharing on topic. The facilitator keeps an eye on the time as well. Before gathering, the facilitator familiarizes themselves with the content for the meeting. There is no need to be an expert facilitator, you just need to trust the process. The members of a Household could certainly take turns facilitating, if everyone is comfortable with that, All you need to do is talk with one another and decide what is best for your household of faith.
- At the beginning of the gathering, remind everyone of the following
  - Be comfortable, this should be a safe space for sharing for all.
  - Listening is very important to this process. Listening with presence to one another is important, our listening should be welcoming and free of judgement or comments.
  - Each person's sharing should be brief. We are sharing time together, so we should respectfully give space for one another. (Remember there are other times and places for a homily or a speech, or to tell our life story.)
- Be respectful of the time allotted for the gathering. (we suggest 90 minutes)
- We recommend that you share on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. It can be found in the Living with Christ, which is accessible electronically by clicking this link: <http://ec2-34-245-7-114.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com/> scroll down and click on 'other dates ∨' to choose the date (or use your Sunday Missal).
- There is a [Scripture Sharing Tips](#) document. You are welcome to use other methods of small faith sharing groups. The importance is that the process be engaging in a more personal encounter with the Word of God and a smaller setting with one another.

- There is a [Suggested timeline for your gathering](#) document. You are welcome to adjust as you see fit, we recommend at least an hour to experience a meaningful encounter with the Word of God and one another.
- You may also choose to host your Household of Faith through an online platform. Check with your parish for what online platforms they use or email [households@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:households@archsaintboniface.ca)  
Here are two video links to help you learn how to host an online gathering.
  - [How to Run a Small Group Remotely - YouTube](#)
  - [How To Lead A Small Group Meeting Remotely // with Nell O'Leary - YouTube](#)
- We recommend Households of Faith be 6 to 10 people. If you are hosting at a parish site or online, you can gather more people and then break into groups of 6 to 10 people. Try to keep the same group each time to grow in friendship with one another.
- During the gathering whether it takes place in person or online, allow yourselves time to get up and stretch if needed, for example after the Scripture sharing. At the end of the gathering, allow some time for friendly conversation, consider sharing a snack or refreshments together.

## Ready. Set. Go...

**(All times are approximate suggestions)**

### **Greet and welcome each other.**

**(10 minutes)**

Take some time to share where you are at, to catch up or hear how one another is doing.

### **Begin with the Scripture Sharing**

**(35 minutes)**

*Each Scripture is relevant today and speaks to us personally and communally, even if it can sometimes seem difficult to understand. The strength of the group is that each Scripture moves in us as it is shared and proclaimed multiple times. Trust the process, even if the "repetition" feels strange the first few times.*

It's a good idea for each person bring their own Bible or Sunday Missal, even though you will be listening during the proclamation, and not reading. You will have opportunity to read it over silently.

### **Quick Stretch Break**

**(5 minutes)**

Following the sharing, you could give yourselves time to get up and stretch a little bit before settling back in to increase attentiveness during the next part of the meeting.

### **Reflection and Sharing Time**

**(30 minutes)**

If you are gathering weekly, consider once a month to watch a video reflection or share an article to read. After watching the video or sharing the article, you could discuss with some prepared questions.

### **3-Part Conclusion**

**(10 minutes)**

To conclude your time together, here are some suggestions:

1. We are gathered as brothers and sisters, and therefore as sons and daughters of the same Father, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

*Our Father, Who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen*

2. Share with one another how your Household experience and dialogue was – what stood out what is remaining in your heart, are there any changes to suggest for next time? When and where will our next Household of faith gathering be? Who will be the facilitator(s) next time?
3. Fellowship Time Invitation to remain for snack or refreshments. With genuine courtesy and respectfulness to one another, if someone decides not to stay remember they are just as much a part of your Household of Faith, and you are grateful they are present for the time they are there. **(As much as you want!)**

***Let's be better together! Share your experiences!***

As you live this experience of Households of Faith we would like to connect on occasion. There will be opportunities to share your experience and listen to others. We are excited to share stories, ideas, support, and encouragement from all Households of Faith!

[households@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:households@archsaintboniface.ca)

*We sincerely thank the Diocese of Quebec for sharing the spirit of Households with us, as well as many tools and documents produced by their Households team and Communications Service, and for giving us permission to adapt them for our diocese.*