

CALL to FAITH

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

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Unit 7
Chapter 19

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Chapter Six *Call to Faith* Parent Handout

Pencils

Crayons

Blank piece of paper (one per child)

White index cards (one per child)

I Believe Handout (one per child)

For the opening prayer:

- Bible (Psalm 149:5)
- Table with white cover
- Loaf of bread displayed on the table

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer

10 mins.

Conversation One

15 mins.

Conversation Two

15 mins.

Conversation Three

15 mins.

Closing

5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER **10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and the children. Thank them for being there and tell them that you hope they will enjoy some special time to talk and learn together about the Eucharist.

Prayer

In place of the prayer in the Student Edition, use the following prayer:

Gather participants in the prayer space.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Say, **God gives us many gifts. He gives us sun and rain. He gives us family and friends. He gives us our life. The most important gift God gives us is his Son, Jesus. Jesus shows us how to live. Jesus is the Bread of Life. He nourishes us in Holy Communion.**

Let us be quiet for a minute and think about what a wonderful gift Jesus gives us in Holy Communion. (Pause in silence.)

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Invite participants to come forward. Join hands and stand in a circle around the prayer table. When they are gathered, pray the Our Father together.

Lord God, send us the Holy Spirit to show us how to share bread with those who are hungry. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

As a sign that we want to share Jesus' life with others, let us share the Sign of Peace with each other.

Lead participants in the Sign of the Cross.

Conversation One **15 mins.**

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to page 197 (page 257 in School Edition) and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1-3**.

Conversation Two **15 mins.**

1. Invite participants to turn their book to pages 198 and 199 (pages 258 and 259 in School Edition) and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 4-7**. Make sure each student has a piece of paper, a pencil, and crayons.

Conversation Three **15 mins.**

1. Tell participants to turn their book to page 200 (page 260 in School Edition) and their handout to page 3.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 8-11**. Make sure they have the *I Believe* handout and an index card to write their prayer.

Closing **5 mins.**

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 4 in the handout). Thank parents and children for their participation and say that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with *Pray with God's Word* on page 202 (page 264 in School Edition).

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Begins on page 197
(page 257 in School
Edition)

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter! Talking about faith with your child at any age is important. Your child needs to see you model your faith as they continue along their faith journey.

Every human needs food and nourishment to survive. This fact was certainly not lost on Jesus. In the Gospels, there are many examples of Jesus eating a meal with friends.

Jesus knew the significance of sharing a meal. In his culture, eating together was a sign of deep intimacy. He celebrated a meal at a wedding feast in Cana. He shared the Jewish Passover meal with his Apostles. When we gather for Mass, we believe that we gather with Jesus for a meal. He not only invites us to eat with him, he invites us to enter into communion with him as we receive his Body and Blood. As we receive Jesus in the Eucharist we become one with him.

1. Turn to page 197 (page 257 in School Edition) and look at the picture. Ask your child: What do you see in the picture? What does the lady seem to be doing?
2. Now read together Let's Begin on the same page. After reading, discuss the question: Why did Mrs. Johnson's basket make Antonio so happy? (*Possible responses: people cared; people took time to help; some of his favorite things were in the basket.*)
3. Invite your child to think about all of the food/meal choices below. Ask her/him to choose a favorite in each category. It is important to ask your child "Why?" as you invite him/her to share. Read one category at a time. Share your choices as well.
 - My favorite meal is breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
 - My favorite family celebration meal is Christmas, Thanksgiving, my birthday.
 - My favorite snack food is fruit, or cheese, or chocolate.

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Conversation Two

4. We know Jesus believed that sharing food with others was important because he did it so often. Can you remember some stories in the life of Jesus when he shared food with others? (*For example, he shared a meal with Zacchaeus; the Last Supper; in the house of Matthew.*)

5. Read together *The Loaves and Fishes* on page 198 (page 258 in School Edition). Discuss with your child: How did Jesus take care of the people? (*Possible responses: He performed a miracle; He fed them; He was concerned that they were tired.*)

Note: In the Bible story of the Loaves and Fishes the disciples saw the crowd as a nuisance, but Jesus saw the people's need for love, care, and compassion. Jesus wanted to minister to their spiritual needs, but also to their physical needs.

6. Take out a piece of paper and invite your child to draw a picture that illustrates the story of the Loaves and the Fishes. Encourage them to include your family in the picture.

7. Now read together the *Lord's Prayer* on page 199 (page 259 in School Edition).

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Conversation Three

8. Read together page 200 (page 260 in School Edition). Discuss with your child: What (who) do you remember at Mass? (*Possible responses: Jesus' sacrifice, friends and family who are not with me.*)
9. Read together page 201 (page 261 in School Edition).
10. Take out the *I Believe* handout. Tell your child that the word *believe* means that you trust that something is true, or that you trust something will happen because you have seen it in the past (*like the sun rising tomorrow*).
11. Work with your child to write a prayer that might be prayed during the reflection time after Communion. Take out an index and use this model to help you write it:

_____ (name a characteristic of God, such as creator)
God,

Thank you for this gift of Eucharist and for the gifts of

Help me to _____

Bless _____

Amen.

Keep this card and take it with you to church, giving it to your child to pray after Communion.

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For Home

1. Read together Romans 12:9-15 and talk about how we are all called to love and serve God.
2. Read *Live Your Faith* on page 204 (page 266 in School Edition).

Do you know why we fast before receiving Holy Communion? We fast to create space in our hearts, minds, and bodies for Jesus. We fast to spiritually prepare ourselves to receive the nourishment that completes us, Jesus.

3. Read together *People of Faith* on page 204 (page 266 in School Edition). Close by praying the *Family Prayer*.

Name _____ Date _____

I Believe

Complete each phrase. First, write something you believe.
Next, write something your child believes.

I believe that _____

_____.

I believe that _____

_____.

I believe that _____

_____.

I believe that _____

_____.

I believe that _____

_____.

I believe that _____

_____.