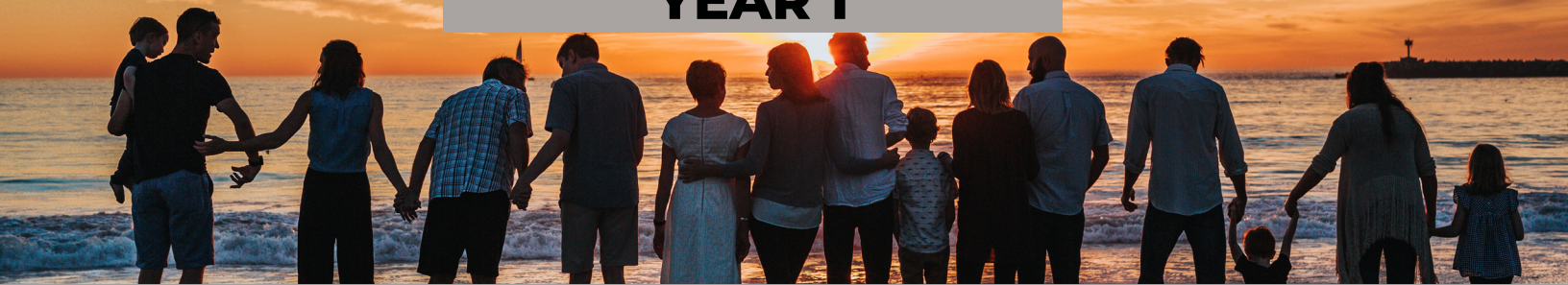


# FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

## INTRODUCTION YEAR 1



**TOPIC: INTRODUCING FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES (FFD) TO PARENTS**

### **REFERENCES:**

**Acts 16:31-34**

**CCC: 2223-2226**

### **GOAL(S):**

- Welcome and prepare parents to participate in FFD; affirm their role as primary educators in the faith with the support of the parish

### **OPENING PRAYER**

“And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved.’ So they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house. He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once. He brought them up into his house and provided a meal and with his household rejoiced at having come to faith in God.”

– Acts 16:31-34 (NABRE)

Recite Lord’s Prayer together

### **ICE BREAKER**

1. Ask everyone to introduce themselves (note how many children they have and what grades they are in).
2. Ask parents: What is the best parenting advice you have ever been given or wish you had been given?



# TEACH

## 1. Hook/Question

Watch video:



## 2. Introduce Topic

Preparing for *Families Forming Disciples* Program



## 3. CONTENT

- a. Review Format for Weeks 1, 2 & 3
- b. Four Keys for Practicing Faith (handout)
- c. Share Guidelines for FFD Etiquette during Gatherings (in-person or virtual):
  1. Don't expect perfection
  2. Put away and/or turn off any distractions
  3. For at-home meetings, keep pets in another room
  4. All family members should be appropriately and modestly dressed
  5. Talk to children about the importance of watching for when to listen and when to share
  6. Practice good manners with the words we choose, as well as our actions
  7. This is a Family Program, therefore families will attend the sessions together, and parents are encouraged to share the role as educators of the faith to their children.

## 4. FAMILY CONVERSATION

Give time for Parents to ask questions



# 5. MISSION

## Step 1. Introduce Mission Activities

Parents will prepare their family for the FFD gatherings

## Step 2. Explain Activity

Parents will share the above Guidelines for FFD Etiquette during Gatherings with their families before next meeting

## Step 3. Model for Parents

Explain to parents how you have followed the guidelines to prepare yourself or your home (if virtual) for today's meeting

# 6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

Review key point and close in prayer (e.g., Glory Be...)

## SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

**Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* (2016), no. 288:**

“It is essential that children actually see that, for their parents, prayer is something truly important. Hence moments of family prayer and acts of devotion can be more powerful for evangelization than any catechism class or sermon.”

**Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 2225-2226:**

“Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the ‘first heralds’ for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one’s life.

“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God.”

**Pope St. John Paul II, *Familairis Consortio* (1981), no. 38:**

“For Christian parents the mission to educate, a mission rooted, as we have said, in their participation in God’s creating activity, has a new specific source in the sacrament of marriage, which consecrates them for the strictly Christian education of their children ....

“The sacrament of marriage gives to the educational role the dignity and vocation of being really and truly a ‘ministry’ of the Church at the service of the building up of her members.”

