Kick off your shoes, we’re getting started!

Offer an example of hospitality this week. Consider making a meal or dessert. Model the behavior you hope to see in the group as they lead others in the future.

This week you will need a 3x5” card for each member of the group.

“If you are what you are meant to be, you will set the world on fire.”

St. Catherine of Siena

This Leader’s Guide
is full of tips designed to make facilitating this workshop easy and fruitful.
Get the Party Started

OVERVIEW

This chapter serves as an introduction to the workshop: It will prepare you to get the most out of these seven weeks. You will begin a discussion about what it means to have a strong relationship with Jesus Christ and look at what Scripture and the Church say about the necessity of this personal relationship.

REVIVE will provide a framework for living both naturally and intentionally to make the gospel of God's Kingdom tangible to you and anyone you love. Each week, you will build one skill for evangelization. By the end of seven weeks, you will have the tools and concrete steps necessary to move forward in the apostolate to which God is calling you.

Right now, each one of you in the group is at a different place in your faith life. Maybe you have been a missionary or received your master's in theology, or maybe you have rarely talked to anyone about your relationship with God. That's OK! If you have faith in God and you are here, that is enough. You will have the opportunity to invite the Holy Trinity into your life in a new way and open your eyes and heart to see the people around you as the mission to which you are being called by God.

It should be said that this seven-week study is not a program! This is not a simple multi-step guide. It may be messy, it may be challenging, but you are being invited into a lifestyle within the context of your own life. Open your heart wide to the Holy Spirit.

Each week you will need to bring your Bible; you can also bring a Catechism and your prayer journal if you'd like.

BACKGROUND

The first chapter of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) describes something profound about God—something that really sums up the whole of the Christian life: “God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life” (CCC 1).

“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.”
Ephesians 1:4

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

A book collecting and clarifying the teachings of the Catholic Church all in one place. Various people developed catechisms throughout history to explain the Church’s teachings; today’s catechism is the most extensive and was published by the Church in 1994. It is organized into four sections, and paragraphs are numbered for easy reference.
In the spring of 2012, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a document called Disciples Called to Witness that outlined the intersection of American culture and the New Evangelization. In that document, they noted that only an estimated 23% of U.S. Catholics attend Mass each week. What a stark contrast: God invites us to share in His own blessed life, yet only 23% of Catholics attend Mass each week!

Those numbers are so sad because we know that if you aren't investing in your relationship with God and helping it grow, then it's shrinking. Married people understand this fundamental truth about the spousal relationship and the same is true for a relationship with Christ. You constantly have to get to know Him and share yourself with Him, too.

Consider the foundation of a marriage:

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Sex
Marriage
Love
Friendship
Trust
Communication
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Similarly, a relationship with the Holy Trinity doesn't just happen overnight; there will be dry times, just like in marriage. You cannot love God without communicating with Him, just as you cannot love another person without first communicating, then building trust and friendship. Just like a marriage, a relationship with the Trinity requires you to keep moving forward; otherwise, you will be moving backward. You can never be standing still in a relationship.

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Communion
Commitment
Love
Friendship
Trust
Communication
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A relationship of trust is built through daily communication. If you haven't been talking with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in prayer—if you don't know what is important to God, or haven't been sharing your life with Him—it's going to be difficult, if not impossible, to have a real relationship with Him.
DISCUSS

Do you really believe that God is good? Did you always believe what you do now?

Has there ever been a time in your life where you really felt like you were living in a close relationship with the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit for an extended period of time? What was it like?

Those statistics from the USCCB document are pretty staggering. Why do you think only 23% of Catholics attend Mass?

In light of your relationship with Jesus, what is your dream for your parish?

CREATE GOALS

Anytime you set out to do something new, it is important to imagine what the finished result will be. Whether it is a meal you are making, a trip you are taking, or something you are building, visualizing the end result is a powerful way to accomplish your goal and maintain your enthusiasm throughout the process. Today you are going to identify your personal goals for the end of this workshop. These seven weeks will cover six topics:

- Prayer
- Sharing Your Testimony
- Sharing the Gospel
- The Discipleship Road Map
- Reaching out to Others
- Making Disciples of All Nations

These topics will serve as a firm foundation as you build your personal apostolate to which God has called you. Today you are going to identify a personal goal you are hoping to achieve during the course of these seven weeks.
Take five minutes and write down why you joined this small group. Identify what situations have arisen in your lives that have caused you to desire a workshop on evangelization. Outline a few details, like the names of the people involved or the experiences that have led you to this point.

Now review what you just wrote and create one concrete goal for yourself about what you want to gain from this workshop. For example, you may set a goal to share Jesus more frequently or build a community of parishioners who are active in evangelization. Make sure it is a SMART goal—Specific, Attainable, Measurable, Reachable, and Time-Bound (in this case, six weeks from now).

Your leader has given you a card. Write your name and your goal on that card and hand it back to your leader. You will be reviewing these again later in the workshop.

**TAKE IT WITH YOU**

What are three ways that you can get to know God better in the next week? Pick one and do it!

How can you build trust? Think of one concrete way you can grow to trust God more this week and make a resolution to take one step toward growing closer to Him.

Share with the group your resolution.

Next week you will be starting your meeting with check-ins about how it went.

**RESOURCES**

*Introduction to the Devout Life* - St. Francis de Sales
PDF: bit.ly/IntrotoDevoutLife
Amazon: bit.ly/introdevoutlifeamazon

“Think nothing else but that God ordains all, and where there is no love, put love, and you will draw out love.”

St. John of the Cross
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