

## DIOCESE OF ST. CLOUD BOOK DISCUSSION

### ENGAGE EVERY FAMILY

A Parish Guide to Integrated Faith Formation

Book Discussion – June 22, 29, July 13 & 20

10:00am – 11:00am Central Time

*Followed by optional Q & A with the author*

### AT A GLANCE

#### WEEK ONE: JUNE 22

Part 2: Chapters 3 & 4 / Guiding Essentials

#### WEEK TWO: JUNE 29

Part 1: Focused primarily on Chapter 2  
Lessons 1-3 (What's Working)

#### WEEK THREE: JULY 13

Part 1: Chapter 2 Lessons 4-6 (What's Working)

#### WEEK FOUR: JULY 20

Part 3: Chapters 5 & 6 / Vision and Design

#### WEEK THREE: JULY 13

Chapter Two, Lessons 4-6 continue to focus on what's working, but we now turn our attention to parents, and connecting them to one another and to the community. We also look at their relationships, and at how to move the needle on ownership of faith formation plans. We explore storytelling, specifically building or strengthening community through storytelling.

### WELCOME!

Welcome to this book discussion. This study guide is meant simply as that – just a guide. I want to spend time discussing whatever might be most helpful for you. Ask your own questions; offer your own reflections. Let's dig in!

### AGENDA:

Opening Prayer

Part One

- Lesson 4: Connect Parents to Others
- Lesson 5: Encourage Families to Create Plans & Share Experiences
- Lesson 6: Build or Strengthen Community through Storytelling

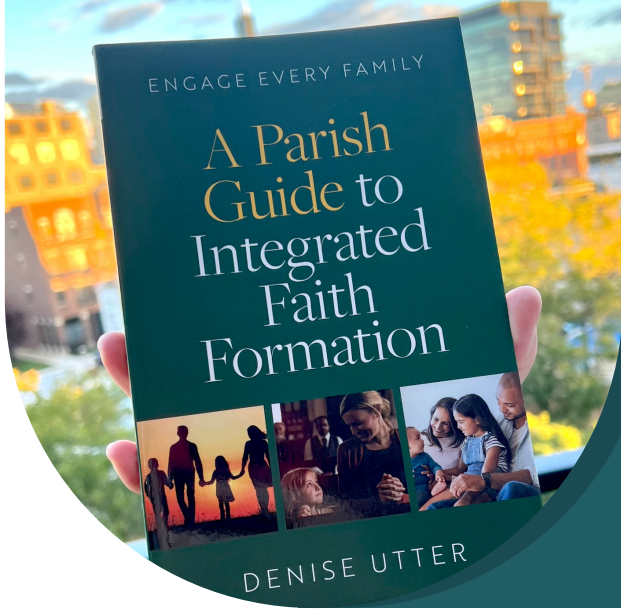
Discussion Questions – Breakout and Large Group  
Exploration of those discussions

### A MODEL FOR MINISTRY

#### FOR REFLECTION: THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

In the story of the Road to Emmaus, we find a model for ministry:

- Come alongside people (meet them where they are)
- Ask questions.
- Listen. Really listen. To all of it. To the pain, the doubt, the hope, the celebration.
- Tell stories.
- Walk with one another.
- Share your blessings, your brokenness, & your hope with one another.



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### PART ONE - CHAPTER TWO: LESSON 4

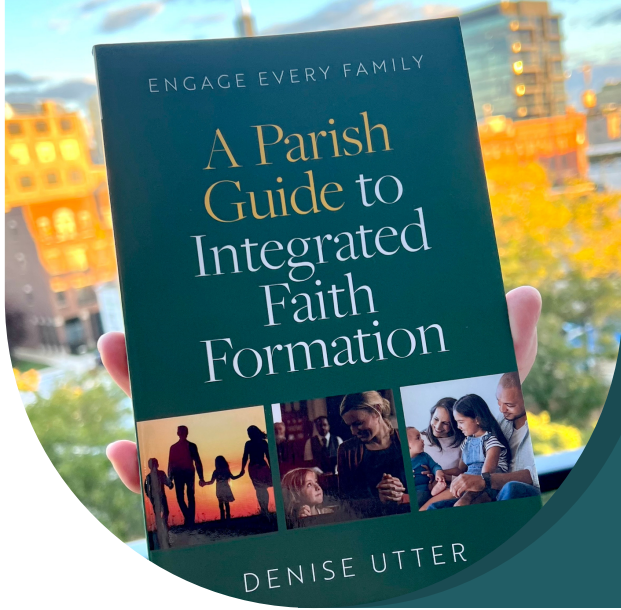
Connect parents to one another and to the larger faith community.

1. In what ways have you offered hospitality to parents?
2. Have you created space for parents to connect to other parents? If so, how have you done that? If not, how might you offer this space in the future?
3. If you haven't created this space for connection, do you experience any resistance to this parent-focused ministry? If yes, how might you work through that?
4. After creating the space for parents to connect, how do you encourage them to build relationships with one another and with the broader community?
5. As you plan for a parent ministry, will it be done according to the curriculum of the children? Will it be focused on grouping parents according to children's ages or needs? Or will it be more loosely defined, allowing parents to facilitate that space themselves? How will you discern which approach you take? Will you include parents in this discernment?
6. Author David Benner says, "If you are making significant progress on the transformational journey of Christian spirituality, you have one or more friendships that support that journey. If you do not, you are not. It is that simple." Do you agree or disagree?

### PART ONE - CHAPTER TWO: LESSON 5

Encourage families to create their own faith formation plan (or a portion of it), then invite them to share their experiences.

1. What is your response to allowing families to accept the responsibility of creating a faith formation plan?
2. If you employed this strategy, would you choose a seasonal approach or a component approach, like a "life of the parish" component?
3. Take a survey of the prayer opportunities and the learning, service, and social opportunities in your faith community. How might you create a network of parish formators with a "life of the parish" component? What would it look like in your parish?
4. Name one or more people in leadership roles in ministry whom you would want to collaborate with in this type of approach (someone whose faith is on fire, who is passionate about their ministry)
5. If you plan to employ a seasonal approach, what season or feasts will you focus on in the first year?
6. How will you curate the plans or the experiences of your families?



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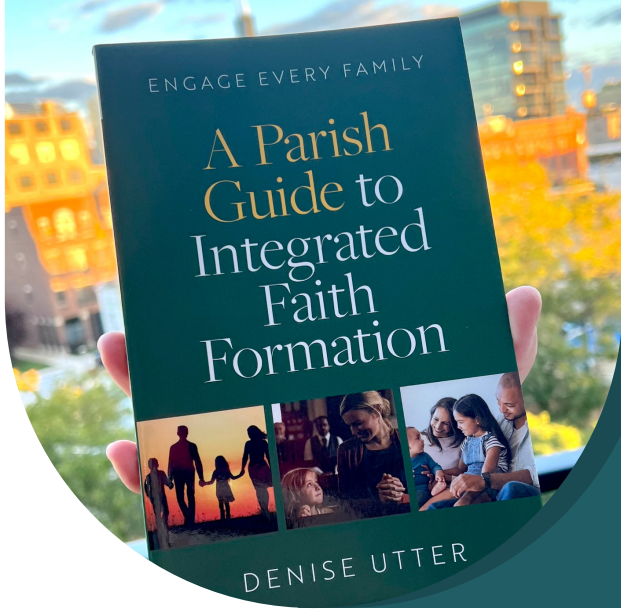
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### PART ONE - CHAPTER TWO: LESSON 6

Build or strengthen community through storytelling.

1. Where and how do you hear stories in your community?
2. Where in those stories do you hear celebration of humanity, stories of hope, stories of repentance and renewal?
3. Where do you experience wonder and awe in your community?
4. How might you inspire hope and healing in your ministry?
5. How might you inspire faith practice? How might you inspire families to live the faith?
6. Spiritual writer and poet Mark Nepo says, "All things are connected. The art of community is discovering how." What does this mean? How do you practically apply this to a strategy of storytelling?
7. If you were to create a podcast, who (in your community) would you collaborate with? Who would you interview? How might you prepare parishioners to tell their stories? What questions might you ask?
8. In chapter 2, lesson 1, I shared my experience in my own parish, which used hashtags to build a sense of community on social media (#WeareOSP). What hashtags might you use to encourage participation in a social media campaign? A campaign that might encourage family centered faith formation, engagement of families?



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## NOTES