

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

For a successful house group, you will need:

- **A host** – someone who is prepared to host the meeting in their home.
- **A Leader** – someone who is willing to take responsibility for preparing, organising and leading the session. (Preparation is minimal as all the materials are provided)
- **Participants** – no more than a total of 12 per group including host and leader.

This booklet covers the themes: Mission through the example of St Therese of Lisieux (session 1), St Jeanne Jugan (session 2), St Damien of Molokai (session 3) and St Francis Xavier (session 4).

WELCOME to House Group

You are very welcome! Every member of a House Group is important. Your contribution is unique and therefore incredibly valuable. We hope that you enjoy your experience, grow in the knowledge of your faith and in love for those who are journeying with you.

Hosts

Thank you for your hospitality. Your role is to host the House Group in your home. You will be asked to:

Provide seating – All the participants should feel included, so sitting in a circle would be ideal. Please make sure you have enough seats for everyone.

Organise some refreshments - Please do not feel that you always have to provide the refreshments; this could be shared

among the group with a different person providing biscuits each week.

Should it be that you are unable, on a given occasion, to host the group please see if one of the other members might be host for that occasion.

Leaders

Thank you for your time, skill and expertise. Your role is to prepare and lead the session. Very little preparation is required as all the materials are provided in this booklet. However, it is important to carefully read through everything prior to the session. This will enable you to gather any items that you may need.

Please feel free to pass the leadership from person to person (if others are willing). It might be an idea to share out 'Welcome' and 'Worship' to different people each week so that you are not responsible for leading the entire session. There are four sections to each session (see below) each one should be included, so good timekeeping is important. You may wish to ask one of the members of the group to be the timekeeper.

Participants

Your role is to be an encouragement to the other members of the group by listening to others and participating yourself. Please feel free to encourage other people to attend your House Group. Invite other people from church and especially anyone who has fallen away from the practice of the faith. It is often much less daunting to come to a cozy, friendly House Group than to plunge straight back into church. Warmth and sensitivity are key.

It might be handy to bring along a piece of paper and pen to jot down any phrase or word that strikes you.

THE VALUES OF A HOUSE GROUP:

- Christ at the centre
- Everyone growing in faith
- Everyone ministering/serving within the group
- Everyone reaching out to others
- Everyone ready to offer visitors and new members a warm welcome

The format for the evening will be:

Welcome (up to 10 mins): We'll be invited to share with the person next to us on a question related to the theme. Maybe (time permitting) we'll have the opportunity to share in the group.

Worship (around 10 mins): We'll have a time of prayer based on the theme.

Word (around 20-25 mins): We will take a gentle look at some scripture and a quotation from a saint. There will be an opportunity to share for those who wish to.

Witness (around 10 mins): This is a time for looking out to others, to think and share about how we may like to respond – as individuals and as a community - to those in the wider community.

Hymns, prayers and bible texts will be provided.

The meeting should last an hour – drinks will follow for those who are able to stay longer.