



LEADERSHIP FORMATION
RESOURCE



LEADERSHIP FORMATION RESOURCES

This resource serves as the blueprint to a powerful event that will help your team to grow in a clear and unified vision of Confirmation preparation.

What comes with this resource?

- ➔ A 4-part video series to drive the event
- ➔ A brief outline to reinforce and support each segment
- ➔ Small group questions

Gather your team, small group leaders, and anyone else who will be involved in forming the candidates. We recommend scheduling a 3-hour event to take place in advance using Chosen.

Set up a conducive environment where your team can view the videos and comfortably discuss the questions in small groups. (This will vary depending on the size of your team. Aim for groups of 3-8).

Suggested Session Structures

- Welcome and Introduction . . . (30 min.)
- Session 1 (45 min.)
- Break (15 min.)
- Session 2 (45 min.)
- Session 3 (45 min.)

INTRODUCTION

Forming Your Team

Forming and focusing your team can make all the difference in regard to the effectiveness of your Confirmation program. The author of Hebrews talks about a cloud of witnesses that surrounds and encourages us to be rid of burdens and sins so we can fix our eyes on Jesus. (Heb 12:1) Your Confirmation prep team, more than anything else, should be that cloud of witnesses for your candidates and for one another. Giving them a chance to connect with God, their mission, and one another will certainly help them to be that cloud.

This leadership formation resource, along with helping your team soak in a unified vision, will offer concrete and practical help with the components of the program, small group dynamics, and logistics. As a focused, unified, and energized team who are comfortable with the resources provided for them, they will serve the candidates and implement *Chosen* far more effectively. Also, since *Chosen* is designed to work as a small group driven study, spending some time in their own small group driven experience will be most helpful for your team.

Feeding Your Team

This resource is meant to help with the vital work of feeding and energizing as well. Bernard of Clairvaux put it this way:

The one who is wise, therefore, will see his life as more like a reservoir than a canal. The canal simultaneously pours out what it receives; the reservoir retains the water till it is filled, then discharges the overflow without loss to itself ... Today there are many in the Church who act like canals, the reservoirs are far too rare ... You too must learn to await this fullness before pouring out your gifts, do not try to be more generous than God.

Forming and Feeding the Whole Program

What the candidates and their families can and should encounter as they journey toward Confirmation is a team that is joyful, peaceful, and engaged because they are filled, enthused, and overflowing with God's grace. This 3-session program is meant to be an interactive, formative, and community building experience for your team. This resource includes a guide for the facilitator, a video for each session, a set of small group questions, and a set of recommended activities to accompany each session. We highly recommend that the tone and environment for your team formation sessions set the tone for your candidate sessions. An environment that is welcoming, personally invested, Christ centered, and even one that has great snacks, will go a long way.

Welcome and Introduction - Team Building

- Thank You!
 - Prayer
 - Vision of *Chosen*
 - Outline of the next three sessions
 - Culture
 - Components
 - Small Groups
1. Introduce yourself to everyone at your table. What is your name? What are three important things about you?
- A.
- B.
- C.
2. How did you get to be a part of this team? What do you hope to bring to the candidates?
3. What do you hope to get out of the day?

Session 1 - Fostering a Culture

- Why culture is critical
- 3 things to consider about youth culture (and culture in general)
- Re-forming our mindset, motivation, and approach
- A mentality of belonging and discipleship as a team
- “See how they love one another” - Love as credibility to your candidates.
- Parental engagement is critical. Here’s how it can happen.
- Sponsors should become co-formators.
- Establishing a zone of freedom
- Sacramental centering
 - ▷ Mass
 - ▷ Reconciliation
- How Chosen can help form a culture of evangelization and encounter

Small Group Questions

1. How would you describe the current situation with parents in your parish?
2. How do you think you can improve your perspective and approach to parent engagement?
3. What are 3 ways that your parish can move forward in growing parental engagement?

Session 2 - Small Groups

- Small group vs. classroom setting
- The role of a facilitator
- 3 tips for facilitators
 - ▷ A small group leader with a stethoscope:
 - ▷ Look, Love, challenge
 - ▷ Taking your time

Small Group Questions

1. What was your best and worst small group experience? Why do you think it was so?
2. How do you see the role of small group leader as distinct from classroom instructor? What are the benefits for ministry?

Session 3 - Lifelong Discipleship and Program Content

- Components of Chosen
- Content structure (RCIA model, Way, Truth, Life)
- Why evangelization has to come before catechesis
- Why discipleship mentoring has to come after *and alongside* catechesis
- Mentoring (relationship)
- Apprenticeship
- Content in action

Small Group Questions

1. What are your remaining questions?
2. How are you going to pursue discipleship?
3. What is evangelization? How can it happen more effectively in my parish?