

Five inquiry discernment questions

Use these five questions to learn about the inquirer and to help you develop a specialized plan of formation for this person:

Regarding my habits, knowledge, and attitudes about faith...

1. Where have I been?
2. Where am I now?
3. Where do I want to get to?
4. How am I going to get there?
5. How will I know I have arrived?



First Gathering

Prayer and introductions (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

Where have you been? (20 min)

- When did you first become aware of God?
- If you're baptized, describe that event.
- When have you felt really close to God?
- What was your family experience of faith?
- What have been your significant relationships?
- Have you ever gone to church? How often? What was it like?
- Describe your knowledge of Jesus or the Bible. Do you own a Bible?
- What has been your image of God or Jesus?
- What has happened in your life that has led you to this moment?

Tell the inquirer your parish's story (10 min)

- Handout your Sunday bulletin.
- Talk about your parish's patron saint.
- Describe what you like about your parish.
- Describe the pastor, parish staff, and leaders.
- Tell about some parish committees, the parish website, special projects, etc.
- Describe the liturgies, schedule, character.
- Offer to meet the inquirer at Sunday Mass.

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer

Second Gathering

Gathering and prayer (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

Where are you now? (20 min)

- What is your image of God now?
- How often are you aware of God in your life?
- How often do you pray and what is it like?
- Do you go to church now? How often?
- Do you ever talk about God with anyone? Describe what that is like.
- What are your significant relationships now?
- What is your relationship with God like now?

Where do you want to get to? (20 min)

- What do you most hope for in your relationship with God?
- Is there someone (or was there someone) in your life you want to be like in your faith? Describe what it is about that person that makes you want to be like them.
- Describe what you hope to find in our parish.
- What attitudes or behaviors do you hope to change in yourself?
- What are your hopes for your family's faith?
- What area of knowledge or practice do you want to strengthen with regard to faith?

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer

Third Gathering

Gathering and prayer (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

How are you going to get to where you want to go? (20 min)

- In what ways do you need to develop your faith practices to get where you want to go?
- In what ways do you need to develop your relationship with God?
- In what ways do you need to develop your relationship with the church?
- How do you need your family to support you?
- How do you need the faith community at this parish to support you?
- How will you determine if your plan will get you where you want to go?

How will you know you've arrived? (20 min)

- How will you know if you've met your goal?
- How will your family know?
- How will others you interact with know?
- How will the people at this parish know?

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer