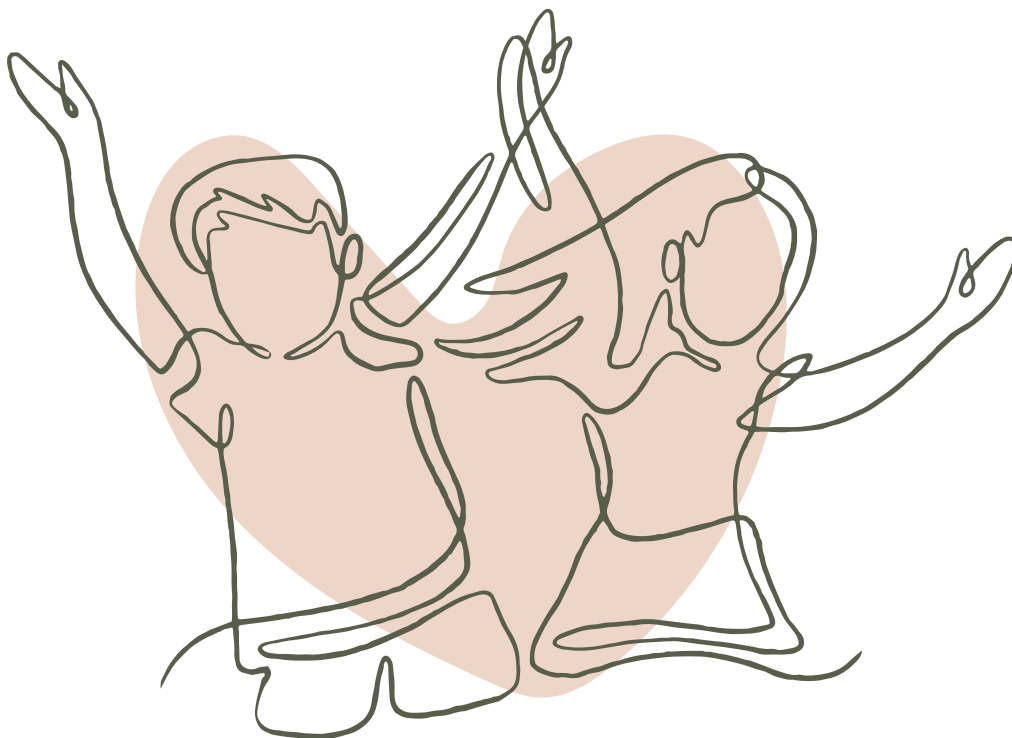




M A D E

Leader Guide



Faith and Family Life
Catholic Ministries

AN INVITATION

You have been invited to accompany your families as they are encouraged to embrace their identity as male and female, made in the image of God. This resource is written to help families explore the origins and ends of love. We are made out of love for love. We are made in the image of God, who is love. We are made for relationships of love. When we embrace the deepest truth of who we are, our love can be elevated to the ultimate good.

A widespread tendency in what today is presented under the heading of gender brings into question the revealed truth: "Male and female he created them" (Gn 1:27). Gender identity, according to this position, is no longer a primordial given that the human being must accept and fill with meaning, but rather a social construct that is decided autonomously, completely disconnected from biological sex. Human beings deny their own nature and decide that they alone will create themselves. Instead, according to the biblical account of creation, humanity was created by God as male and female. The Church is well aware of the complexity of the personal situations that are lived out, at times, in a conflicted way. She does not judge persons, but asks that they be accompanied always and in whatever situation. She is however aware that, in a perspective of faith, sexuality is not only a physical reality, but a personal one, a value entrusted to the responsibility of the person. In this way sexual identity and existential experience must be a response to the original call of God. (Directory for Catechesis 377)

A FEW TIPS

- By reading and experiencing the content yourself, you will be best equipped to accompany this resource. We recommend first becoming familiar with the material before implementing it.
- Families can be placed in small groups of 3-4 families to share this journey with. Families can learn from each other as they recount their Family Meeting experiences. Companion Families can weave together these individual families into a small church community.
- *Made* is designed to be led at-home, and can be accompanied by the At-Church Content. The At-Church Content includes 2 Sessions for parents and children together. If you are introducing families to ongoing formation resources for the first time, be sure to begin with the Blend Session.
- Check in with families regularly using our Family Follow Through system available on Martha or as a PDF. This helps with accountability. You can also share photos from the Family Follow Throughs in your newsletter, emails, or bulletin boards.

AT-HOME CONTENT

Over 10 Family Meetings, families will be given the framework of a positive anthropology, providing anchor points for building a deeper and richer understanding of the human person. Families will be woven together through activities and conversations as they experience more meaningful relationships and deeper peace. Each meeting is designed to take an average of 20-40 minutes.

For the gathering ritual, families will begin by placing their prepared loom in the center of their meeting space and calling their family together. Each member of the family will choose a different color yarn wrapped on a shuttle. They will undo a short length of the yarn and weave their shuttle once across the loom. Each Family Meeting they will add another row, which will form a beautiful tapestry. They will then participate in the opening prayer, led by 1 member of the family. After making the Sign of the Cross, they will prayerfully read a passage from Psalm 139 and conclude with an echo of a verse that each one of the members of the family will repeat. The check-in is meant to get the conversation started between family members. The question is loosely based on the Family Meeting theme, and is one that is easy to answer.

In each Family Meeting, families will participate in activities intended to get their family moving, using their bodies. Occasionally they may need some items that can be easily found in their home. The teaching is written to draw out meaning from the activity and connect it to the truth of why we were made. There are discussion questions throughout, which are an important way the material is integrated into the lives of children. At the end of the teaching there is a statement the family says aloud and tries to commit to memory. These simple lines can become like anchor points for families as they strive to live according to how God made them. To end each Family Meeting, there is a closing prayer to Mary, Undoer of Knots. This will form a novena, or a prayer that is prayed 9 times in a row. A parent will lead the final closing prayer for Family Meeting 10 which is a prayer of consecration to Jesus through Mary of their family.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Family Meeting	Theme	Activity	Values Taught
1	God creates out of love and with a purpose.	Examine and compare fingerprint types	-Each of us is individually loved by God and created on purpose and out of love. -Creation is good. -Creation is a gift from God for humankind. -God desires for us to experience peace and harmony.
2	Humans are made both body and soul, and are good.	Play an active game as a family	-Bodies are gifts to us, and should be treated with respect. -We are made in God's image and likeness and therefore have a special dignity.
3	We are made for intimacy (loving closeness of relationship) with God.	Staring contest tournament	-We can show love to one another by giving others our attention. -Prayer is a way we give our love and attention to God. -We can use our bodies to pray and show respect to God.
4	Our bodies reveal our interior life and God to others.	Speak phrases using different tones of voice and discuss what you heard	-Our words, tone, and actions reveal our inner thoughts and feelings to others. -We have the capacity to reveal God by what we say and do. -God is revealed in us through the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

5	Men and women are different, but equal in dignity. Their complementarity can bear fruit through marriage.	Compare and share perspectives while looking in different directions	-Humans are made male and female. -We are not meant to be alone, we are meant for community and relationships. -Men and women are complementary, but equal in dignity. -Men and women are called to live side by side as companions. -Marriage is a way for a man and a woman to together, with their bodies, imitate God's generosity and fruitfulness.
6	We are made to be a gift for others through service in imitation of God's generosity.	Help out around the house by doing a quick chore	-Our bodies are given as gift to us, and we are called to share that gift with others through service, kindness, and generosity. -We can trust that God will always take care of us.
7	The Trinity exists as an eternal exchange of love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our lives should mirror their complete outpouring of love for others.	Have a dance party! Try out some different moves	-God is love. -Each Divine Person of the Trinity gives themselves fully and eternally to the other Persons. -The fullness of love between a husband and wife can result in the life of a third person: their child. -God wants us to share our love with all of creation.

8	God's mercy is infinite. There is no need for shame. He has made us good and sent His Son to redeem us from our sins.	Play a round (or more!) of Hide and Seek	-God seeks us out even when we have committed sin. -God created clothes for Adam and Eve because of his love and mercy for them. -When we sin, the Lord will always accept our confession and repentance. -We are called to forgive others just as we have been forgiven. -The sooner we turn back to God, the less distant we will become.
9	God made us to be free - to be able to choose and do what is good.	Play a round (or more!) of Simon Says	-God wants us to live a life on earth that prepares us for Heaven. -Jesus has made a way for us to return to God when we sin. -Jesus teaches us by example how to reject temptation. -We are made to act in freedom. Freedom is the ability to choose what is good. -The pure of heart shall see God.
10	God made us, both body and soul, for eternal life with him in heaven. Both marriage and celibacy are signs of what life in heaven will be like.	Draw, color, or write about what you think Heaven looks like. Share your work!	-Our ultimate goal is Heaven. -There is a place for our bodies in Heaven; we believe in the Resurrection of the body. -Marriage and family life point towards communion with God. -Celibacy is a sign to others of our life in heaven.

AT-CHURCH CONTENT

It is important to have families gathered periodically throughout the *Made* process. The goal of gathering is to:

- Find out what is going well and what families are struggling with in the Family Meetings.
- To encourage, deepen, and support their experience of the Family Meetings with any tips, inspiration, or information.
- To meet and hear from other families on a similar journey. There is wisdom in any room of families, especially parents!
- To give families a positive and meaningful experience at-church.
- To pray together - for each other and for the entire community.

This resource has been developed to support you in facilitating family Sessions held at-church throughout the *Made* experience. The Sessions are designed to have parents and children together. There is plenty of content to fill a 1-1.5 hour time frame in the Sessions. Session 1 is designed to be used between Family Meeting 3 and 4. Session 2 is designed to be used between Family Meeting 7 and 8. If you are introducing families to ongoing formation resources for the first time, be sure to begin with the Blend Session available before Session 1. This experience will help provide a framework for both the purpose and direction of this stage of formation.

There are supplies that need to be pulled together to help bring these Sessions to life. We have given you supply lists. We have also suggested ways to set a mood in the room; candles, music, dimming the lights, etc. We feel it is critical to set holy spaces to lead families into deeper intimacy with Christ and themselves. We cannot over emphasize the impact of simple but beautiful decor, great hospitality, and intimate prayerful spaces. Your attention to detail tells everyone this is important, we prepared for you!

We realize families are in different places and stages in their own faith journeys. We have written Sessions we feel best take into account today's families. It is our hope that these Sessions meet them where they are at and slowly lead them into something more. Feel free to scale the material up or down. It is most important that families leave with a positive experience of Church and community, feeling like they have a place in it.

ACCOMPANIMENT TEAM NEEDS

We realize each of our directors have different gifts; some are wonderful teachers, some are storytellers, others are better facilitating small groups, some are gifted in finding others to present material. Use your strengths to lead your family Sessions, and look for others who can take the pieces you are not as confident in. It takes a team!

Facilitator:

- Choosing a facilitator to lead your Sessions as an MC from the front is an important decision. There will be other voices like witnesses, but it is necessary to have a central person to be the stabilizing and guiding voice in the group. They will introduce and weave together the Content for each Session. This person should be warm, engaging, confident, and it helps if they have a good sense of humor. This person needs to be open and non-judgmental. It will be their voice that will help the group grow together.

Companion Families:

- We recommend placing 1 companion family in each small group of 10 families if possible. This will help provide a relatable connection to the parish community. Companion families will focus on building relationships and supporting the facilitator in guiding the at-church Sessions. Make sure companion families feel comfortable with the flow of each Session. Leave time at the end of each Session with the companion families to evaluate the experience. To make this a great experience for all we must be checking in regularly, making any needed changes as soon as possible. Invest in time with your companion families. Having a strong team of people committed to the same mission helps everyone. Offer time to get to know one another, provide skills training, and spend time in prayer together. We want our families to feel like they are being invited into a group that has been preparing for them and enjoys each other.

Hospitality:

- Hospitality is about much more than setting out cookies and water bottles. Great hospitality is the root for the growing that will take place. Having a team that interacts well together, and welcomes you into their community, will help the families get comfortable almost immediately. This will produce greater engagement in the Sessions. This type of hospitality requires the facilitator and companions to become friendly with the families before they ever begin. It includes being “real” through sharing, vulnerability, and laughter from the minute your families arrive.

- How the room “feels” is also an important part of the hospitality recipe. Covered tables, simple centerpieces, and the glow of a few candles will encourage the families to lean into the conversation, like a great dinner party. Take the time to set the room in advance, so that families walk into a space that feels prepared for them. A prayer table up front with changing images each Session can also be a small voice speaking into the room. Find creative people in your community who have a heart for parents and let them loose to work their magic.

Intercessors:

- Having intentional intercessors who are praying for your families and your ministry is an important step to staying on mission. Prayer always needs to be integral to the work we do. People in your parish community who take the time to talk with Jesus often and who understand the struggles and difficulties facing families are perfect to help in this role. These prayer warriors can be organized as a group, or can individually come before God for the needs of the parish families each day. Prayer can be specially centered around this time of growing as disciples.



FAMILY FOLLOW THROUGHS

Time with family is precious. Following through with this family experience tells your child this is important. With your child, please complete the following tasks after each meeting to turn in.

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Family Meeting 1: Share which fingerprint type was the most prevalent among your family members. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 2: Share one important thing you learned as a family from this Family Meeting. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 3: Share what posture of prayer your family enjoys the most. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 4: Share some of the ways you discussed that you can better reveal God through your life. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 5: Now that we are half way through, email a picture of your tapestry progress.

Family Meeting 6: Share some of the chores that got done this Family Meeting. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 7: Share some of the dance moves you came up with for this Family Meeting. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 8: Share the location where the final person was found in hide and seek. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 9: Share who won the most rounds of Simon says. Email a short response.

Family Meeting 10: Email a picture of your completed tapestry.