

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

ORIENTATION OF NEW HOUSEHOLDS

This manual is for the use of household leaders in conducting their household meetings right after the Christian Life Seminar (CLS). It covers a three-month period between the CLS and the next part of the formation program, the Covenant Recollection (CR).

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this orientation phase are:

- 1) To afford the household members an experience of life in community, especially the caring and sharing that happens among brethren in a household.
- 2) To deepen the work of transformation in Christ in them, through taking up further the topics of the CLS.

ROLE OF HOUSEHOLD LEADERS

Overall, the role of the household leaders is to introduce the household members (CLS graduates) to the pattern of life in MFC.

More specifically, the household leaders are expected to do the following for their household members:

- 1) Help them adjust and adapt to the new pattern of life and behavior.
- 2) Help them develop an attitude of trust and confidence in the Lord and with one another.
- 3) Help them to appreciate their new way of life.
- 4) Help them to understand and appreciate the values and practices in MFC.

DURATION OF THIS FORMATION PHASE

This orientation phase will be for about 10 weeks or so, consisting of the following:

- 1) 8 individual household meetings (with the corresponding topics indicated here).
- 2) 2 or 3 chapter prayer assemblies (once a month).

CONTENTS OF THE MEETINGS

Following are proposed contents for each of the 8 meetings. The household leader however may opt to have topics or content other than these, as long as the basic objectives for this phase are met.

Meeting #1

- 1) You may start with practicing some songs.
- 2) Have just a short opening prayer, perhaps just one song and then the prayer by the household leader.
- 3) Note: for couples, the time of discussion is a joint meeting of husbands and wives.

- 4) Have brief introductions by each member, including the household leader, who should go first.
 - These are only basic information, such as name, age (ladies are exempted), nationality (in a mixed group), residence, work, children if any.
 - This should take just about 3 minutes per person.
 - Note: it is suggested that basic info about members be collated and given out to everyone for their respective reference. Such info can be name, residence address, birth date, anniversary, children, home telephone, work info, work telephone, mobile phone, e-mail address.
- 5) Explain what will happen in the next 3 months.
 - There will be 3 household meetings and one chapter prayer assembly for each of the months.
 - Briefly explain the contents of a household meeting: worship, spiritual discussion, and fellowship. Each meeting will be about 2 or 2-1/2 hours.
 - Briefly explain what a chapter is and what happens in a prayer assembly.
- 6) Expound on how you will be conducting the time of worship starting the next meeting. This is called “full worship.”
 - Explain the sequence: fast song, praising, fast song, praising, slow song, singing in tongues, period of silence, words from the Lord (prophecy or inspired Bible verses), individual prayers of thanksgiving, individual prayers of petition, closing prayer by the household leader.
 - Exhort the members to participate actively—in singing, praising, exercise of spiritual gifts, individual prayers.
 - For those still unused to spontaneous prayer, suggest that they prepare their prayers of thanksgiving and petition beforehand, write these down, and read them at the appropriate time during the worship. Encourage each and every one to say at least one prayer of thanksgiving and one of petition. Such prayers should be simple and short.
- 7) Have a time for questions and answers.
- 8) Agree on your next meeting, which should now be the pattern for every household meeting.
 - What day of the week? It is preferable to have households, if possible, on week evenings so the weekends are free for other activities.
 - What time? Have an “arrival time” and a “starting time,” usually 15 to 30 minutes later. Stress that the meeting will start punctually at the designated starting time.
 - Where? The households are normally held in the homes of the members. For ease of remembering, do the rotation of venues based on the surnames of the members, going alphabetically (since this first household meeting is held in the home of the household leader, the alphabetical sequence can start from his surname).
- 9) Remind everyone to have their own Bible and to bring it to every meeting.
- 10) Have your time of fellowship.

Meeting #2

- 1) Have full worship.
- 2) Note: for couples the discussion is again a joint meeting.
- 3) If anyone was late, gently exhort all to punctuality.
- 4) Examine the time of worship.
 - Did people participate actively?
 - Discuss the dynamics a bit.
 - Exhort all to more active participation and greater openness to the leadings of the Holy Spirit.
- 5) Go quickly over the Bible Reading Guide.
 - Does everyone already have his/her own Bible?
 - Encourage faithfulness to daily Bible reading, using the guide.
- 6) Encourage all to read one spiritual book a month, drawing from our publications.
- 7) Surface any concerns the members might have.
- 8) Have your time of fellowship.

Meeting #3

- 1) Have full worship.
- 2) Note: for couples the discussion will now be a separate meeting, that is, men meet separately from women. The household head's wife will lead the women in their meeting.
- 3) Before the sharing, encourage openness. Reiterate the principle of confidentiality.
- 4) Have the time of sharing.
 - How were they introduced to MFC and what made them decide to join the CLS?
 - Let them share about their experience of the CLS.
 - What changes are they now observing or experiencing in their lives—at home, at work, in their relationships?
- 5) Have your time of fellowship.

Meeting #4

- 1) Full worship, separate discussion/sharing for couples, fellowship.
- 2) Topic:
 - Share on personal prayer and Bible reading.
 - How are they experiencing personal conversion and developing their personal relationship with Jesus?

Meeting #5

- 1) Full worship, separate discussion/sharing for couples, fellowship.
- 2) Topic: Share on personal life—interests, hobbies, work, pattern of activities, etc.

Meeting #6

- 1) Full worship, separate discussion/sharing for couples, fellowship.
- 2) Topic: Share on family life—relationship with spouse, relationship with children, family schedule, family prayer, family recreation, etc.

Meeting #7

- 1) Full worship, separate discussion/sharing for couples, fellowship.
- 2) Topic:
 - Share on how they are experiencing life in MFC, with the households and prayer assemblies.
 - Are they seeing the usefulness of and even need for a committed community such as MFC?

Meeting #8

- 1) Full worship, joint discussion/sharing for couples, fellowship.
- 2) Topic:
 - Discuss the MFC vision and mission, and the Core Values.
 - Are they seeing the importance of a community such as MFC, for their own lives but also for the life of the world?
 - Inform them of the next formation phase, which is the Covenant Recollection (#1 to 4). Between each of the 4 CRs are two household meetings and one prayer assembly.

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(SG. Feb 4, 2021)