

Frequently Asked Questions for Potential Leaders

- 1) Does the leader couple need to be married?
No, two single people can easily organize and facilitate a group. It is not recommended to have just one host, so Jeff will work with you to identify someone to partner with if needed.
- 2) What does the leader do?
Attends two leaders training sessions each year in September and one Dinner in January. Fosters hospitality and belonging with the members of the group and provides organization for the two hour monthly meeting, October through April. Picks up or downloads the monthly material and facilitates the session. This can be shared with others interested in the group as well.
- 3) What is our role during the meeting?
You are the host and facilitator. You are the rudder that slowly guides the group through the evening. If others have the skills and willingness, you can certainly share these roles with others, but you are ultimate the leaders of the CLUB.
- 4) What material do we cover?
The Book we use is the Bible and the material provided is based on the readings at Mass on the third Sunday of the month. So we like to have the groups meet in the first two weeks of the month, so all CLUB's come ready to hear the word again on the Third Sunday.
- 5) Do you assign people to our group?
Yes, about half of those who participated last year signed up. The others were recruited to participate through personal invites. As the Book CLUB's become more familiar, more people are just signing up at the September promotion weekend. So you may only need to invite a few individuals or friends.
- 6) Do we invite neighbors to join our group?
You are welcome to invite people in your neighborhood, but be sure to reach out beyond those you are very familiar with. We can provide you with names and numbers of people who are registered at St. Pat's in your immediate area.
- 7) Can we invite someone not in our neighborhood?
Sure. If you met someone new in the community or feel called to reach out to someone that is not in your immediate area, invite them. A 15 minute drive is not insurmountable, right?
- 8) How many should we have in our group?
Ideally a group of 12. The range is 8-14 and certainly 14 is the max. On any given month you can usually expect 2 to not show.
- 9) What do you provide us with each month?
There is a timeline that includes an opening and closing prayer, the flow of the evening and discussion questions. These are all suggestions for the evening and not meant to limit spontaneous prayer or other discussion. You also can listen to the reflection via a home computer or burn a disc at home and print the agenda from the website. The song will also be linked to the website or you can get a CD copy of the reflection from the office.
- 10) When do we get it?
Materials will be ready by the 23rd of each month. This gives you about a week to pick them up and a little time to look over the materials and listen to the reflection if you so choose.
- 11) Can you email it to us?

Yes and it will also be on the website.

12) What if we don't have the internet?

You can pick up a packet each month which will include the agenda, the reflection and song on a CD and multiple copies of the lyrics with the next sessions readings for participants.

13) When should we meet with our group?

You choose the day or night that works best for you. First Monday, Second Tuesday, Second Sunday, etc. The one important guideline is that you meet prior to the Third Sunday of the month, because that is the readings we discuss. So please offer the day and time that works best for you. Evening groups usually meet from 7-9 pm and two hours is a good time frame whenever you choose to meet.

14) What if we have to change a date?

No problem. Discuss it with the group and try to establish an alternative date that works for most in the group. Sometimes in December this can be very difficult. The key is that you are the facilitator of this change and you are responsible to remind people and encourage them to attend.

15) Is it ok if someone invites a friend to join after the group is set?

Only if there are less than 14 people and the whole group agrees that this would be fine. In some homes, even 14 would be too many, so encourage people to talk to you before inviting anyone and let them know when you have 12 or 14 people, the group is full for the year and maybe other groups would be able to accommodate others.

16) Do we need to provide the dessert each time?

It is important to model this for the group and provide it the first night, but then if you choose; you can extend this invitation to the group. Others will also volunteer as the year goes on and again, accepting their offer is your call. It is good to include others when they offer. You may also choose to provide coffee, water and wine. Hospitality is very important to the gathering. Help people feel comfortable and at ease.

17) Can we move to different houses?

Yes, however, staying at one location is probably easiest for the group and preferred manner as it complicates things. If the group is all for it, it can certainly work and actually it can build greater community as each member opens their home and which is a more intimate part of each of us.

18) What if we get frustrated with some aspect of our group?

Jeff is your "on call" consultant. He wants to keep the pulse of each group and know if any groups are experiencing something difficult or if a person is causing the group to suffer in some manner. In some cases he can only be a prayer partner and in others he will offer support and direction. So please keep him posted.

19) What if we would like to give it a try and open our home?

Fill out the form at www.thebestbookclub.org or contact Jeff Andrini at 842-8230 and let him know. All the details will fall into place and you will be blessed by your willingness to serve!

20) What if we just want to be in group before we decide to open our home?

Go to the registration form at www.thebestbookclub.org and fill it out. Welcome aboard!!! You will really enjoy this simple, yet profound opportunity!