



Family Listening Session Guide

Before beginning your family listening session, we invite you to prepare through reflection and prayer using this resource: [PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND VOICES](#)

Please see page one of the [Faith Alive @ Home Family Guide on the Synod](#) for general information and important resources for the synod.

Consider starting your family listening session with a [fun listening game](#).

Gathering Song- [A Rightful Place](#)

Prayer:

Leader: Come Holy Spirit

All: Fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle within us the fire of your Love

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created

All: And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Reading- Acts 2:1-4

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, there were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were staying. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Reflection:

The Holy Spirit gifts each of us to proclaim the Gospel with our lives. How can we, as a family, live our lives together sharing the Good News with each other and the world?

Questions (30 minutes or so)

IMPORTANT: Please [click here for the Family Listening Session Feedback Form](#) to record your responses to the following questions and share your feedback with the Synod Team for the Archdiocese of Newark.

1. If your family could sit down with Pope Francis, what are three things you would tell him about yourselves?
2. What are some challenges families are facing today?
3. What does your family (or families in general) need from the Catholic Church? (could include your local parish, the Archdiocese, and/or the global Catholic Church)
4. What is something your family can or does contribute to your parish community? The larger Church?
5. Do you feel as though your family matters to both your parish community and the global Catholic Church? What are some reasons why or why not?

6. If your family were put in charge of keeping other families active in their faith, how would you go about it?
7. What are some of the joys of sharing faith as a family? Some of the struggles?
8. At baptism, each of us is called to follow Christ and be His disciple. In what ways can your parish, the Archdiocese, the global Catholic community better engage families to live out this calling?

Closing Prayer- [Synod Prayer for the Archdiocese of Newark](#)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

What's Next?

- **IMPORTANT:** Remember to [click here for the Family Listening Session Feedback Form](#) to record your responses to the discussion questions and to share your feedback with the Synod Team for the Archdiocese of Newark
- Check out pages 2 and 3 of the [Faith Alive @ Home Family Guide on the Synod](#) fun and effective ways to help build faith and stronger relationships within your family during this special time of listening.