

Call to Celebrate: Baptism

Suggested Format for a One-Day, Four-Hour Session

Before the Session

In advance of the session, ask participants to:

- ▶ Read the Godparent Information Sheet, p. 41.
- ▶ Read and answer the reflection questions for both the “Original Sin” article, pp. 8–9, and the “Water Ritual” article, pp. 18–19, of the *Parent Handbook*.
- ▶ Reflect upon and complete the “Spiritual Hopes and Dreams” activity sheet, p. 7, of the *Parent Handbook*.
- ▶ Read “The White Garment,” p. 23, of the *Parent Handbook*.

During the Session

Have healthy food and beverages available for participants.

Session Outline and Suggested Times

- 1** Welcome by Facilitators
10 minutes
- 2** Introduction of Participants
20 minutes
Icebreaker Questions
- 3** Opening Prayer
5 minutes
Communion of Saints information and prayer (pp. 55–56)
- 4** Sharing Faith Journeys (p. 34)
30 minutes
- 5** Choosing Godparents (p. 35)
10 minutes
- 6** Break
10 minutes
- 7** Identifying Hopes and Dreams for Your Child (pp. 36–37)
20 minutes
Invite parents to share their responses from the activity sheets they filled out before coming to the session. Summarize responses on a newsprint easel, noting any common themes that emerge. Share with parents your own response to the question, “What do you ask of God’s Church for your child?” Encourage parents to continue discussing this topic in the days ahead.
- 8** Committing Your Child to Christ (pp. 53–54)
20 minutes
Ask participants to share their written responses in a large group.
- 9** Belonging to a Family (p. 54)
20 minutes
Omit the scripture reading.
- 10** Prayer of Exorcism and Original Sin (p. 57)
25 minutes
- 11** Break
10 minutes
- 12** The Water Ritual (p. 67)
20 minutes
- 13** Anointing with Oil of Chrism (p. 68)
20 minutes
- 14** The White Garment (p. 69)
10 minutes
- 15** Closing Prayer
10 minutes
Baptismal Promises (pp. 70–71)