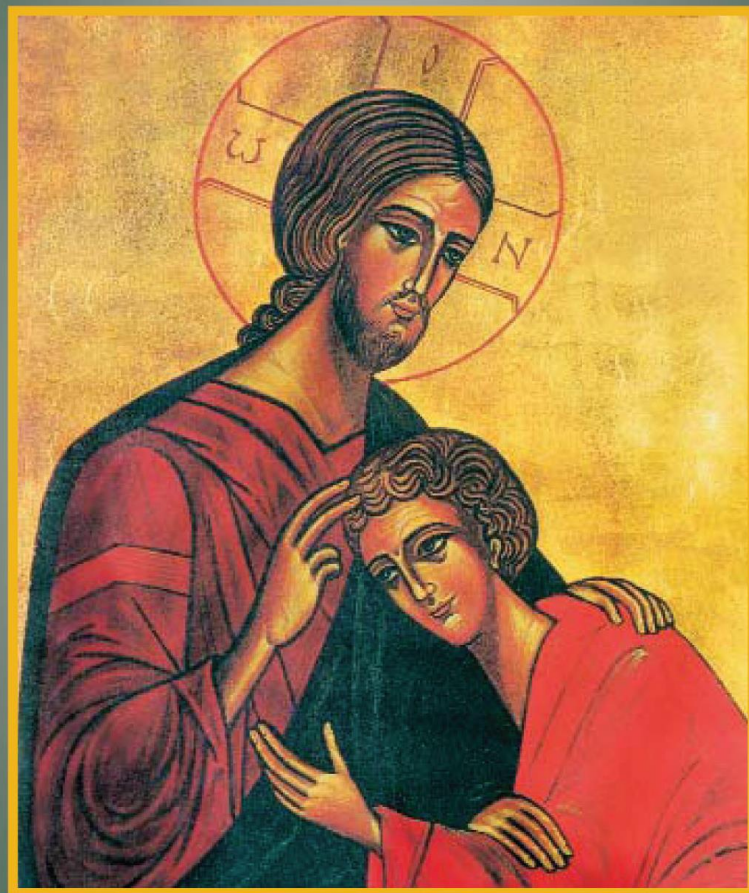


Knowing God even Better



Leader's Guide

a CaFE resource

Knowing God even Better

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First Published in 2004 by CaFE

Now at: www.charisuk.com/cafe-ondemand

Revised Oct 2014

Revised Jan 2025

Catholic Evangelisation Services is part of Catholic
Charismatic Renewal in England and Wales. Reg. Charity
No. 1209667

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INTRODUCTION

Knowing God even Better has been designed to help Catholics deepen their faith *even* more, helping them to encounter God in a personal way, embrace the riches of the Church and find new and creative ways to share their faith with others.

This Leader's Guide outlines some of the different ways the series can be used and how it can fit into the CaFE process. Tips on how to run it are also included. More information and training for running CaFE courses is available in the **Making the most of the CaFE resources** leaflet.

The CD "**Music to help you pray**" can be used for prayer reflections when running the course or at any time. Participants may want to purchase this for themselves and details can be found at the back of this guide.

THE TALKS (Each talk lasts approximately 35 minutes.)

1. **Knowing the Father's Love**
2. **Knowing Jesus as Lord**
3. **Knowing the Spirit as Friend**
4. **Knowing God's Presence**
5. **Knowing the Great Commission**

The fifth talk comes from the series **Catholics Making a Difference**. It is presented by David Payne and has been updated for this series. It looks at the ways that Catholics can share the Good News with those around them and has been included to present a final challenge at the end of **Knowing God even Better**.

WAYS TO RUN THE SERIES

Knowing God even Better is flexible and can be used in a number of different ways:

- **Follow on to Knowing God Better.**

An ideal series to take people deeper in their faith before running the second module **Exploring the Catholic Faith**.

- **A mini parish mission.**

A good way to encourage those who have already attended other CaFE modules to bring their friends and family to the mission by running as a one-off series once a week or offered to the parish over five days with a talk each night.

- **A retreat weekend.**

The talks could fit into a weekend away. A retreat is a great way to build community and to forge deeper links socially and spiritually in the group. It could be run as a self-contained retreat within any of the CaFE modules.

- **A CaFE ‘refresher’ course.**

To restart CaFE if it has been a while since the launch or if you have had a gap. Ideally a few people who attended **Knowing God Better** previously would be willing to run it for new people. A great way to restart the CaFE cycle in your parish.

- **An introduction to other CaFE courses.**

It can be used before any of the CaFE modules to challenge participants to take further steps in their journey of faith and to learn more.

- **A Lent or Advent course.**

INITIAL PREPARATION

1. Get together a small team of prayerful, enthusiastic people to help you.
2. Start praying for the preparations and the course.
3. Decide when and where you will run the series. Book the venue.
4. Get good eye-catching publicity - Pre-printed glossy flyers and posters are available from Catholic Evangelisation Services. Arrange to overprint these with your details.
5. Start publicising well in advance through the parish newsletter, have someone speak at Mass and encourage people who have already attended CaFE courses to invite others. Consider where you can put posters locally, in Coffee Shops, Christian bookshops, public libraries etc.

SETTING UP THE ROOM

The social dimension is also very important and care and effort should be made in setting up the venue.

1. Decorate the room to look as attractive as possible. Try to use soft lighting and play background music as people arrive (the CD included in the pack would be ideal for this).
2. Arrange the chairs around tables of 6 - 8 people.
3. Cover the tables with tablecloths, have candles or flowers on the tables.
4. Arrange nibbles (nuts, crisps or biscuits) on the tables.
5. Arrange a bookstall offering the suggested books.
6. Serve refreshments when people arrive.
7. After the talks serve cold drinks (fruit juice or wine) to the tables to encourage people to stay and talk.

LEADERS CHECKLIST

- Prayer support started.
- Venue booked & timetable agreed
- MC arranged for the meetings
- Team allocated to set up and clear up
- Welcomers appointed
- Someone allocated to buy and serve refreshments
- TV / PC/ CD player checked, PC, CD available and someone to set them up
- Response to each talk agreed
- Publicity printed & distributed

Possible timetable for an evening talk:

- 8pm Serve drinks as people arrive, play background music
- 8:15 Opening prayer and welcome.
- 8:20 Show course session
- 9:00 Serve refreshments at tables, play background music
- 9:30 Depart.

Possible timetable for a day's retreat:

9:30	Gather for refreshments
10:00	Welcome and prayer - explain the programme.
10:15	Talk 1- Knowing the Father's Love
10:55	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11:15	Break
11:40	Talk 2 - Knowing Jesus as Lord
12:20	Mass or create an appropriate liturgy or have quiet time
1:00	Lunch
2:10	Prayer
2:15	Talk 3- Knowing the Spirit as Friend
2:55	Prayer response
3:15	Break / have a walk or quiet time
4:10	Talk 4 - Knowing God's Presence
4:55	Thanksgiving prayer

The final talk **Knowing the Great Commission** could then be run one evening during the following week allowing participants to come together again.

A weekend Retreat

Day 1 would be similar to above but talks 4 & 5 would be run on the 2nd day with more social time built into day 1.

This is obviously very flexible and depends on the time that you have available. You may be able to build in your own liturgies or times of praise if you have a musician. It is important on any retreat to have quiet times for reflection and also social times when guests can relax.

RESPONSE TO THE TALKS

Appropriate reflection times and some discussion questions have been built into the talks. These would be sufficient if using the talks in a parish mission, as a Lent or Advent course or when there is limited time available.

We suggest that you watch the talks and consider how your group is to use the series and whether any extra prayer response is appropriate. If you are running a weekend retreat you may have the time to add response times in the form of prayerful meditations, liturgies or discussion groups at the end of some of the talks.

The third talk **Knowing the Spirit as Friend** ends with an invitation for participants to receive prayer to help them embrace what they have received through their Baptism and Confirmation and to gain a deeper understanding and reliance on the Holy Spirit in their lives. It is important for the team to prepare for this. They should pray with each other for the Holy Spirit to empower them in a fresh way before offering this to those on the course.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

The Return of the Prodigal Son

By Henri Nouwen

This is My Body

By Ian Petit

Prayer for Beginners

By Peter Kreeft

These books are available from:

Good News Books

296 Sundon Park Road

Luton

LU3 3AL

Tel: 01582 571011

E-Mail: orders@goodnewsbooks.net

Good News Books can supply resources for a book stall on a sale or return basis. Give them a ring for more details.

Also check out the web-site:

WWW.FATHERSLOVELETTER.COM

HELP WITH THIS SERIES

We would like to thank the following for their very gracious help in making this series:

Rob and Ruth at MediaInk

Emmaus

CJM Music

Icon Film distribution

Vineyard Music

Father Heart Communications

Transform

Voice in Action

CTA

All those who bravely gave testimonies

In the talk **Knowing God's Presence** mention is made of the following aids to daily Scripture reading:

Bible Alive - for more details please contact Bible Alive, Graphic House, Stoke on Trent ST4 2PH Tel: 01782 745600

Magnificat - for more details please contact Magnificat, PO Box 1040, Getzville, NY, USA Tel: 1-866-273-5215 or Web site: www.magnificat.net

This series forms part of CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration), which is a flexible process designed to help Catholics meet in small groups in



order to get more out of their faith and to find new ways of sharing the Good News with others.