

A Plan for Launching *The Search Begins* in Your Parish

Lent 2024

The Augustine Institute has adapted and modified its award-winning series, *The Search*, for teens. *The Search* is an acclaimed evangelization series hosted by speaker and author Chris Stefanick. This adaptation for middle and high school students is called *The Search Begins*, a new series inviting teens to consider the deepest questions of the human heart and explore the meaning and purpose of life. [Watch the trailer here.](#)

It's easy for any parish that subscribes to FORMED to be part of this exciting journey. The entire seven-part series is available to parishes and their parishioners for free at www.formed.org. Parishes can promote *The Search Begins* among their parishioners and in the broader local community, inviting teens and their parents to join small-group studies—in person or virtual—to watch and discuss *The Search Begins*.

Ready to get started? Here's a suggested plan for the launch of *The Search Begins* in your parish.

A Model Schedule for *The Search Begins* during Lent 2024:

Week of February 12:	Episode 1—What Do You Seek?
Week of February 19:	Episode 2—Who Are You?
Week of February 26:	Episode 3—Why a God?
Week of March 4:	Episode 4—What's Our Story?
Week of March 11:	Episode 5—Who Is Jesus?
Week of March 18:	Episode 6—Am I Saved?
Week of March 25:	Episode 7—Why a Church?

The Power of Parish-Wide Studies and Small Groups for *The Search Begins*

Parish-wide studies conducted in small groups help teens become engaged in their own faith formation. By encouraging young people and their families to participate in a parish-wide study, you empower individuals to begin practicing these holy habits and building up their faith regularly, using the content available to them free of charge on FORMED.

Planning a Parish-Wide, Small-Group Study for *The Search Begins* for teens and also parents/parishioners:

- **Days and Times:** Offering different days of the week and different times for *The Search Begins* sessions is key in drawing in as many people as possible. Examples: a weekday in the morning, a weeknight, during the weekend after one of your Sunday Masses; offering a study for religious education parents while their kids are in class.
- **Offer In-person Studies:** Some parishes may want to run in-person studies. This can look like FORMED or Bible study programs you have run in your parish before. Space out in your parish hall or meeting room and watch *The Search Begins* as a large group. Then, have small-group discussions (5–10 people).
- **Offer a Virtual Option 1:** Set a day and time each week for a small group (5–10 people) to meet online (Zoom, Google, Skype) to watch *The Search Begins* together. Then, have an online discussion. This will be about 1 to 1 ½ hours. Be advised that basic Zoom only allows 45 minutes.

- **Offer a Virtual Option 2:** Have everyone watch *The Search Begins* individually each week and then have a set time to meet online for 30–45 minutes as a group to discuss.
- [Sign-Up Genius](#) is a free registration tool many parishes use for *The Search Begins*.
- **Promotional Materials:** Free promotional materials are included with the Leaders Videos. In addition, you will have access to a free media kit and prayer cards.
[Post Cards](#), [Promotional flyer](#), [Letter for parents](#)
- **January:** Recruit and train your small group leaders. You will want to offer 1-2 training sessions for your leaders. The work is done for you! The Leaders Kit includes 6 training videos (~75 min) and a pdf training manual.
- **January 20-21:** Begin promoting *The Search Begins* and your small-group options for your parish:
 - Order your Leaders Kit
[The Search Begins Leader's Kit \(catholic.market\)](#) without Bibles
[The Search Begins Deluxe Leader's Kit \(catholic.market\)](#) with Bibles
 - Order additional journals [here](#).
 - Share the [trailer video](#) on your social media and website.
 - Include a flyer in your bulletin. See flyer above.
 - Make an announcement at Mass.
 - Mail out an invitation to every family. See postcard above.
 - Gather a team of callers to call 20 families each.
 - Ask Fr. to invite families to sign up
 - If you have a school, make this part of their Religion Curriculum during Lent
- **Week of January 27-28:** Promote *The Search Begins* and your small-group options for your parish. How to sign up:
 - Include a flyer in your bulletin.
 - Make an announcement at Mass.
- **Lent begins Feb 14th.** View episode 1 of *The Search Begins* the week of Feb 12th.