



A series of household topics
based on Frank Padilla's book

ONE IN CHRIST

HOW TO USE THIS HOUSEHOLD SERIES

Every household meeting must be an encounter with Christ. In the household, members expect to be nourished spiritually. This is the purpose of this household series. It is a tool to enliven the meetings by discussing topics that are vital to the life of our community.

- 1** This household series is based on the book of our Servant General, Frank Padilla, *One in Christ*. The book is available in our Signs and Wonders Shoppe.
- 2** It is recommended that every member has a copy of the book during the household meeting, as the household topics come from the book.
- 3** During the household meeting, the household servant prints the corresponding topic that will be discussed in the household. It is recommended that every household member gets a printed copy as their handout for the household. The members are also encouraged to write down notes on their handouts.
- 4** The handout also contains the Biblical foundation of the topic. It is therefore a must that every member of the household brings a Bible.
- 5** It is the duty of the household servant to check on their members for the challenges posed by the topics that are done outside of the household meetings. In this way, the household servants can track the spiritual growth and faithfulness of their members.

THE 4 PARTS OF A HOUSEHOLD TOPIC

- GRAB** The GRAB starts the household discussion with a question that requires a top-of-mind answer. This can be a question that asks the household members about an experience or their thoughts and opinions on a certain matter. The GRAB question primes the members for a deeper sharing in the GATHER part of the household. Its connection to the topic introduces it in a creative way.
- GRACE** The GRACE is the main part of the household topic. It is composed of 2 parts: the Biblical principle that supports the topic and an article that expounds the topic. Through the Biblical basis and its supporting text, the household members become aware of the message that the topic wants to impart. This set-up also encourages the bringing of Bibles in household meetings.
- GATHER** After reading the GRACE part, the GATHER part allows the household members into look to themselves for their realizations. The GATHER helps them integrate their thoughts and realization on the topic being discussed. This part takes the bulk of the time due to the sharings of the members. The household servant processes the sharings of the members.
- GO FORTH** After discussing everyone's thoughts and realizations, the GO FORTH part challenges the members to apply their learning from the household in their daily lives. The Household Servant should monitor and check how they are doing with their assignments during the next household meeting.

PRINCIPLE 1: IT IS GOD'S WORK, NOT YOURS.

GRAB Have you been in a situation where you had a disagreement with a fellow servant leader on how to do things in the community? Share your experience.

(WE TEND TO PUT OUR OWNERSHIP ON THE THINGS GOD ENTRUSTED TO US, FORGETTING THAT IT IS GOD'S WORK. BEING ONE IN CHRIST IS RECOGNIZING THAT THIS IS GOD'S WORK AND THAT WE SHOULD PUT ON GOD'S MIND IN OUR SERVICE.)

GRACE **Read:** 1 Corinthians 3:4-9

Read *Principle 1* on page 34 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. Do we realize that it is a privilege to serve God and that He entrusts this work to us even though we are not perfect? Share your thoughts.
2. Do we sometimes look to our human devices, own priorities and own agenda in doing God's work?
3. Do we sometimes use our human reasoning instead of putting on the mind of Christ? What can we do to ensure that we are trying to see things in God's perspective?

GO FORTH At the end of the household, say a short prayer of forgiveness for the times we claimed ownership over God's work.

PRINCIPLE 2: YOU DON'T FULLY KNOW THE MIND OF GOD; SO BE HUMBLE.

GRAB How do you respond when someone in the community has a different perspective from yours? Do you easily dismiss them and their ideas? Do you consider their suggestion?

(SOMETIMES, AS LEADERS, WE TEND TO THINK THAT WE ARE ALWAYS RIGHT. BEING ONE IN CHRIST MEANS THAT GOD ALSO SPEAKS TO OTHER SERVANT LEADERS AND THAT WE SHOULD LISTEN TO THEIR IDEAS.)

GRACE **Read:** Romans 11: 32-36

Read *Principle 2* on page 36 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. Are we the type of persons who are intransigent (stubborn, inflexible, narrow-minded), that we do not consider the ideas and suggestions of others? Do we always think that we are right?
2. Do we realize that God also speaks to other servants and that we don't have the monopoly of God's revelation?
3. Do we exercise humility in our service? How can we be more humble in dealing with others?

GO FORTH At the end of the household, recite the Litany of Humility which can be found here: <http://knowyourcatholicfaith.org/litany-of-humility/>.

PRINCIPLE 3: THE OTHER PERSON IS NOT YOUR ENEMY, ONLY THE DEVIL IS.

GRAB Have you ever experienced difficulty in community that is caused by a brother or a sister? How did you respond? Share your experience without naming the person concerned.

(WHEN WE EXPERIENCE HARDSHIP IN COMMUNITY THAT IS CAUSED BY A BROTHER OR A SISTER, WE TEND TO REGARD HIM/HER AS AN ENEMY. BEING ONE IN CHRIST SAYS NOT TO.)

GRACE **Read:** 2 Thessalonians 3:13-16

Read *Principle 3* on page 38 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. Do we realize that our brothers and sisters, even though they are in the process of “putting on the new self that is Christ”, still have their old self? Do you accept that we are all works in progress in becoming the persons God wants us to be? Share your thoughts.
2. Do we understand that we and our brethren are on the same side and our only enemy is the devil? How should we respond in times when our relationships are tested?
3. Do we value the importance of unity? Do we realize that causing division is a serious sin? How can we avoid fighting each other?

GO FORTH To battle the devil, pray the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel that can be found here: <http://knowyourcatholicfaith.org/the-prayer-to-st-michael-the-archangel>.

PRINCIPLE 4: GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR ENEMY.

GRAB Do you consider some brethren inside or outside community as your “enemies?” Why? What situations made you consider them as such? Share your experience.

(ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE CAN REALLY BE A “PAIN IN THE NECK” TO THE POINT THAT THEY ARE ALREADY CONSIDERED ENEMIES, BEING ONE IN CHRIST SAYS THAT WE SHOULD STILL LOVE THEM.)

GRACE **Read:** Luke 6:31-36

Read *Principle 4* on page 41 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. As CFC-FFL members, how should we deal with our enemies? How can we love them as Jesus instructed us?
2. Do we realize that the difficulties we experience with our enemies are our way to holiness? What good values did you learn from your enemies? How did they help you become a better person?
3. Do we realize that Jesus is present even in our enemies? How does this reality change our perspective in dealing with them?

GO FORTH Seek out the people you consider your enemies. Ask God’s guidance and power to do this. Share your experience in the next household meeting.

PRINCIPLE 5: GOD WANTS YOU TO EMBRACE YOUR CROSS.

GRAB What are the crosses you experience as a Christian servant? What and who are the sources of those crosses? Share a particular experience.

(CROSSES COME WHEN WE FOLLOW JESUS. NATURALLY, THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST WILL CAUSE YOU DIFFICULTY. BEING ONE IN CHRIST SAYS THAT WE SHOULD CARRY THESE CROSSES DAILY.)

GRACE **Read:** Luke 9:22-26

Read *Principle 5* on page 42 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. Do we recognize that crosses are part of the Christian life and that they cannot be avoided? What attitudes can we take on so that we can better accept crosses in our lives?
2. Frank Padilla said in his book: “If we are to walk the path of Christ, is it too much to humble ourselves in the face of opposition from brethren? Can we not accept injustice for the sake of higher righteousness? This in fact is the key to tapping on the power of God!” Are we willing to accept this in our life? Share your thoughts to the household.

GO FORTH In your closing prayer to end the household, take time to venerate a crucifix. Offer to Jesus on the cross the crosses that we carry everyday.

PRINCIPLE 6: GOD WANTS YOU TO LOOK NOT AT THE OTHER PERSON'S PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS, BUT ON YOUR OWN.

GRAB Are you the type of person who is critical of others? Do you catch yourself finding fault in another person especially those whom you do not agree with? Share your experience.

(OUR HUMAN NATURE COMPELS US TO LOOK ON ANOTHER'S MISTAKES AND SHORTCOMINGS INSTEAD OF OUR OWN. BEING ONE IN CHRIST MEANS THAT WE LOOK TO OUR FAULT AND HOW WE CAN CORRECT THEM RATHER THAN ANOTHER'S)

GRACE **Read:** Philippians 2:1-11

Read *Principle 6* on page 43 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. How do we respond when we realize that we are in the wrong? Do we enumerate what the other person's errors are?
 2. When we find ourselves in an argument, do we step back? Do we stop to listen to the other person with an open mind? Do we try to see things in the other person's perspective?
 3. How can we put the "interest of Christ" in our community? What attitudes should we take?
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GO FORTH As a response to our lack of humility, go to confession telling the priest the times when you acted in pride. Share your experience in the next household meeting.

PRINCIPLE 7: DON'T GET HURT SO EASILY; YOU ARE STILL FAR FROM BEING PHYSICALLY CRUCIFIED.

GRAB In all honesty, answer this question: do you or other people think that you are onion-skinned? Were there situations in the where that you let your emotions get the better of you when you are hurt?

(WHEN OUR EGO IS STEPPED ON BY OTHERS, OUR NATURAL REACTION IS TO BE EMOTIONAL ABOUT IT. WE EASILY GET HURT. BEING ONE IN CHRIST SAYS THAT WE SHOULD UNDERGO THESE PAINS AS THEY ARE ONE OF GOD'S WAYS OF FORMING US.)

GRACE **Read:** Hebrews 12:1-4

Read *Principle 7* on page 45 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. Frank Padilla says, “When we allow ourselves to get hurt easily, just by some words or actions, we are depriving ourselves of the formation that God allows us to undergo...” Recall a hurtful situation in your community life that has hurt you the most but at the same time, has taught you a lot? How have you become a better person?
2. What practical steps can we take to better endure difficulties in our relationships? What attitudes should we take?

GO FORTH During the household meeting closing prayer, the household servant prays a prayer asking for forgiveness for the times we have allowed ourselves to be hurt easily.

PRINCIPLE 8: WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, JUST CLING TO CHRIST.

GRAB What is the most difficult situation you have experienced in the context of your relationship in the community? Share it to your household.

(DIFFICULT TIMES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP IS A BLESSING BECAUSE WE ARE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER OUR SUFFERING TO JESUS. BEING ONE IN CHRIST SAYS THAT WE SHOULD EVEN THANK GOD FOR THESE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.)

GRACE **Read:** Romans 8:31-39

Read *Principle 8* on page 47 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. Frank Padilla says, “Jesus loves you in a special way when you suffer for Him. It is your special privilege to suffer for Him. You should go and thank your opponent when he causes you to suffer!” Share your realizations on this.
2. Romans 8:38-39 says, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.” How does this verse assure you in your life situation right now? What are its practical applications?
3. How can we cling to Christ in our everyday lives? What practical things can we do as a household?

GO FORTH As a household, decide for a concrete action step from your answers in question #3 above. What can your household adopt on a regular basis?

PRINCIPLE 9: GIVE IN, BUT DON'T GIVE UP.

GRAB When conflict in our relationship has reached a deadlock, do we tend to insist on our way or we give way?

(WE INSIST ON OUR WAY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. HOWEVER, WHEN OUR WAY IS OPPOSED, WE INSIST ON WHAT WE WANT TO HAPPEN. BEING ONE IN CHRIST SAYS THAT WHEN IT IS NOT AN ISSUE OF A SIN OR WRONGDOING, WE SHOULD GIVE WAY FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNITY OF THE BODY)

GRACE **Read:** Matthew 24:7-13

Read *Principle 9* on page 48 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. When we give way, Frank Padilla says, “This temporary setback for you will be a distant memory in a short while, but the work and our life together continues.” How does this statement change our perspective in giving up on our insistence?
2. “Giving in when confronted by an intransigent co-worker, as long as it is not about sin or wrong-doing, is acceptable.” Enumerate situations wherein it is acceptable and not acceptable to give in.
3. “You lose a battle, but you all win the victory together in the end. Remaining united is victory enough.” Share your thoughts on this.

GO FORTH To end the household, the household servant leads the household in praying to God for humility in giving up our insistence and unity among us, brothers and sisters.

PRINCIPLE 10: GOD MAKES STRAIGHT, CROOKED LINES.

GRAB Was there a time when you forego your insistence in what you want, for the sake of the unity? What was the outcome? Share your experience.

(WHEN YOU LET GO OF YOUR INSISTENCE FOR THE SAKE OF UNITY, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU LOST. BEING ONE IN CHRIST SAYS THAT ALTHOUGH YOU LET A WRONG DECISION (AS LONG AS IT IS NOT A SIN OR WRONGDOING) WIN, WHEN LOVE AND LOYALTY IS STILL THERE, GOD WILL BE THE ONE TO WORK TO MAKE IT RIGHT.)

GRACE **Read:** Isaiah 42:13-16

Read *Principle 10* on page 49 in the book **One in Christ** by Frank Padilla.

GATHER Share with your household your realizations on the principle by answering the following questions:

1. Frank Padilla says, “Even if the decision is not right (as long as it is not a sin or wrongdoing), if only there remains love and loyalty to each other, God will be the one to work things out.” Share your realization on this statement. Was there a time that this statement was applicable to a situation in your life?
2. Read Romans 8:28. Do you believe that God can work things for us even though we commit mistakes as long as our hearts are pure and faithful? Do you believe God can make straight with crooked lines? How can we trust Him more in our relationships?

GO FORTH End the household by singing the song “Make My Heart Your Dwelling Place” after the closing prayer.