

**A Discussion Guide for  
“Faithfulness in Service  
- A Video Resource for Clergy and Church Workers.”  
(the FiS DVD)**

**There are 10 points, as follows:**

1. How FiS came about. (6"30')
2. Care for all people. God made them. (2"40')
3. Don't take advantage of the community. Put others first.(2"00')
4. Little children are sacred. Don't hurt them. Help them grow. (3"40')
5. Don't take what doesn't belong to you. Pay back what you owe. (3"00')
6. Don't have sex with someone you shouldn't have sex with. (3"18')
7. Don't get drunk or use drugs. (2"39')
8. Don't gamble. (2"23')
9. Don't hurt your family by what you say or do. (2"47')
10. Tell the truth. Other people need to be able to trust you. Be trustworthy. (3"36')

**This material is a suggested methodology for 4 x 1 hour Sessions**

**Session 1**

Track 1 of the FiS DVD (*History*)

**Session 2**

Tracks 2, 4 and 10 of the FiS DVD (*Caring for all; Don't hurt little children; Tell the truth*)

**Session 3**

Tracks 3, 7 and 9 of the FiS DVD (*Put others first; Don't use drugs; Don't hurt your family*)

**Session 4**

Tracks 5, 6 and 8 of the FiS DVD (*Don't take what belongs to you; Don't have sex with someone you shouldn't have sex with; Don't gamble.*)

The WHOLE DVD is played through without comment (it takes about 34 minutes.) The operator then goes back to each Track as indicated and plays that track again. A guided discussion may follow. Some questions are written here but these don't have to be used. They are for guidance only.

The FiS DVD can also be found on YouTube (search **Faithfulness in Service – DVD**) and viewed in full or by track. A link is available on the Professional Standards page of [www.anglican.org.au](http://www.anglican.org.au)

Version 6

Activities that follow here may include drawing, model-making, painting, weaving, writing, questioning or any other creative response to the information. If such is planned, make sure there are adequate supplies of materials on hand.

Version 6

## Session 1 (expanded)

**Bible Verses: 'Faithfulness' a Gift of The Spirit (Galatians 5.22) 'Service' (1 Corinthians 12.5)**

This Session looks at the STORY of Faithfulness in Service, where it came from, who wrote it, whose authority it comes under; why it was made, and so forth.

*(History) About 20 years ago, there were a growing number of complaints and reports of sexual abuse of people in and out of the Church that were coming to the Church authorities (Bishops and Priests). These were shocking and very serious.*

*Clearly, the Biblical directions and rules (Ten Commandments and Ordination Vows) were NOT being followed.*

*So, there was a great need for the Church to re-establish itself as a safe place for people to worship God in, to work in and to be helped by.*

**Faithfulness in Service - A National Code** is a tool for Clergy and Church Workers to use to help them establish (or re-establish) trust with the people and for the Church to be a caring and sharing place where there is no doubt about how Church people are to honour one another.

*This National Code comes in two forms: **Faithfulness in Service – A National Code** (the written document) (**FiS**) and **Faithfulness in Service, a Video Resource** (the **FiS DVD**).*

*Both the written and visual versions have the same authority in the Church. Definitions of all the terms used in the written document (like Church Workers, Personal Behaviour etc) are outlined in **FiS – A National Code**, Section 2, Key Terms.*

*Each participant in this Training Workshop should have a current printed copy of **FiS - A National Code** made available to them. An electronic version can be found on the General Synod Website [www.anglican.org.au](http://www.anglican.org.au) > go to Governance > go to Commissions > go to Professional Standards > go to Faithfulness in Service. Use the most recent Consolidated version eg. **Faithfulness In Service (Consolidated)** - November 2011.*

**FiS – A National Code** and the **FiS DVD** is the National Code of Behaviour for ALL Clergy and Church Workers in the Anglican Church of Australia, as was agreed to at the 2004 General Synod.

Here are some basic questions that may be used at the end of each Track as Discussion Starters:

- Is anything unclear in what you have just seen?
- Are there any words you don't understand or would like clarification for?
- Did you understand the topic?
- Are there questions you have about the content?

Version 6

Each of the Tracks could then be dealt with in turn, allowing about 15 minutes for each.  
Here are some more questions for discussion for Track 1:

- *Are there any other Codes of Conduct or Laws that you know about? What are they?*
- *Where might they be found?*
- *Who does this National Code apply to?*
- *What are some good things about having a National Code for all Clergy and Church Workers?*
- *What might be some hard things about having a National Code for all Clergy and Church Workers*

(END OF FIRST HOUR)

Version 6

## Session 2 (expanded)

This Session covers **Tracks 2, 4 and 10 of the FiS DVD** (Caring for all; Don't hurt little children; Tell the truth). They come from **Sections 4** (Pastoral Relationships); **5** (Children) and **6** (Personal Behaviour) of **FiS – A National Code**.

Here are some basic questions that may be used at the end of each Track as Discussion Starters:

- Is anything unclear in what you have just seen?
- Are there any words you don't understand or would like clarification for?
- Did you understand the topic?
- Are there questions you have about the content?

Each Track could then be dealt with in turn, allowing about 15 minutes each. What follows here contains some comments made by presenters on the DVD. These comments may spark your discussion of this topic.

### **1. Track 2. Care for All. God made them (Bible Verses: John 13.34; John 15.12-13; John 15.17)**

- Love one another is clearly an instruction for each one.
- Equality and Service and Authority are to be worked out on the basis of Love.
- We are also called to be Christ-like.

**FiS – A National Code** fits all cultures very well, whatever their origin. The Code seeks to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, the Man for All Cultures.

You might like to explore this question with people of YOUR culture.

### **2. Track 4. Little children are sacred. Don't hurt them. Help them grow. (Bible Verses: Matthew 19.8-18 (especially v14); Mark 10.14-16; Luke 18.16)**

- Children are important to communities. Without children, the community will die.
- Every child is a gift from God.
- As leaders, we are to be good role models and be living on a good foundation ourselves because this has long-lasting effects on the family, for good or bad.
- The church must be a safe place for children. Their innocence and vitality should be helped to grow and develop. Leaders are to be mindful of these things.

Version 6

- *At 12'05"*, Dr Rose Elu, a Torres Strait Island leader, describes a way that her people take responsibility for children in TSI communities to ensure their safety and security. How might this responsibility be taken up in your own community?

**3. Track 10. Tell the truth. Other people need to be able to trust you. Be trustworthy. (Bible Verses: Proverbs 14.25; 2 Corinthians 6.7; Exodus 18.21; 1 Corinthians 4.1-2; Titus 1.9)**

*"We must be trustworthy as Church leaders ... It's no use us (leaders) trying to lay foundations for others, especially for children, if our own foundation is unstable" (Rev Victor Joseph at 13'07")*

- Why are we leaders if we are not trustworthy?
- A close relationship with God is vital, as is the ability to be trustworthy.
- We need to set the example ourselves, to be role models for the church and the community.
- Trust is important when relationships start and continue.
- Trust grows when physical, sexual, emotional and psychological boundaries are kept.
- It is sad to say but the church has had a history of breaching and breaking trust.
- This has had an effect on the communities and has helped to have adverse effects on the leadership, too.
- We are to be trustworthy people who "walk the talk" (*Rt Rev Chris McLeod 28'10"*).

(END OF SECOND HOUR)

Version 6

### Session 3 (Expanded)

This Session covers **Tracks 3, 7 and 9 of the FiS DVD** (Put others first; Don't use drugs; Don't hurt your family). They come from **Section 4 (Pastoral Relationships) and 6 (Personal Behaviour) of FiS – A National Code.**

Here are some basic questions that may be used at the end of each Track as Discussion Starters:

- Is anything unclear in what you have just seen?
- Are there any words you don't understand or would like clarification for?
- Did you understand the topic?
- Are there questions you have about the content?

As in the previous Sessions, each Track could then be dealt with in turn, allowing about 15 minutes each. What follows here contains some comments made by presenters on the DVD. These comments may spark your discussion of this topic.

#### **4. Track 3. Don't take advantage of the community: put others first. (Bible Verses: 1 Peter 5.1-4).**

- Leadership is serving others in a Christ-like way.
- There are 4 significant marks that leaders are to have when leading people in a Christ-like way: watching over others as a shepherd; behaving with willingness not compulsion; acting out of eagerness not personal gain; being a good example of the Chief Shepherd by not lording it over others.
- Trust is at the heart of pastoral care and Ministry to the Family is at the front of our pastoral focus.
- Trust creates safe places for people to live, work and worship.
- Leaders provide good leadership when they can help create trust – and, of course, the church runs well when trust is not broken.

#### **5. Track 7. Don't get drunk or use drugs. (Bible verses: Luke 21.34; Romans 13.13; Galatians 5.21)**

- What leaders do in public ought also to be done in the home.
- The leader is to model responsibility.
- Drunkenness affects family life.
- Domestic violence is often a result of alcohol, when people talk big.
- Drunkenness lowers life expectancy.
- The results of domestic violence are not good at any level: physical, emotional and spiritual.

Version 6

**6. Track 9. Don't hurt your family by what you do or say. (Bible Verses: Proverbs 4.24; 2 Corinthians 6.7; Colossians 3.4; Colossians 4.6; 1 Timothy 4.12)**

- The first point in our ministry is to the family.
- The family sets the foundation. So, violence breeds violence – and goodness breeds goodness.
- The family is where people will look for purity and hope and good morals.
- Leaders are to show others how to have better relationships with their family and with God. This is all about the leaders building people up and not bringing them down.
- (Bad) Things that are said now will need to be worked through later on.
- When we don't **walk the talk** then people begin to believe that we are not serious about what we do or say. (*Rt Rev Chris McLeod at 28'10"*)

(END OF THIRD HOUR)



Version 6

## Session 4 (Expanded)

Session 4 covers **Tracks 5, 6 and 8 of the FiS DVD** (Don't take what belongs to you; Don't have sex with someone you shouldn't have sex with; Don't gamble). They come from **Sections 6** (Personal Behaviour), **7** (Sexual Conduct) and **8** (Financial Integrity) of **FiS**.

Here are some basic questions that may be used at the end of each Track as Discussion Starters:

- Is anything unclear in what you have just seen?
- Are there any words you don't understand or would like clarification for?
- Did you understand the topic?
- Are there questions you have about the content?

Each Track could then be dealt with in turn, allowing about 15 minutes each. What follows contains some comments made by presenters on the DVD. These comments may spark your discussion of this topic.

### **Track 5. Don't take what doesn't belong to you. Pay back what you owe. (Bible verses: Exodus 20.15; Leviticus 19.11; Mark 10.19)**

- Leadership role models point us to being trustworthy and accountable, particularly with church money and property. This applies to those who count the money as well.
- Trust and right behaviour are protections against false accusations.
- Trust is very easily broken.
- This Topic includes handling money but is not limited to it. The Topic also includes responsibilities for property and those who run organisations in the Church.
- Even at a personal level, there are laws in place that prevent us from taking someone else's land or house and direct us to paying our bills, rather than avoiding them.

### **7. Track 6. Don't have sex with someone you shouldn't have sex with. (Bible Verses: Exodus 20.14; Proverbs 6.32; Hebrews 13.4)**

- This is an extra level of trust for those in leadership. When this is broken and lost, there is also a loss of respect and 'face'.
- Sexual abuse brings a lot of trauma to the person receiving it, their family, their extended family and, eventually, to the community.
- The church is to be a safe place for the whole community. **FiS – A National Code** gives us steps to take if or when things go wrong.
- We should avoid all appearance of evil.

Version 6

**8. Track 8. Don't gamble. (Bible Verses: 1 Peter 4.7-11)**

- Gambling is always putting yourself first. It takes away support for the family; it takes away resources from the family and from the community.
- Gambling is supposed to bring a better life-style but doesn't. It is always done at the expense of family and family life.
- In many cases, gambling is an addiction (like drugs, etc) that needs to be broken, often with the help of other people.

(END OF FOURTH HOUR)