

What did ARISE mean to me? Participants from Season One of ARISE share their thoughts:

- I am so please with the ARISE program because it allowed honest discussion and stimulated thinking. An increased understanding and enlightenment was achieved.
- I feel this program has strengthened my faith and opened me up to the Love of God
- Deepening of my faith through Scripture and by sharing Scripture with other parishioners
- It brought me to know and understand our fellow parishioners on a deeper level. Just to be able to talk about God without being judged
- Developed close and dear friendships by praying together and learning God's Word and uniting together – this was very dear to me
- It was a time for wonderful fellowship and renewed learning about the Gospels
- Learning to live the life of Christ and understanding the four Gospels in a more realistic view - living the life of the Gospels through our relationship with Christ.
- Brought more prayer into my life
- A wonderful experience – to share our faith and beliefs with other members of our Church. I enjoyed every minute of it!
- Being a part of ARISE has definitely strengthened my knowledge of the Bible and each of the writers that we studied.
- It was a very welcoming program and I felt a deep sense of our Church Community
- By listening to other people's faith journeys I was inspired to increase my faith and by this increased faith to look at things and people in a new way
- Great to get to know others from the parish and discuss issues in a small group and to learn the Bible through Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Paul

- I really learned more about the Gospels and the audience the writers were talking to. I came to know the members of our group on a more personal basis
- A stronger connection to my Parish family and a better understanding of a relationship with Jesus
- Sharing with other couples was a wonderful way of creating a feeling of community
- I feel the sessions helped me understand more about the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John by showing their different views on what Jesus taught us
- I gained an increased knowledge about the message of the Gospels and Acts which made me more aware of the love of Jesus for everyone and that I need to work on loving everyone and by my actions show love and mercy to all
- Sharing faith experiences with my group and learning the things we have in common
- Learning and deepening my faith, in addition to making friends
- The ARISE program was enlightening. We were able to interact with everyone in a good way. I learned so much more about my faith and the Gospels.
- I gained a better insight into the Gospels
- Sharing with fellow parishioners our different levels of faith and our personal walk with Jesus
- Helped me to deepen and grow in my faith. It also helped me to become a disciple as Jesus wants us to be with people we meet in our daily lives and to share our faith with others.
- It has helped me to deepen my relationship with Jesus
- Small groups are the way to go and a great way to build a stronger community!

- ARISE is a good evangelization tool. I like small group sharing as it provides an opportunity to clarify for myself where I am with the Lord and to see areas I need to grow and expand in my life.
- ARISE permitted me to have a place to express my thoughts and opinions on several Catholic topics that I have recently given thought to
- ARISE helped me to carve out more spiritual time. I enjoyed the structure.
- ARISE gave "names to faces" of other parishioners who have been educators and inspirations to me. I made new friends.
- I enjoyed meeting new people and I learned a lot about my faith
- I enjoyed getting to know other parishioners on a deeper level. I feel like I truly know them beyond just saying hello.
- I realized the importance of getting back to basics and getting reacquainted with Jesus
- ARISE was an opportunity to share my faith on a personal level with other members of our parish
- It was such a pleasure being with a group of St. Ambrose members who were all new to me as we joined in sharing the Bible and how we related to the readings. It was a very wonderful experience!