



Resources for Returning Catholics

Sample 8 Week Curriculum

Overview: This sample curriculum would be used for Parents of RE Children and other adults who want to learn more about their faith.

Goals: To help Catholics learn more about their faith and how to make it an active and conscious part of their lives.

Session Format: Each session should be well executed and lovingly presented. Sessions should be formed by the team following the outline below or something similar.

- I) **Opening Prayer:**
 - a. The opening prayer should include the participants. (Use an abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours, or another prayer form from the Catholic tradition can include the group)
 - b. The opening prayer when possible should be lead by someone else other than the session leader.
- II) **Scripture Reading:**
 - a. A Gospel verse that is easily understood (e.g. Beatitudes, Parable of Sower) and coordinates with the session theme should be joyfully proclaimed.
 - b. Participants should be directed where to find the verse in the scriptures.
- III) **Small Faith Sharing**
 - a. Questions pertinent to the scripture that inspire deep discussion should be developed.
 - b. Active Catholics and volunteer catechists may be placed in each small group to help facilitate dialog.
- IV) **Catechesis**
 - a. An individual from the parish should present the catechetical content of the session. It is helpful to have a different presenter at each session.
 - b. The presenter should consider the “Keys of Catholic Doctrine” when designing their presentation (see attached).
 - c. Time for Questions and Answers
- V) **Discussion/Closing Prayer**

Some topics and quick references to help form your sessions

Prayer in the Catholic Tradition *Scripture:* Mt: 6:9-13, Mk 11:24 *Catechism:* 2559-2567, 2607-2619, 2761

Other Resources: RENEW Why Catholic Book #4, OSV Pamphlet “How to Pray as a Catholic,”

Understanding the Mass *Scripture:* Mt: 26:26-30, John 6:34-59, Luke 24:13-35, 1 Cor 11:23-34

Catechism: 1406-1419 *Other Resources:* RENEW Why Catholic Book #3, OSV Pamphlet “How to Get more out of the Mass”

How to read and understand the Bible *Scripture:* Luke 1:1-4, Matt 5:17-20, Deut 8:3, 2 Tim 3:16

Catechism: 134-141 *Other Resources:* Ascension Press “The Great Adventure” Series, OSV Pamphlet “The Bible & You”

Mary and the saints *Scripture:* Gen 3:15, Luke 1:26-56, Luke 2:19, John 2:1-11, John 19:26-27,

Catechism: 148,149, 721-726, 2673-2677, saints 946-953, 2683 *Other Resources:* www.newadvent.org (cf saints)

Sin and Confession *Scripture:* Matthew 16:15-19, John 20:21-23, James 5:14-15.

Catechism: 1846-1869, 1456, 1485-1496 *Other Resources:* OSV Pamphlet “How to Make a Good Confession”

Heaven, Hell and Purgatory *Scripture:* John 3:16, John 14:2-7, 2 Pet 3:9, 1 Cor 3:15, 1 Pet 1:7, 1 Cor 15,

Catechism: 1051-1060, 1030, 1033, *Other Resources:* www.newadvent.org (cf eschatology), OSV Pamphlets

Marriage & Family Life *Scripture:* Gen 2:18-25, Matt 19:1-15, Eph 5:21-33

Catechism: 1659-1666, 2247-2257, *Other Resources:* www.diocesephoenix.org/mfrl/jp2.html, OSV Pamphlets

The Dignity of Human Life *Scripture:* Gen 1:26-28, Matt 19:13-15, Matt 6:25-34, Matt 10:29-31

Catechism: 2318-2330, 2270 *Other Resources:* www.diocesephoenix.org/mfl/

