

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • June 9, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—GENESIS 3:9-15

Although Adam and Eve were tempted by the snake, they were not merely victims—they acted in freedom. Although they are visited by the disastrous consequence of their disobedience to God, they nevertheless retain a power and dignity that the serpent does not.

SECOND READING—2 CORINTHIANS 4:13–5:1

Paul urges his fellow Christians to remain focused on their future hope of eternal well-being, expressed in the image of a temple rebuilt.

GOSPEL—MARK 3:20-35

The disruptive influence that Jesus' preaching and healing brought about caused people to question his sanity and the origin of his authority.

Church Teaching

The Church teaching on Original Sin is, in some sense, the reverse side of the Good News of Salvation for all in Christ. Original Sin is not something committed by those who follow Adam and Eve, but rather it is contracted. It accounts for the disorder and strife experienced in creation and damages the relationship of trust and communion humanity has with God.

While we live with the evil residue of a fallen nature and a fallen world, we believe that where sin abounds, grace abounds even more. Evil and sin will not have the final word. The final word is "spoken" by God in Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World, a light no darkness can extinguish. In Christ we are made a new creation, and in Christ we are raised up in love into that intimate communion with God from which we fell.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 299, 339–341, 355, 357, 404, 410, 411, 426

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 66–75

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 75–78, 96, 258, 263

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Prepare a space ahead of time with a circle of chairs around a table draped with a green cloth, a Bible, and a lighted candle.

Also prepare ahead of time index cards with one of the following Scripture references, or other quotes from this Sunday's readings, hymns, or prayers, written on each:

- ◆ I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.
- ◆ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers.
- ◆ I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word.
- ◆ We are not discouraged; although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
- ◆ If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.
- ◆ With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
- ◆ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

Discover

1. Begin by giving the index cards to participants. Invite each person with an index card to read his or her quote and follow with a short period of silence.
2. Invite participants to think about the quotation and the feelings it evokes, and then to share aloud any insights.

Deepen

1. Continue the discussion by pointing out that this week's Scripture readings recall many questions about our existence: *Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Why is there evil in the world and how did it get here?*
2. Proclaim 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1. Invite the participants to gather in small groups to reflect on this question: *What is it that keeps us from losing heart in the face of trials, evil, and suffering?* Encourage the groups to list their ideas.

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • June 9, 2024

3. Invite the small groups to share their insights with the larger group.

Pray

Invite the catechumens and candidates to bow or kneel as you pray Minor Exorcism 93A.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Sunday Word

Genesis 3:9-15

Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

Welcome

Welcome everyone who is present, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who join the group.

Engage

1. Invite a sponsor to proclaim the First Reading, Genesis 3:9-15.
2. After a brief period of silence, invite another sponsor to proclaim the Gospel, Mark 3:20-35.
3. Conclude by praying: *Loving God, you created humankind out of love, breathing into us your divine breath and making us in your image. Forgive us for the times we have broken this harmonious relationship by our choices, our actions, and our sins. Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who restores us to union with you. Amen.*

Explore

1. Invite a member of the team to briefly share his or her thoughts on the question: *Why do bad things happen to good people?* Invite large-group discussion and sharing of insights.

2. Highlight these points from the Genesis reading:

- The Genesis passage arose as the people of ancient Israel grappled with the reality of evil in a world that owed its existence to the Creator they knew to be good.
- God chose to create humankind with free will. This can be both a blessing and a curse.
- The result of the sin of Adam and Eve was that sin and evil were introduced into the world.

3. Using a daily newspaper or internet news source, indicate several consequences of Original Sin and misuse of free will for the participants. Invite them to share similar news stories and situations they are aware of from recent days.
4. Invite the large group to respond to this question: *Where do you find hope—signs of the original unity God intended for all of creation—in your daily experiences and encounters?* (You may wish to add examples of such from the news source you used in #3 above.)

Apply

1. Invite the participants to quietly consider what new insights they have regarding Original Sin and free will.
2. Continuing in small groups, ask them to discuss ideas about how they can use their free will to bring about more harmony and unity among people and with the planet.
3. Encourage each small group to share a few ideas with the larger group, and challenge the participants to incorporate one or more ideas into their daily living.

Pray

Conclude by praying the prayer on the front of the participant handout.