

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • June 23, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—JOB 38:1, 8-11

The Book of Job is part lamentation, part reasoned discourse. It addresses the problem of evil in the world, the suffering of the innocent, and the seemingly incomprehensible ways of God. While God does not exactly answer Job's questions, he does respond, inviting Job to consider things from a "God's-eye view." God truly is a friend to Job, more so than Job's human friends.

SECOND READING—2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-17

In this compact passage, Paul argues that the grace given us in Christ enables us to die to sinfulness and self-seeking and instead, rise with the Lord to behold an entirely new way of life.

GOSPEL—MARK 4:35-41

This is one of two storm episodes (see Mark 6:45-52). The disciples mistakenly think that Jesus does not care for their plight. The disciples have seen his care in his healings, and yet they do not understand. In this regard, they are much like Job's accusers.

Church Teaching

Only when we believers view the world with its allure and its brokenness from the vantage point of Christ and his life, ministry, suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension can we adequately grapple with the nature of evil. Even in the face of our own sufferings, disappointments, hurts, and frailties, we attest to the goodness and love of God, for we behold that Divine Providence in Christ himself.

Additional Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 312, 314, 324

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 5, especially pages 53–54

Compendium —Catechism of the Catholic Church: 42, 53, 54, 58

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, a candle, and a Lectionary opened to the twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B.

Discover

1. Invite everyone to reflect quietly on the liturgy just celebrated. Then invite them to share, with one or two others, their responses to the following questions:

How would you describe the mood of today's readings?

What word or phrase stays with you? Why?

How do you respond when bad things happen to good people?

2. Invite volunteers to share their responses with the large group.

Deepen

1. Proclaim the First Reading, Job 38:1, 8-11.
2. Highlight the following points.
 - Job questions why such bad things are happening to him and his family—the storm.
 - This Sunday's passage is part of God's response to Job.
 - It is God's word that sets the limits of the water.
 - Job continues to trust God no matter what happens to him.
3. Explore with the group:

What is the mood of the passage?

With whom would you like to share this message? Why?

4. Summarize the discussion.

Pray

Sing or play a recording of "Be Not Afraid," (Bob Dufford/OCP Publications).

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Sunday Word

Job 38:1, 8-11

Psalm 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Mark 4:35-41

Welcome

Welcome everyone who is present, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who join the group. Invite one or two people to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Engage

1. Invite volunteers to give examples of some of the storms of life we experience (for example, loss of a job, sudden illness, unexpected death, betrayal).
2. Ask the group:

What are we thinking and feeling as we go through such storms?

Where is God in the midst of such storms? What is God's role?

Explore

1. Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 4:35-41
2. Ask:

If you had been in the boat, what would have been your reaction to the storm? To Jesus sleeping through the storm? To Jesus calming the storm?

Did the disciples' reaction surprise you? Why or why not?

Did Jesus' reaction surprise you? Why or why not?
3. Continue the discussion, highlighting the following points:
 - Creation came into being by God's spoken Word. All of creation is a reflection of God. It shows God's great love and goodness.
 - God's power is shown through Jesus, who is able to calm the storm.

- Evil is very real, but God's power is stronger than evil, even though at times we doubt God's presence, much as the disciples did in the boat.
 - We know that sin exists in many varied forms, but through Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection, we are saved and set free.
 - Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Church, through the sacraments in particular, stands ready to help us be firm in our resistance to sin.
4. Highlight key points from the participant handout's Catholic Teaching: The Power of God. Also highlight the Key Terms and Voices of Faith.

Apply

1. Invite the participants to consider one situation in their lives in which they are challenged to believe in God's power rather than the world's way. Suggest that each catechumen/candidate and sponsor meet for coffee during the week to reflect on God's presence in the midst of the struggle.
2. Encourage the catechumens and candidates to complete these statements:

From the prayer, discussion, and study for this Sunday, I understand the Church's teaching to be...

I am challenged to live the message of this Sunday by...

Pray

Pray the Prayer of Exorcism from Minor Exorcisms, RCIA 94C.