

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Third Sunday of Easter • Year B • April 14, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter preaches to the people about the Risen Lord Jesus. Death has no power over him or the community established in his name that witnesses to him as Lord of life.

SECOND READING—1 JOHN 2:1-5A

The Cross of Christ prevents sin from gaining a foothold in our lives if we but remain faithful to his teachings and follow his command to love God and one another.

GOSPEL—LUKE 24:35-48

The Risen Lord appears to the disciples, who react at first with fear, thinking he is but a ghost. He is not. He is flesh and blood. He is their beloved Master and Guide, who shows them his hands and feet, which the nails had pierced.

Church Teaching: Share the Good News

Life is sometimes so momentous that we cannot bear it on our own. Sometimes we must share. We need an ear, an understanding brother or sister to lend us support, encouragement, sympathy, and empathy. What could be bigger or more important news than that of the Gospel? It is a profoundly life-changing message: the Lord Jesus Christ has been sent from God, his Father, to save us from sin and death. He loves us so much that he died for our sakes and opened for all people a new way of life that leads to happiness with God forever in Heaven.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 785, 863, 904

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 11 (The Four Marks of the Church), especially the section entitled “Make Disciples,” pages 135–137

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: Chapter 2

Sharing such Good News—being an evangelizer—does not necessarily mean that we must engage in or pursue extraordinary activity. That might be the case. On the other hand, we often share Good News (or evangelize) in “small” ways that are nonetheless world-changing in that our speech and actions consistently uphold the kingdom values of love, justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a white cloth, a blooming plant, a candle, and an open Bible or Lectionary.

Discover

1. Invite volunteers to share something wonderful and special that they have witnessed. Encourage them to describe the experience. What was it? Who was there? How did they feel?
2. Then ask:
What wonderful thing did the disciples witness in today's Gospel?
How do you think they felt? Why?

Deepen

1. Play a recording of, sing, or say the Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9.
2. Lead the children in a reflection based on the Responsorial Psalm. (Refer to page 3 for the text of the reflection.)

Pray

Invite the children to spend a few more minutes in quiet prayer, simply praying the prayers of their hearts. Conclude by inviting the children to say after you: *When I call, answer me; hear my prayer.*

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup and the participant handouts, you will need a flip chart or whiteboard, markers, and pencils or pens.

Sunday Word

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

1 John 2:1-5a

Luke 24:35-48

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Invite

1. Proclaim the Gospel, Luke 24:35-48.
2. Discuss what words or phrases stay with the children and what they hear as the message of the passage.

What do you think Luke meant by the words: "You are witnesses of these things"? (What things did the disciples witness?)

What things of our faith are you called to witness, or share with others?

With whom do you witness, or share your faith?

How do you witness, or share your faith with others?
3. Invite volunteers to share their responses to the following questions:

What do you think Luke meant by the words: "You are witnesses of these things"? (What things did the disciples witness?)

What things of our faith are you called to witness, or share with others?

With whom do you witness, or share your faith?

How do you witness, or share your faith with others?
4. Give the children and their sponsors time to discuss the following:

Is there ever a time when you fear or hesitate to witness, or share your faith with others? Why?

Is there anyone with whom you could witness, or share your faith this week?

Teach

1. Read and discuss Key Teachings from the participant handout. Highlight the following discussion points:
 - Good news is meant to be shared.
 - The word *gospel* means *good news*.
 - The Good News of the Gospel is that God so loved us that he sent his only Son Jesus to save us so we would be free from sin and gain life forever with God in Heaven.
 - Such Good News is a source of comfort and strength when we face tough times.
 - In Baptism, we become followers of Jesus Christ. His mission becomes our mission. That mission is to go out to the whole world and spread the Good News of Salvation to all.
 - We are to be evangelizers! Evangelizers spread the Good News.
 - Like Moses and the prophets, we are all a part of Salvation History—living witnesses of the all-loving and faithful God.
2. Brainstorm with the children some ways that we can be evangelizers—sharers of the Good News—in our everyday lives. List their suggestions on the board for use in the Challenge section of today's session.
3. Review with the children this week's Faith Words.

Challenge

Say to the children, "*You are a disciple. You can make a difference by being a witness to others, by being an evangelizer! How will you do that this week? How will you be Good News for others?*" Invite them to choose a way listed on the flip chart or whiteboard, or to come up with another idea for sharing the Good News this week. Then encourage them to write their choice(s) in the Good News box on their participant handout.

Pray

Celebrate the Rite of Anointing of the Catechumens (RCIA 98–103), or use the prayer from the participant handout.

Guided Reflection

Begin by singing or saying these or similar words: *When I call, answer me; hear my prayer.* Use the following, or similar questions, for the reflection.

Allow for some silence after each.

Is there a special place you go to pray?

Picture yourself in that place, or in another place you often pray.

Is there a special time you like to pray?

Picture yourself sitting in the quiet at that time of day.

[Sing or say:

When I call, answer me; hear my prayer.]

When you pray, what do you say to the Lord?

Talk to the Lord in the quiet of your heart right now.

When you pray, what do you hear the Lord say to you?

Sit in the quiet for a few minutes, and see what comes to your mind and heart.

[Sing or say again:

When I call, answer me; hear my prayer.]

When is it hard to trust that the Lord hears your prayers?

Talk to the Lord about what is hard for you right now.

Say this prayer over and over in the quiet of your heart:

Help me trust you, Jesus.

[Conclude by singing or saying again:

When I call, answer me; hear my prayer.]