

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • January 28, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

The legacy of Moses will endure, for God promises that he will continue to raise up a prophet to help guide the people.

SECOND READING—1 CORINTHIANS 7:32-35

Saint Paul instructs the Christian community to be free, if possible, of worldly ties such as marriage and to focus entirely on the Lord and his coming.

GOSPEL—MARK 1:21-28

The miracle that Jesus performs leads the people to see his teaching in a new light. His teaching, full of authority, effects healing.

Church Teaching: Jesus, the Best Teacher

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches in the synagogue and the people are amazed. Jesus' teaching is *new* in that it is effective. He teaches and his teaching heals. He heals and his healing teaches. His teaching is more than a specific content—for example, those teachings of Jesus contained in the Gospels. It is more than a series of lessons, parables, and preaching. The teaching of Jesus is composed of his entire life, his ministry among us: his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. He thereby powerfully teaches us that God loves us, reconciles us to himself, offers us a share in the divine life of the Holy Trinity, and proposes to us a model of holiness.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 427, 446, 461, 783

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 7 (The Good News: God Has Sent His Son), especially the section entitled "Doctrinal Statements," pages 85–86

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: pages 29 and 33

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

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

Discover

1. Invite the children to think about the liturgy just celebrated.
2. Ask volunteers to respond to the following questions:

What do you think today's psalm refrain means: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts"?

Whose voice should we listen to? Why?

Deepen

1. Lead a discussion about teachers using these or similar questions:
 - Who is one of your favorite teachers? Why?*
 - What makes a teacher a favorite teacher?*
 - Why should we listen to our teachers?*
 - Besides teachers in school, who else teaches us? (Be ready to suggest parents, coaches, piano teacher, and so on.)*
2. Proclaim the First Reading, Deuteronomy 18:15-20.
3. Highlight the following points:
 - Moses' role as God's spokesman was the role of a prophet.
 - God uses prophets to help the people make good choices.
 - There are many similarities between prophets and teachers. *(Both help us to grow. Both teach us to make good choices. It is important that we pay attention to both. Both want the best for us.)*

Pray

Invite the children to pray by name for their teachers, coaches, and all who help them to make good choices.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup, you will need the participant handouts, a flip chart or whiteboard and markers, and supplies for writing a note or drawing supplies (see Challenge #4).

Sunday Word

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

Welcome

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

Invite

1. Begin by again inviting volunteers to share the name of a favorite teacher, and what makes that person their favorite teacher.
2. Ask the children to help you make a list of the qualities of the favorite teachers named. Write these on the flip chart or whiteboard.
3. Challenge the children to name ways in which they, too, are teachers. (*Examples could include teaching a younger brother or sister how to bake cookies; helping a classmate with a project; showing a friend how to play a game; or doing a deed of love for a neighbor.*)

Teach

1. Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 1:21-28.
2. Invite the children to imagine and to share what they think Jesus might be teaching about in today's Gospel. Why do they think this?
3. Explore further the identity of Jesus as Teacher.
 - Point out that the Gospel says that Jesus taught as one having authority.
 - Ask whether anyone knows the meaning of the phrase "taught as one having authority."

- Invite volunteers to say something about teachers they know who teach with authority. Encourage them to think beyond the classroom. (*the pope, the pastor, parents, siblings, religion teachers, coaches, music teachers*)
4. Ask what else Jesus did to teach the people about the power of God in today's Gospel. (*He healed the man with the unclean spirit.*)
 5. Make the connection between teaching with words and teaching with actions. Point out that Jesus did both. (*All great teachers do both!*)
 6. Ask the children to name other lessons Jesus taught by words or by actions. List their responses on the flip chart or whiteboard.
 7. Review the list with the children. Ask whether there is anything on the list that we also can do as disciples of Jesus. (*love others, forgive others, feed others, listen to others, spread the Good News by telling others about God's love for them*)

Challenge

1. Invite each child to choose one way to teach by words and example in the coming week.
2. Distribute the writing or drawing supplies, and give the children time to write or draw their choices. Encourage them to take their work home as a reminder of their faith choice.

Key Teachings

Read and discuss Key Teachings from the participant handout.

Faith Words

Review with the children this week's Faith Words: *Sacred Scripture* and *Sacred Tradition*. Refer to the participant handout for definitions.

Pray

Invite the children to share their writings or drawings, and then pray the Prayer of Blessing 96B (RCIA) or celebrate an Anointing of the Catechumens (refer to RCIA 98–103).

In accord with the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby grant the *Imprimatur* ("Permission to Publish")

regarding the publication of *Young Apprentices: A Resource for the RCIA*.

Most Reverend Joseph R. Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop, Vicar General • Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio • December 3, 2014.

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