

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Divine Revelation in Christ

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

We can know God through his works.

- Every good and beautiful thing in this world has been created and is sustained by God, the Creator.
- Through our human intelligence that assesses the order and loveliness of creation, we deduce with certainty the existence of God (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 286).

God related to our first parents at the dawn of creation.

- Sacred Scripture names the first parents as “Adam” and “Eve.”
- Scripture uses figurative language to teach that humanity is created by God, and that sin entered the world at its creation through our first parents’ action (see CCC 390).

The completeness of God’s Revelation is found in Christ.

- The fourth Gospel rightly identifies Jesus Christ as the Eternal Word of God, Light of the world, and Savior (see CCC 65).
- God offers us in Christ his definitive, abundant, and loving Word (see CCC 68).

Why Is This Important?

After Christ there will be no further Revelation. He is the final Word from God. This Revelation is passed on through Sacred Scripture and Tradition and is authentically taught by the Apostles and their successors, the bishops. By faith and with many generations contemplating this message, humanity gradually grows in its understanding of the full significance of Jesus Christ.

*Any person questioning God
or desiring some vision or revelation
would be guilty not only of foolish behavior
but also of offending him, by not fixing his
eyes entirely upon Christ and by living
with the desire for some other novelty.*

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, *SUBIDA DEL MONTE CARMELO*

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs, and provide a focal point with a candle and a Bible. Provide name tags and have some refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet the participants as they arrive, and take time for introductions as the session begins. Then invite everyone to pray silently for the Spirit to open their mind and heart to God’s message.

Engage

Brainstorm ways we come to know someone and the characteristics of a significant relationship. Invite the group to read and reflect on the story in *Insight*. Ask the participants to share their response to the story and have them explore the *For Reflection* questions together. After a time of quiet reflection, invite participants to share with one or two other people.

Teach

1. Summarize or invite the group to read *Church Teaching*. Then discuss the following:
 - God is revealed through the works of creation.
 - God is revealed most fully through the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ.
2. Ask the participants how their relationship with God has grown, changed, and deepened during their life. What were the influences that helped to bring about the change?

Apply

Encourage the participants to complete these statements and share their thoughts:

*From the prayer, discussion, and study for this topic,
I understand the Church’s teaching to be . . .*

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

Pray

Invite the participants to quietly picture the people who have helped them come to know God. Then have the participants ask God to bless those people.