

# Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA  
Easter Sunday • Year B • April 8, 2012

## Catechist Preparation

### Scripture

**FIRST READING**—ACTS 10:34a, 37–43

In this passage, Peter proclaims the Good News—Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension. He proclaims this Good News emphasizing the real, physical nature of the Resurrection.

**SECOND READING**—COLOSSIANS 3:1–4  
OR 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6b–8

Both alternative selections for the epistle reading declare that the resurrection provides believers the grounding for their new life in Christ.

**GOSPEL READING**—JOHN 20:1–9

A key element in this account is the role of the beloved disciple. He outruns Peter to the tomb, yet allows Peter (the “head” of the Apostles) to enter first. The figures of Peter and the beloved disciple are not in competition with one another. But it is the latter who comes more quickly to discern and to believe that Jesus is risen.

### Church Teaching

The empty tomb, significant as it is, is not the only basis for Christian belief in the resurrection of Jesus. The grave could have been robbed of its corpse, as Mary initially assumes.

John's account, like the other Gospels, shows that the disciples do not expect the Resurrection, are surprised by it and find it hard to believe until the Risen Lord himself appears to them. Our own faith in Christ's resurrection rests upon their witness to it and upon its saving effect in our own lives.

### Additional Background

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** 640, 642, 645

**United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:** pages 94–96

**Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church:** 126–129

## Dismissal Session

*(Approximately 20 minutes)*

Set space with chairs in a circle. On a small table place a white cloth, a white candle and an item that reflects the environment of the church (a spring flower, etc.).

### Discover

1. Invite them to share what they observed as they entered the church on this Easter Sunday. Then ask the following questions, and invite the group to reflect on them quietly before sharing their responses with one or two other people:  
*What did you see or hear in the Liturgy of the Word?*  
*What word, phrase, or image from the readings stays with you?*
2. Invite several participants to share their reflection with the large group. With the whole group, continue with the following question:

### Deepen

1. Proclaim the Gospel John 20:1–9. Encourage them to put themselves in the place of Mary of Magdala:  
*How would they responded to the empty tomb?*  
*To whom would they go to tell about the empty tomb?*  
*Why?*
2. Then, encourage them to put themselves in the place of Peter and the other disciple:  
*How would they have responded to the empty tomb?*  
*What would have been your concern or fear and hope?*

### Pray

Use a musical setting of today's Psalm: “This is the day that Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

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## Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

### Scripture

Acts 10:34a, 37–43

Psalms 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23

Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8

John 20:1–9

### Welcome

Welcome everyone who is present, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who join the group. Begin with a discussion of their memories of Easter. Explore what they already know of the meaning of Easter.

### Engage

1. Proclaim the First Reading Acts 10:34a, 37–43. Then discuss what St. Peter proclaims about Jesus' life.
2. Ask the group:
  - ◆ *What is the message for Easter?*
  - ◆ *Who would be challenged by this message and why?*
  - ◆ *Who would be consoled by this message and why?*

### Explore

1. Discuss the Gospel message about Easter using the following points:
  - ◆ Jesus has conquered sin and death forever just as he foretold.
  - ◆ We are called to believe in the Resurrection as the mystery of God's love.
  - ◆ The Resurrection is a real event; it is foundational to our faith in the Paschal Mystery.

- ◆ Jesus' appears to the disciples to eat and drink with them to prove the resurrection of his body.
  - ◆ In his resurrection, we come to know more fully the promise of eternal life.
2. Highlight key points from participants' Church Teaching: The Resurrection of Christ. Also highlight the Key Terms and Voices of Faith.

### Apply

1. 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 . . .*

2. The whole of the Easter season is a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. We are called to sing "Alleluia, He is Risen!" Invite the catechumen/candidate and their sponsors to think of a ways that they will celebrate these 50 days of Easter.

### Pray

Pray the Apostles' Creed.