

Inquiry Session Features

Catechist Resource

Prepare

Presents suggestions for setting the environment and providing appropriate materials for the session.

Gather

Offers steps to welcome the participants, lead a brief sharing, and invite the inquirers to reflect on their own life experience.

Expand

Helps the catechist build on the life experience of the participants and explore specific aspects of the Good News.

Reflect and Share

Offers the catechist various steps to help the participants choose ways to respond to the Good News.

Pray

Provides a prayer text or outlines a specific prayer experience to conclude the Inquiry session.

Inquiry Session: Community CATECHIST

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA

Inquiry Session
(Approximately 60 minutes)

➔ **Prepare**
Set the space and provide a focal point with a candle and a Bible, marking the Scripture citations noted in the participant materials. Provide name tags, and have some refreshments available. If the group is larger than five or six people, guide the participants to share in smaller groups.

➔ **Gather**
1. Greet the participants as they arrive, and take time for introductions as the session begins. Survey the group to see how everyone is doing. Ask if anyone has any questions, then invite them to share, in small groups, any experiences of prayer, worship, or God they have had since the last session.
2. Provide time for the group to read *Reflect on Your Experience*. Create a written list of groups and memberships to which everyone present belongs. Offer your own input, and ask the participants to share other groups or memberships to add to the list. Discuss some of the benefits of belonging to particular groups.

➔ **Expand**
1. Read and discuss *Hear the Good News About Community*. Include the following points in your conversation:
• Church is a community.
• Church is a group to which we freely choose to belong.
• Church is the place where Jesus' saving action is mediated.
• The Spirit dwells within the Church.

➔ **Reflect and Share**
Invite the group to read *Respond Through Action and Witness to the Gospel*. Discuss the following:
• The struggle to become less selfish—to work for the common good of all
• The challenge to use our gifts to share the good news of Jesus with others
• Times we might push others away. Why might we make that choice?
• Times we join with others. What might cause us to make that choice?
• Saint Catherine of Siena's gift to the community

Pray
Take a few minutes to look over the list of groups to which people belong that you created with the participants. Then invite each person to give thanks to God, in the silence of their heart, for the many blessings mediated through the groups. Play or sing a song about the Church, the Body of Christ.

Inquiry Session: Community
CATECHIST

RCL+ Benziger

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