

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C • July 20, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—GENESIS 18:1-10A

Stories such as this one, in which an act of hospitality turns out to be an encounter with a divine figure, were rather commonplace in the culture of the day. However, the author of Genesis skillfully weaves this story into a larger framework to reveal God's commitment to the Covenant with Abraham.

SECOND READING—COLOSSIANS 1:24-28

Saint Paul's divine commission was to preach "the mystery hidden from ages and from generations" (Colossians 1:26). Salvation is presented here as a result of accepting the preached word.

GOSPEL—LUKE 10:38-42

This reading can be seen as a second illustration given by Luke to explain the meaning of the Great Commandment of Jesus to love God and neighbor. Active compassion for one's neighbor (Good Samaritan parable) and receptive hearing of the Word of God (this passage) are each highlighted as ways of fulfilling that Commandment of Christ.

Church Teaching

The message of God contained in Sacred Scripture can be life-changing. The biblical narrative opens for us a window into God's Revelation. God's self-disclosure invites us into an encounter with God, so that we might be saved through Christ, his Son. This saving relationship requires our acceptance in faith. Guided by and nurtured in the Church, that relationship matures as the believer continues to reflect on the Good News.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 53, 101-141

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 79-80

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 18-24

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

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

Discover

1. Invite the participants to reflect quietly for one to two minutes on the liturgy just celebrated and then share with one or two people their responses to these questions:

What did you hear or see in the Liturgy of the Word?

In what way are you like Martha in the Gospel?

How and when?

In what way are you like Mary? How and when?

2. Encourage several volunteers to share their reflections.

Deepen

1. Proclaim the First Reading (Genesis 18:1-10a).
2. Explore with the group the following features of the reading:
 - The lavish hospitality offered by Abraham
 - The promise made to Abraham and Sarah because of their generosity to the visitors
 - The significance of the promise of progeny for this couple in their old age
3. Invite the group to ponder the following insight: We do not always know to whom we are offering hospitality when we welcome "the stranger."
4. If anyone has had an experience of being blessed because of welcoming a stranger, invite that person to share it with the group.

Pray

Sing the Responsorial Psalm from today's liturgy (Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 5) or have everyone sing the response and one person read the verses.

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Readings

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15:2-5
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

Welcome

Welcome everyone, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who join the group. Invite one or two people to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Engage

1. Proclaim the Gospel (Luke 10:38-42).
2. Discuss the two activities: serving and listening. Ask the participants:
What does each activity involve?
What does each proclaim about the role of the disciple?
Why is it sometimes hard to listen well to another person?
What do you understand to be Jesus' expectation of those who will follow him?
3. After some discussion, ask the participants to share with one other person their responses to the following questions:
Which activity—serving or listening—would be easier for you to embrace? Why and in what circumstances?
How does the Gospel challenge your assumptions about which of these is better than the other?
4. Invite volunteers to offer some insights from their sharing with the large group.

Explore

1. Offer a brief presentation including the following points:
 - We are called to be hearers and doers of the Word.

- Christ is the Word of God (reference John 1:1-18).
 - Sacred Scripture is the living Word of God; it is not a story “about” God.
 - The Word of God proclaimed in the liturgy provides guidance, direction, encouragement, and support to the hearers. It is a source of inspiration for the disciple.
 - The book containing the Word of God is the Bible, and the books containing the readings proclaimed at liturgy are the Lectionary and the Book of the Gospels.
 - The Book of the Gospels is revered during the liturgy.
2. Invite questions and ask for examples of how the participants read God’s Word and reverence the Sacred Scriptures in their homes.
 3. Highlight key points from **Church Teaching: Hearers of the Word**. Also highlight the **Key Terms** and **Voices of Faith** sections.

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. Explain the dialogue and gesture (sign of the cross on forehead, lips, and heart) used prior to the proclamation of the Gospel, and the role of the deacon in proclaiming the Gospel. Encourage the catechumens and candidates to practice the dialogue and the gesture and internalize its meaning.

Pray

Pray together the prayer from the participant page.