

# Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C • July 27, 2025

## Catechist Preparation

### Scripture

**FIRST READING**—GENESIS 18:20-32

Abraham walks with the Lord, a privileged position Adam lost by his sin and which, by virtue of God's promise, Abraham is accorded. Abraham is not presuming to be God's equal, nor is he attempting to change God's mind. He is trying to understand the mind and will of God and whether God's justice would permit the just to perish with the wicked.

**SECOND READING**—COLOSSIANS 2:12-14

This reading is taken from the last part of the teaching section of the letter. The author deals with erroneous notions being spread in the Christian community regarding the imposition of Mosaic Law on Gentile converts (dietary restrictions and circumcision).

**GOSPEL**—LUKE 11:1-13

Scholars have identified the significance of Jesus teaching his disciples to address God as *Abba*, a term of intimacy similar to our "daddy." It reveals the intense filial relationship between Jesus and his Father, a relationship into which we are invited by Christ.

### Church Teaching

From the beginning, the text of the Lord's Prayer has not only been revered but prayed as a gift from Christ to the members of his Body, the Church. It is truly the prayer of the Church community.

Even when spoken alone by an individual believer, this prayer on the lips of Jesus' followers refers the believer to the larger community of the Church. In that instance, one's singular voice offers petitions on behalf of *all* the members.

### Additional Background

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** 2761–2766

**United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:** pages 481–483

**Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church:** 578–579

## Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

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

### Discover

1. Ask the participants to listen and reflect as you speak some of the words and phrases found in today's readings. Read them slowly and distinctly, and allow a pause between each one.
  - Suppose there were fifty innocent people
  - Lord, teach us to pray
  - Persistence of the friend in need
  - Ask
  - Seek
  - Knock
2. Invite everyone to choose the word or phrase that stays with them and to speak it aloud.

[NOTE: If the Rite for the Handing On of the Lord's Prayer was celebrated in this Liturgy (see OCIA 104–105, 178–183), invite the participants to say what touched them, and what this ritual said to them about discipleship and the Church.]

### Deepen

Lead a discussion using the following questions:

*What insight about God is found in the First Reading?*

*What insight about Abraham is also found?*

*What does the dialogue between God and Abraham tell us about their relationship?*

*In what way does it help us to understand God's desire to be in relationship with us as well as how we can approach God in our needs?*

*What did you hear as a message for us today?*

*Who would be consoled with the words of today's First Reading? Why?*

*Who would be challenged with the words of this reading? Why?*

### Pray

Pray the Responsorial Psalm from today's Liturgy (Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8), or sing one of the hymns sung at Mass.

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## Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

### Readings

Genesis 18:20-32  
Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8  
Colossians 2:12-14  
Luke 11:1-13

### Welcome

Welcome everyone who is present, 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. Gather the participants in small groups. Begin a discussion of prayer by inviting them to reflect on their own experiences of praying. Ask them to recall quietly and then respond aloud in their small groups to these or similar questions:

*When do you pray?*

*How do you pray?*

*Who taught you to pray?*

*What do you pray for or about?*

2. Proclaim the Gospel (Luke 11:1-13). Using these or similar questions, ask the participants to reflect on the disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray:

*What had the disciples observed about prayer in general?*

*What had they observed about Jesus and prayer?*

### Explore

1. Hand out copies of the Lord's Prayer, so that everyone will have the text in front of them. Introduce a discussion of the Lord's Prayer by explaining the following:
  - The Our Father, or Lord's Prayer, is the premier prayer of Christians.

- Jesus taught us this prayer.
  - The Lord's Prayer summarizes the whole of the Sermon on the Mount.
  - The Church prays the Lord's Prayer on numerous occasions: at Mass, in the Liturgy of the Hours, in celebrations of the sacraments, in devotions such as the Rosary, and so forth.
2. Draw the participants' attention to the text of the Lord's Prayer itself, noting the following:
    - The prayer begins with the praise of God.
    - There are five petitions (thy kingdom come; thy will be done; give us our daily bread; forgive us our sins as we forgive others; do not subject us to the final test).
  3. Allow some time for questions and discussion, then ask the participants to focus on a word or phrase of their choosing. Have them share in small groups what that word or phrase means to them, and its relevance in today's world.
  4. Highlight key points from ***Church Teaching: The Lord's Prayer Summarizes the Gospel***. 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. Encourage the catechumens and candidates, if they have not already done so, to commit the Lord's Prayer to memory. Also encourage them to pray it daily during the coming week.

### Pray

Invite the participants to recall all the insights they have shared and heard today, and to silently ask God to open their hearts to a deeper appreciation of the Lord's Prayer. Then pray aloud the Lord's Prayer.