

Inquiry Session: Faith

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

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 whether 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 quiet reflection on **Reflect on Your Experience** before asking all present to share with another person. Then collect some feedback from the participants about things we accept through faith, why that is so, and how they would describe the faith of Christians.

Expand

1. Read and discuss **Hear the Good News About Faith**. Include the following points in your conversation:
 - Faith can be defined as a relationship—the relationship each of us has with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
 - The word *gospel* means “good news.”
2. Read aloud each Scripture passage, following with a moment of silent reflection. Then discuss each passage using these or similar questions:

What message do you hear in the passage?

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God? About God the Father?

Reflect and Share

1. Invite small groups to read **Respond Through Action** and **Witness to the Gospel** and discuss the following:

How might faith be defined?

What does it mean to place your trust and faith in Jesus?

What are some “voices” in the world that are contrary to the Gospel?

What voices do you choose to listen to and why?

What will it mean for you to embrace Christ and the Gospel?

Who are people you know who give witness to the Gospel?

What insights have you gained about faith? What questions still remain?

2. Encourage the participants to share some points made in their small-group discussion with the larger group. Summarize their thoughts and make a list of any questions that remain.

Pray

Good and gracious God, Father of all, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Open our minds and hearts to be ready to grow in our relationship with him. And may we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, become great witnesses to the Good News. Amen.