

Inquiry Session: God

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 the participants to share their responses with one other person. After some time, collect feedback from the group about what was shared.
3. Encourage several volunteers to share about a good friend of theirs. Ask them to include who it is, when and how they became friends, and how they maintain their friendship through the years.

Expand

1. Read and discuss **Hear the Good News About God**. Ask the participants to think of various adjectives and qualities, or attributes, that they use to talk about God. Encourage them to identify what each one reveals to us about God.
2. Discuss the meaning of *Covenant* as found in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Share the stories of creation, Noah and the flood,

Abraham, Moses, and the Covenant with Israel. Ask the participants to share their insights about what these Scriptures tell us about who God is and how God reveals himself to us.

3. Read aloud each Scripture passage in **Read the Word of God**, 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 God the Father?

Reflect and Share

1. Invite the group to read **Respond Through Action** and **Witness to the Gospel**. Give the participants a few moments to consider their responses to the **For Reflection** questions. Then ask volunteers to share their reflections. Discuss the importance of pausing throughout the day to reflect on the reality that we are always in the presence of God.
2. Encourage the participants to look at the parish bulletin and identify the various opportunities offered by the Church that can help them grow in their relationship with God.

Pray

Invite the participants to close their eyes and to talk to God in their own words, thanking him for the many blessings that he has given them and asking him for help in the coming days. After a few minutes, conclude the prayer aloud by praying: *God, you know us. You know our minds and our hearts. Thank you for choosing to be in relationship with us. Help us to never take that presence for granted. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*