

Inquiry Session: God

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Reflect on Your Experience

Think about all the people you interact with routinely. Include those whom you know well and those whom you know less well.

For Reflection . . .

How do people reveal to one another who they truly are?

Hear the Good News About God

God is Almighty. He is our Creator. He is sublime mystery, the supreme being, impenetrable, divine, far beyond us. God is loving goodness, the one who invites us, his creatures, into relationship with him through his Son, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit.

This loving initiative by God the Father enables us to become sharers in his divine nature. God wants us to become his adopted children, his sons and daughters, through his Only Begotten Son, Jesus. The revelation of this plan lays the groundwork so that we might take hold of this offer and respond. We *can* come to know and love God so that our lives might be ordered to our proper goal, which is communion with him.

God has revealed himself in stages, so that humanity might gradually come to know him and understand his plan. The stages are original creation, the relationship of God to our first parents; the Covenant with Noah after the flood; the choice of Abraham, our father in faith; the old Covenant with the Chosen People, with Israel; and the new and everlasting Covenant established in Jesus Christ.

Read the Word of God

Ephesians 1:9; 2:18

(The will of God in revealing himself to us)

Deuteronomy 28:9-10

(Israel, the first to hear the word of God)

Hebrews 1:1-2

(God speaks through his Son.)

Respond Through Action

A chance encounter between two people can sometimes lead to a much more significant relationship. For it to do so, it requires intentionality and work on the part of both people in order to sustain and deepen that relationship. Sometimes other friends also help mediate between two people to assist and nurture a new relationship.

For Reflection . . .

What inner and outer resources must you commit in order to explore a deeper relationship with God? Who and what can help you come to know God better?

Witness to the Gospel

SAUL OF TARSUS / SAINT PAUL

Saul of Tarsus is described in the Acts of the Apostles as a persecutor of Christians. God, however, had other plans for Saul. On the way to Damascus, Saul received a special Revelation, underwent a conversion, began using his Roman name, and was baptized by Ananias, who helped Paul understand the good news of Salvation. Paul went on to preach throughout the Mediterranean, establishing and supporting many communities of believers. The feast day celebrating his conversion is January 25. The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, is celebrated on June 29.