



The Community of

DISCIPLES

Session Background

Purpose

Every one of us is called to be a disciple of Jesus and join in the Tradition of the Church. Young people will learn that Jesus has a challenging message for his disciples, and that message has continued to be communicated through the whole community of disciples, Church leaders, the Scriptures, and official Church teachings.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ recognize that they are called as individuals to follow Jesus.
- ▶ learn that disciples are called to know and follow Church teaching.
- ▶ consider the unique spiritualities and schools of prayer within the Church.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 2644, 2684, and 2693.

People learn more by who we are than what we say. Therefore, the joyful living out of our discipleship is one of the most important aspects of catechesis.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 40

Catechist Formation

The word *disciple* comes from the same root word as *discipline*. In Christian terms, discipleship means engaging in the lifelong process of conforming our wills to the will of Jesus Christ. People today have a hard time with conforming their wills because society tends to promote the belief that freedom will lead to happiness and that freedom means that we can make any choice we want.

For Jesus, freedom and happiness were found in doing the will of his heavenly Father. Jesus lived a completely free life, yet it was a life of total obedience to God. Anyone who wants to be his disciple must strive to do the same



In what way has your commitment to being a disciple of Christ made you a freer person?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, my teacher, help me to know and love you and to be a faithful disciple. Be with me as I try to convey the importance of your message to these young people and encourage them to make a commitment to following you. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents want to belong and be part of something bigger than themselves. They are looking for ways to make a difference. Belonging to and participating in a parish community assists these young disciples in hearing the message of Jesus and finding out ways to live that message every day.
- ▶ Young adolescents are discovering their unique talents and making commitments to activities that are challenging and helping them grow. You have the opportunity to inspire youth and present discipleship as challenging and uniquely rewarding so that they will invest themselves and their energy in this adventure!

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE how challenges help us to grow.

READ about Hannah, **PAGES 2–3**.

REFLECT on the story.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

READ **A SURPRISE INVITATION** on **PAGE 4**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY on leaders and their messages.

READ **DECISIONS TO MAKE** on **PAGE 5**.

REFLECT on ways to follow Jesus' example.

EXTEND THE SESSION using the **FAITH WALK** on **PAGE 5** and looking at Jesus' challenging messages, add 15 minutes.

PRESENT key points about the Apostles and Church teaching, **PAGES 6–7**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY on the strength of community.

READ **DISCIPLES IN THE CHURCH TODAY** on **PAGE 8**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by exploring how youth make a difference, add 10 minutes

PRESENT summary of key ideas using **CATHOLICS BELIEVE**, **PAGE 9**.

REFLECT on the personal call to discipleship.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

READ the **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 10**.

REFLECT on the qualities of a contemporary disciple.

EXTEND THE SESSION with the **PEOPLE OF FAITH** feature, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 1** in *The Church Faith Booklet*
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle. (Review the cautionary statement on candles on **PAGE 14**.)
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other preparation work needed.

Supplies Needed

- *The Church Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- Bibles—preferably one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- ten pencils, bundled together with a rubber band (these will be broken during the session)
- a 100-sheet notebook (this could end up being ripped)
- copies of **Resource 1**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will share something challenging that you have done that has had a positive impact on your life. 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, within the *Who Are We Following* activity, you will share briefly about a person that you follow and the challenging message they have communicated to you. 2 minutes



THE CHURCH

Is Catholic

Session Background

Purpose

The Catholic Church is universal, reaching out to all people in every age. This session helps young people understand how they can evangelize within their own community and how they can support missionaries who spread the Word of God throughout the world.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ understand that the Catholic Church is universal.
- ▶ explore their role as an evangelizer.
- ▶ recognize the importance of supporting the missions through prayer and sacrifice.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 849, 851, 854, 856, and 868.

The new evangelization calls us forth to share the Good News with all the people of the earth while also respecting their various cultures. We are called to evangelize culture as well as individuals.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 46–47

Catechist Formation

Evangelization is a concept that seems a little foreign to many contemporary Catholics. However, we do believe in proclaiming the Good News, clearly asserting our beliefs and values in the decisions we make and the way we live our lives, and inviting others to join our Church. Our goal is to evangelize through the virtue of our actions and the consistency of our message. We seek to transform the world into a place where people respond to God's reign of justice, where the dignity of all people is respected and affirmed. This call to transform the world is accomplished, in part, by missionaries who serve people throughout the world in Jesus' name. Our support for their work is one way that we proclaim the Good News.

 *How do you help fulfill the Church's mission of evangelization?*



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, my teacher, you command us to go and make disciples throughout the world. Help me to encourage the young people to be courageous witnesses to your presence in their lives. Give me your words and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I pray. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents may feel insecure about sharing their faith with peers. As you teach this session, help youth to be in touch with their beliefs and their questions.
- ▶ Many young adolescents are interested in learning about people whose lives are different from their own. We can use this natural curiosity to help them recognize the importance of the Church's work throughout the world and the ways that our differences bring richness to our Catholic faith.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

READ about Carly, **PAGES 12–13**.

REFLECT and discuss the story.

SHARE about witnessing to your faith.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

PRESENT about our call to share the faith.

READ **EVANGELISTS** on **PAGE 14**.

PRESENT insights into being an evangelist.

READ **AN URGENT MANDATE** on **PAGE 15**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY Evangelizing by Words and Actions.

EXTEND THE SESSION with learning how to talk about God, add 10 minutes.

PRESENT a summary from **MEANT FOR EVERYONE**, **PAGES 16–17**.

SHARE experiences of participating in another culture.

EXTEND THE SESSION with a speaker about another culture, add 20 minutes.

READ **MISSIONARY CHURCH**, **PAGE 18** and review the chart on **PAGE 19**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY about The Work of Missionaries, using **Resource 2**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with Supporting the Missions, add 15 minutes.

PRESENT a summary of **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 19**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

REFLECT on action steps from the session.

READ **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 20**.

REFLECT on the qualities of an evangelist.

EXTEND THE SESSION with **PEOPLE OF FAITH** on **PAGE 21**, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 2** in *The Church Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with symbols from many different cultures. Consider woven cloths, crosses from foreign lands, and icons. Be sure to include a Bible, candle, and cross, with matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.
- ▶ For the **FAITH WALK**—Evangelizing by Words and Actions, you will need an even number of small groups. Create a newsprint sheet for each group. Alternate the headings on the newsprint, using the following: *Preaching the Gospel through Words*, *Preaching the Gospel through Actions*.

Also prepare one newsprint sheet with the quote from Saint Francis of Assisi: *Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.*

Supplies Needed

- *The Church Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- copies of **Resource 2**—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- sheets of paper (8½ x 11)—two per participant
- pens or pencils
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other supplies needed.

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will talk about a time when you shared your religious beliefs even when you were nervous about doing so. 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about your experience of a symbol or prayer experience of another culture. 2 minutes



The Body of CHRIST

Session Background

Purpose

Young people will learn the importance of using their personal gifts for the good of the Church and to help others learn about Jesus. They will also recognize the mandate to be Christ's hands, feet, and voice in the world today.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ understand the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, with Jesus as the head.
- ▶ recognize that all the members of the Church need to work together to accomplish Christ's mission.
- ▶ reflect on their own personal gifts and how they can use them for others.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 779, 805, 806, and 807.

"[Evangelization with adolescents] invites young people personally into the life and mission of the Catholic community so that they may experience the support, nurture, and care necessary to live as Christians..."

—*Renewing the Vision*, page 37

Catechist Formation

For Catholics, community is central to our understanding of who God is and who we are in relationship to him. To belong, we consider one another as we seek what is good for the whole community. In belonging to the Church, we belong to the Mystical Body of Christ. Each of us is created for union with God, our one true source of happiness. The Church is the path Jesus has given us for fulfilling that sacred destiny. Our shared faith is communal by nature, which is demonstrated in our core belief in the Holy Trinity and other mysteries of our faith, our sacramental theology, and our understanding of salvation. To be Catholic is to experience the Trinity through the community and for the community to experience Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through each individual.

How has your membership in the Church been both a challenge and a source of blessing for you?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, my companion, you know what it is like to be human. You have blessed me with community by calling me to be a member of your Church. Help me to be a good and faithful companion for those I serve by loving them in your name. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Belonging is very important to young adolescents. Often, they experience belonging as a pressure to conform to group norms. Connect their experience of belonging to groups with the call to belong to Church.
- ▶ Young adolescents are in the process of discovering and developing their gifts. They should be able to see that they already have gifts that they can use for others, and that there are other gifts that they will discover as they mature. Help youth name and claim their gifts so they can see ways to share with others.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

REFLECT on involvement with groups.

READ about the band, **PAGES 22–23**.

REFLECT on groups with the questions on **PAGE 23**.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

READ VISIBLE AND SPIRITUAL on **PAGES 24–25**.

PRESENT a summary of visible and spiritual dimensions of Church.

EXTEND THE SESSION with People of God and Body of Christ, add 15 minutes.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY on the importance of working together.

READ ONE BODY, MANY MEMBERS on **PAGE 26**.

REFLECT on the importance of everyone contributing their gifts.

READ MANY GIFTS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL on **PAGE 27**.

SHARE about using your gifts.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY on recognizing our gifts using **Resource 3**.

PRESENT our call to serve those in need, summarizing **PAGE 28**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by using the Corporal Works of Mercy chart on **PAGE 28**, add 20 minutes.

PRESENT CATHOLICS BELIEVE on **PAGE 28**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

READ the **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 29**.

REFLECT on **LIVE OUR FAITH** ideas.

PRESENT ideas about the **WHAT ABOUT IT?** questions.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reflecting on How the Church Is the Body of Christ, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 3** in *The Church Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify two young adolescents to help with prayer by proclaiming two Scripture passages.
- ▶ Prepare index cards with the following words on them. You will need one card for every four to six participants for the Machine Mimes activity. Make as many as you need for the size of your group.

Toaster	Gumball machine
Lawn mower	Vacuum cleaner
Blender	Washing machine
Grandfather clock	Hedge trimmer
Piano	Bread machine
Mixer	Computer

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other preparation work needed.

Supplies Needed

- *The Church Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- copies of **Resource 3**—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- sheets of paper (8½ x 11)—two per participant
- pens or pencils
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about gifts that you have and how you use those gifts within the Church. 2 minutes



SOURCE of Life

Session Background

Purpose

Jesus is our Savior. He died for our sins and rose to new life so that we may share in his divinity. This session helps young people understand the importance of salvation and the role of the Church to whom God has entrusted the fullness of truth.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ understand the importance of Jesus' gift of salvation.
- ▶ recognize the Church's role in mediating salvation.
- ▶ participate in and learn about different prayer types.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 45, 183, 620, 747, 780, 846, 847, 849, 851, 1277, 1283, 1414, 1475, 1477, 1478, 1498, 2458, 2591, 2721, 2744, 2754, and 2799.

While we respect other religious traditions, it is important for Catholics to understand and consistently proclaim our belief in Jesus Christ as the one true source of salvation. Our catechesis must clearly reflect this belief.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 25

Catechist Formation

What does salvation mean? When Jesus died on the cross, he did so to save us from our own sinfulness. Through his death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus made it possible for our relationship with the Father to be restored. To call Jesus "Savior" is to acknowledge his death on the cross for our sins. Jesus redeemed us. Salvation is mediated through the Church, which is the Body of Christ here on earth. It is through the Sacrament of Baptism that we are born into new life in Christ. This understanding of Jesus' role as Savior and the role of the Church in mediating salvation is fundamental to our understanding of faith. The gift of salvation demands that we live holy lives in response.



How is your life holy in your everyday choices and decisions?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, I have called you Savior many times. Help me remember the sacrifice of your death on the cross that brings me salvation today. Help me to communicate the depth of this gift to young people, I pray in your name. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ This session deals with salvation in ways that may be new to the young adolescent. Because they are growing into their ability to think abstractly, young people will need your help in making the connections between their everyday world and these larger realities.
- ▶ Younger adolescents may have limited experience with different prayer forms. Their personal experience will only be as broad as their experience with prayer in their families and parish. Exposure to different styles of prayer can be both interesting and awkward for them. Be clear and patient as you help youth discover new ways to pray.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

READ about Monica and Eliza, **PAGES 30–31**.

REFLECT on the story of Monica and Eliza.

SHARE a story of speaking about faith with other Christians.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

PRESENT an introduction of our understanding of salvation.

READ **THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE** and the first paragraph of **IT'S OUR CHOICE** on **PAGE 32**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY about making choices.

READ **FAITH AND BAPTISM**, **PAGES 32–33**.

REFLECT on key elements of salvation.

PRESENT a summary of **COMMUNION WITH GOD** on **PAGES 34–35**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reflecting on *What Would Jesus Say?*, add 20 minutes.

REFLECT on prayer.

READ the first three paragraphs of **THE CHURCH PRAYS** on **PAGE 36**.

PRESENT the three different traditions of prayer on **PAGE 37**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with a Guided Meditation, add 15 minutes.

READ the final two paragraphs about prayer on **PAGES 36–37**.

SHARE about your prayer life.

REFLECT on questions about prayer.

PRESENT a summary of key ideas and read **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 37**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

REFLECT on “prayer experts” known to participants.

READ the **LIVE OUR FAITH** and **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** on **PAGE 38**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with **PEOPLE OF FAITH**, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 4** in *The Church Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

Supplies Needed

- *The Church Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- glue sticks
- construction paper
- magazines—one per participant (these will be cut up)
- instrumental music
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will be asked to share a story of when you have been asked about your faith by another Christian. 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will talk about your own prayer life—ways to pray that work for you and some challenges you have faced. 2 minutes



THE CHURCH

Is Apostolic

Session Background

Purpose

The Church was begun by Jesus who chose Peter and the Apostles to carry on his mission on earth. This session helps young people understand the importance of apostolic succession and the role of the clergy within the Catholic Church.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ recognize the importance of tradition in their own lives and in the life of the Church.
- ▶ understand apostolic succession and the role of the Magisterium.
- ▶ explore the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the roles of bishop, priest, and deacon.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 96, 665, 869, 870, 935, 936, 1209, 1536, 1593-1596, 2050, and 2051.

An important faith theme for younger adolescents is “understanding the origins of the Church in Jesus Christ and understanding and experiencing the history of the Church and its mission.”

—*Renewing the Vision*, page 31

Catechist Formation

Imagine the emotions of the Apostles on that hill outside Jerusalem after Jesus’ Ascension into heaven. They had lived with Jesus, watched him die, witnessed his presence after the Resurrection, and now he had returned to the Father. Not knowing what else to do, the Apostles went back to the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer. Then the Holy Spirit came upon them on Pentecost, and the fearful, timid Apostles suddenly became lions of the faith, proclaiming the Gospel to everyone they met, and setting out on the bold-est of missions given to them by Jesus himself—to establish Christ’s Church on earth.

As bold as they were, these men were no doubt still afraid. But their passion for the Gospel outweighed their fear, and, as a result, the gift of Christian faith was handed down through the centuries. Their faith is ours today.



How has the Holy Spirit given you the courage to speak your faith? What have been the fruits of your efforts?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles overcame their fears to spread the Church that has brought me to you. Help me to follow their example and to share our relationship with the young people in my care. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Younger adolescents are beginning to discern patterns of growth in their personal histories. Frame history as the story of our roots, our Catholic ancestors. Share good stories, and history will come alive.
- ▶ Often young people have special traditions that they cherish for the way that these patterns help them celebrate relationships with family, friends, and classmates. In this session, make the connection between the patterns in our lives and the traditions of our Church.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE an important tradition in your life.

READ about family traditions, **PAGE 40**.

REFLECT on family traditions.

READ about school traditions on **PAGE 41**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY about school traditions.

READ about and discuss national traditions on **PAGE 41**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reflecting on the meaning of the word “tradition,” add 10 minutes.

REFLECT on the importance of tradition.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

READ about apostolic succession on **PAGES 42–43**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY about the qualities of an Apostle, **PAGE 43**.

READ about **TEACHING FROM THE APOSTLES** on **PAGE 44**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reflecting on the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, add 20 minutes.

PRESENT key ideas about **THE WORK OF THE APOSTLES** on **PAGES 46–47**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY highlighting roles of bishop, priest, and deacon.

EXTEND THE SESSION with A Visit with the Parish Priest or Deacon, add 20 minutes.

PRESENT a summary of **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 47**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

SHARE personal insights about being a minister.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY using the **WHAT ABOUT IT?** questions on **PAGE 48**.

READ the **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 48**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with **PEOPLE OF FAITH**, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 5** in *The Church Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

Supplies Needed

- *The Church Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- sheets of paper (8½ x 11)—one per participant, plus approximately 20 more
- pens or pencils
- copies of **Resource 5**—one per participant
- rock
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will share about a tradition that is important to you. 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Now?*, you will share briefly about why the Tradition of the Catholic Church and apostolic succession are important to you. Why is it important to you that our Church can trace its roots directly to Jesus? 2 minutes



The **CHRISTIAN** Faithful

Session Background

Purpose

All baptized Catholics are called to share in Jesus' roles of priest, prophet, and king. This session helps young people understand the importance of living the faith and being a part of a parish community.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ know the importance of their baptismal call to share in Jesus' role as priest, prophet, and king.
- ▶ understand the roles of the clergy, laity, and members of religious orders within the Church.
- ▶ recognize the importance of the parish community for carrying on Jesus' mission.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 937-939, 941, 942, 944, 945, 1591, 1592.

"We strongly encourage all ministry leaders and communities to call forth the gifts of all young people and empower them for ministry to their peers and leadership in our faith communities. We need their gifts, energy, and vitality."

—*Renewing the Vision*, page 42

Catechist Formation

When we were baptized, each of us was anointed to share in Christ's roles of priest, prophet, and king. Some individuals are called to the ministerial priesthood, while others are called to the consecrated life. Most Catholics, however, are called to live their faith as a lay person. The call of Baptism is a call to service. Some baptized Catholics are called to share in the Church's ministry through being a catechist, lector, lay parish administrator, and so on. Every member of the Church, lay and ordained, is responsible for doing the work of Christ according to the special gifts that each has received. Today the laity are accepting their call to discipleship in exciting and dynamic ways. The opportunities are certainly there for any Catholic who wants to share in the ministry of the Church. All we have to do is seek them out.



How do you see your work as a catechist as a response to the baptismal call to ministry?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus my guide, be with me as I do my best to help the young people know that they are each called to faithfully live their faith in the world today. Give me wisdom to speak your truth faithfully in my role as catechist. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents' experience of the parish has usually depended on the experience of their families. They are still forming their own identities as members, and it is helpful to broaden their understanding of the Church and their role within it.
- ▶ Young adolescents respond when they are provided concrete opportunities to get involved in the faith community. This provides both a sense of community and the chance to use their individual gifts. Encouraging them to become more involved in parish life is important.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE events of your particular parish community.

READ about Jack, **PAGES 50–51**.

REFLECT on and discuss the story.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

PRESENT that we all have gifts to share.

READ **PRIESTS, PROPHETS, AND KINGS** on **PAGE 52**.

PRESENT additional information about the baptismal call.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY on being a priest, prophet, and king in the world today.

READ **COMMON PRIESTHOOD** on **PAGES 52–53**.

REFLECT on the common priesthood.

READ **THE LAY FAITHFUL** and **LEAVEN IN THE HEART OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY** on **PAGE 54**.

PRESENT the importance of living faith.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY that reflects on the gifts of youth, **PAGE 55**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with Message to Youth using **Resource 6**, add 20 minutes.

PRESENT summary on **CONSECRATED LIFE** on **PAGES 56–57**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with Consecrated Life—A Pop Quiz, add 10 minutes.

READ the **FAITH WALK** on **PAGE 57**.

PRESENT a summary of **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** from **PAGE 57**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

SHARE personal insights about being a minister.

REFLECT on **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** on **PAGE 58**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with the **PEOPLE OF FAITH** feature, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 6** in *The Church Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.
- ▶ Create posters for priest, prophet, and king. If you have artistic talent, use your skills. If not, simply draw a smiley face and add the following: for the priest, draw a roman collar; for the prophet, draw an open mouth and then put a conversation box next to the head; for the king, draw a crown on the head. These drawings should take up approximately one-third to one-half of the sheet of paper. Leave room for additional words and drawings.

Supplies Needed

- *The Church Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- copies of **Resource 6**—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- sheets of 8½ x 11 paper—one per participant, plus approximately 20 more
- pens or pencils
- parish bulletins—one per participant (If possible, collect bulletins from several different weeks. If bulletins are not available, a parish monthly calendar may be substituted.)
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What Now?*, you will share about why you have chosen to work with youth as a catechist or ministry leader. 2 minutes