

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: DISCIPLESHIP

Inquiry Session (Approximately 60 minutes)

Prepare

For this session you will need copies of the participants' handout.

Set the space with chairs in a circle, and in the center place a prayer table covered in the color of the liturgical season. Place on the table a candle, a Bible, and several pictures, icons, holy cards and/or books of Saints.

If needed have nametags. Make refreshments available, too.

Gather (10 – 15 minutes)

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Invite each child to tell everyone his or her name and something good that happened since the last time the group gathered.
2. Invite all participants to share the names of leaders in the world, in the Church, in their community, and in their school.
3. Continue the discussion by asking them to name their own leaders—people who lead them as coaches, group leaders, Church leaders, and family leaders.
4. Invite volunteers to share what their role as followers of these leaders should be. Ask them what makes it easy to “follow the leader” and what makes it hard to do so.
5. Read together the *My Story* section of the participants' handout.

Expand (15 – 20 minutes)

1. Lead a brief session on discipleship, highlighting the following points:
 - The word *disciple* is a name given to someone who follows the leader. It comes from a Latin word that means “learn.” People who follow Jesus Christ and his teachings are called disciples.
 - Jesus called people to follow him. All of Jesus' followers are called disciples; twelve were chosen by Jesus to be his Apostles. The Twelve Apostles were given the special task to go forth and teach, baptize, and help others become disciples of Jesus.
 - Every baptized person is called to be a disciple and to help others know about Jesus Christ – who he was, what he taught, and how he laid down his life for us.
 - We show we are disciples of Jesus by following his example of loving others.
2. Read and discuss the *God's Story* section of the participants' handout.

Our Response (15 – 20 minutes)

1. Share some stories of Saints and holy women and men who are examples of discipleship, such as Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint John Paul II, Saint John XXIII, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, or Saints Isidore and Maria de la Cabeza. (For helpful information on the lives of many of the Saints and Blesseds, go to SaintsResource.com.) After you have shared such stories, ask the children what each person did to help others know Jesus Christ. Explain that not every disciple of Jesus will be named a Saint, but each of the Saints you discussed was a disciple of Jesus.

2. Read together the *Our Response* section of the participants' handout and discuss the questions.
3. Encourage the children to think of ways that they can be disciples at home, at school, in their neighborhood, and in the world.
4. Review the *Faith Words* with the children.

Pray (2 – 3 minutes)

Lead the group in singing or saying a Litany of the Saints.