CATECHIST

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION FEATURES

CATECHIST RESOURCE

❶ Catechist Preparation
Presents helpful background information on the Sunday readings and doctrinal focus of the Catechumenate session

❷ Scripture
Provides the Sunday reading citations and a brief overview or explanation of each

❸ Church Teaching
Offers the catechist doctrinally based background on the doctrinal focus of the Catechumenate session

❹ Additional Background
Suggests additional background reading and references RCL Benziger's *Our Catholic Heritage Levels I and II* when applicable

❺ Dismissal Session
Provides a simple, consistent format that gives catechists the tools to facilitate the catechumenal dismissal session

❻ Discover
Offers a simple method to engage children and youth in reflection and response to the Liturgy of the Word

❼ Deepen
Provides questions and/or discussion focuses to help the catechist engage children and youth in further reflection and discussion of a particular Scripture passage

❽ Pray
Offers a suggestion for the concluding prayer for the Dismissal Session

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CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • January 24, 2027

❶ Catechist Preparation

❷ ***Scripture***

***First Reading*—Jonah** 3:1-5, 10
Jonah preaches the word of the Lord, and the people of Nineveh repent of their evil.

***Second Reading*—1 Corinthians** 7:29-31
The world in which we live is passing away. Its present form will be changed in God's good time.

***Gospel*—Mark** 1:14-20
Jesus calls all people to repent and believe in the Gospel, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.

❸ ***Church Teaching: Sorrow for Our Sins***

Turning Away from God

The tragic consequences of Original Sin include the destruction of the initial harmony of creation, the friction experienced in human relations, and the entrance of decay and death into the world. What was originally created by God as good—the human person—is impaired by sin. Sin can be a word, action, or desire contrary to God's Law. The gravity or seriousness of sin is evaluated as either mortal or venial. Mortal sin, because it is a grave violation of God's Law, is deadly to us in that it destroys charity in the very center of our being. On the other hand, venial sin does not destroy charity within us; it wounds it.

Turning Back to God

Repentance represents our turning away from sin and back to God in Christ. It is a work of grace. Repentance sets the stage for reigniting our friendship with God. It prompts the angels and saints to rejoice. Repentance signals that we wish to, once again, take up the way of Christ. It offers us a chance for the restoration of a life of holiness.

❹ ***Additional Background***

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 541, 1427, 1431, 1434, 1849

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 6 (Man and Woman in the Beginning), especially the section entitled "Meditation," pages 74–75

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: pages 80, 82, 124–125

❺ Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, an open Bible or Lectionary, a candle, and—if available—pictures of the Apostles Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

❻ ***Discover***

Invite the children to close their eyes and think about one or two words they remember from the liturgy just celebrated.

❼ ***Deepen***

1. Proclaim the First Reading, Jonah 3:1-5, 10. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words.
2. Ask the children:
   What happened after Jonah preached the word of the Lord to the people of Nineveh?
   What did the people of Nineveh do?
   What did God do?
3. Continue the discussion by asking:
   What is the message of the reading for us? (We cannot hide from God. We can choose to listen to God and to change our ways.)
   What are some ways God might ask us to change?

❽ ***Pray***

Invite the children to take a moment of quiet to think about attitudes or actions they might need to change. Then pray together the prayer found on the participant handout.

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CATECHUMENATE SESSION FEATURES

CATECHIST RESOURCE

❾ Extended Catechesis Session
Guides the catechist in leading the extended catechetical session which takes place after the Sunday Mass or later in the week

❿ Supplies
Lists for the catechist any supplies needed in order to facilitate the session

⓫ Sunday Word
Lists the Sunday readings including the Responsorial Psalm

⓬ Welcome
Reminds the catechist to gather the children and youth in an atmosphere of hospitality and warmth

⓭ Invite
Prepares the children and youth to enter into a deeper exploration of the session focus by engaging them in an initial activity, discussion, and/or proclamation of the focus Scripture

⓮ Teach
Presents major points for use in group discussion and guides the catechist through elements of the participants' handout

⓯ Challenge
Gives the catechist suggestions to help the children and youth apply today's discussion and learning to daily life

⓰ Pray
Offers a suggestion for the concluding prayer of today's catechetical session

CATECHIST

❾ Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

❿ *Supplies*

In addition to the prayer table setup, you will need the participant handouts.

⓫ *Sunday Word*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

⓬ *Welcome*

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

⓭ *Invite*

1. Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 1:14-20. Invite volunteers to dramatize the story (taking the parts of Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James, and John) as you read it again.

2. Invite the children to close their eyes and imagine that they are also at the Sea of Galilee and that Jesus calls to them. Ask:

How will you respond? Will you stay where you are or will you follow Jesus?

If you will follow Jesus, why?

3. Allow some time for the children to discuss the following question with their sponsors: *Is there anything you would need to leave behind (abandon or change) in order to follow Jesus?*

⓮ *Teach*

1. Continue the discussion with the large group, highlighting the following points:

- Often we say that we want to follow Jesus and his way, but we forget, or become tired or lazy, and stop doing what Jesus tells us to do in the Bible.
- God is good, but we often choose to turn away from God. When we choose to turn away from God, we sin.
- Our conscience helps us know right from wrong. It helps us know when we have sinned.
- When we are aware that we have turned away from God, and when we desire to turn back to God, we repent.
- When we repent, we show that we are sorry for our sins.
- God gives us every opportunity to repent, return, and celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness.
- We celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

2. Read and discuss Key Teachings from the participant handout.

3. Review with the children this week's Faith Words: *sin* and *Penance and Reconciliation*.

⓯ *Challenge*

1. Lead the children in an examination of conscience and encourage them to do an examen each night.

2. Use the following as a guide, or refer to *Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II*, page 124:

Close your eyes and think about everything that happened today.

What happened that was good today? Tell God thank you.

Is there anything that happened today for which you are sorry? Tell God you are sorry.

Whom do you want God to bless? Say the names of the people who come to mind in the quiet of your heart.

⓰ *Pray*

Conclude with the Prayer of Exorcism 94F in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

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Most Reverend Joseph R. Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop, Vicar General • Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio • December 3, 2014.
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