

SAMPLE
Pre-catechumenate Curriculum Outline
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Note: Sessions P01 - P06 are intended for those who are "unchurched" or have little or no background in Christianity or religion. These may be conducted with individuals or in small groups before the full group begins meeting. Sessions P07 - P11 are intended for the entire group of participants and should take place prior to celebrating the Rite of Acceptance / Rite of Welcome.

	<p style="text-align: center;">TOPIC <i>Objective</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Subtopics</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">US Catechism for Adults Suggested Reading / Reference</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Other Resources for this Topic (See bottom of page for general resources)</p>
P01	<p>FINDING GOD IN OUR LIVES <i>Discussion of the perceived presence (or absence) of God in the our lives and the lives of the inquirers.</i></p>	<p>Explore the questions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is God? • How can we know God exists? • How do we know he is present in our lives? 	None	Psalm 139
P02	<p>WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US <i>Brief introduction to the story of Salvation History and our human response to what God has done for us.</i></p>	<p>Explore the questions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has God done for humanity? • What is humanity's response? • How does God maintain a relationship with humanity? • How do we / can we respond to God's call for relationship with Him? 	None	Salvation History Materials from Ann Lankford / Diocese of LaCrosse, WI
P03	<p>WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? <i>Brief introduction to the person of Jesus Christ and the centrality of Jesus to the Christian faith.</i></p>	<p>Explore the questions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is Jesus Christ? • Why is He the center of the Christian life? • How can we develop a relationship with Him? • Where do we go from here? 	None	
P04	<p>JOURNEY OF FAITH <i>Explore our faith journey up to this point and where it might be taking us from this point forward.</i></p>	<p>Explore the questions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do our experience(s) of faith shape our lives and our ideas of God? • How do we get to know God and build a relationship with Him? • Is faith a one-time thing or a continuum? (Is it the destination or the journey?) 	None	

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	TOPIC Objective	Subtopics	US Catechism for Adults Suggested Reading / Reference	Other Resources for this Topic (See bottom of page for general resources)
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<p>P05 EXPLORING PRAYER <i>Reflecting on prayer and how it may have been at work in our lives.</i></p>		Explore the Questions: • What is prayer? • How do we pray? • How has prayer already been a part of our lives?	None	
<p>P06 A PROCESS OF CONVERSION <i>Discuss the meaning of conversion and how it applies to the participants and the RCIA process.</i></p>		Explore the Questions: • What does it mean to experience conversion? • How does sin / brokenness separate us from God? From others? • If we want to grow closer to God / Jesus, what do we need to "turn away" from? • Where do we begin to change?	None	
<p>P07 GATHERING / INTRODUCTIONS / EXPECTATIONS OF PROCESS <i>Introduce Catechumens and Candidates to the people and process of the RCIA in order to become comfortable with them.</i></p>		Introduction of all present (participants, sponsors, team, clergy) • Overview of the RCIA process (stages, rites) • Discuss meeting times and places (hand out schedule) • Discuss expectations / attendance of Catechumens, • Candidates and Sponsors	None	
<p>P08 INTRODUCTION TO MASS / TOUR OF CHURCH <i>Assist in beginning / nurturing the relationship with God through an understanding of our liturgical worship and place of worship.</i></p>		Introduction to Missal and Liturgy of the Word Brief tour of church w/ time for questions	Parts of Ch 35 & 36	Missal, "Mass Appeal" by Jimmy Akin, available from Catholic Answers

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P09 REVELATION <i>Understanding of how God is known by us and makes Himself known to us.</i>	Sacred Scripture Tradition	Ch 2 & 3	Bibles
P10 FAITH / GRACE <i>Understanding of what grace is and how we receive it. Understanding of faith and how it impacts every part of life.</i>	What is faith? How do we grow in faith? What is grace? (actual / sanctifying) How do we receive grace?	Ch 4	
P11 TAKING UP THE CROSS <i>Introduce the Cross of Christ and the idea of "crosses" we bear in our lives as Christians.</i> <i>Note: This is a direct preparation for being marked with the cross in the Rite of Acceptance / Rite of Welcome. Could be done in conjunction with a preparation & practice for the rite.</i>	Explore the Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to "take up the cross"? • What are some "crosses" people carry in their lives? • How can "carrying our crosses" bring something good to our lives? • How do our "crosses" help us grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ? 	None	



Discernment Interview Prior to the Rite of Acceptance or the Rite of Welcoming

Interviewer: Before beginning, read RCIA 42 and 43. This meeting should be preceded by a discussion with any members of the RCIA community (clergy, team members, godparents, sponsors, etc.) who have assisted in the formation of the individual regarding the person's readiness to take this step.

Use the following questions as a guide for a conversation with the inquirer. As you talk, let the inquirer know how you have seen God at work in his or her life during the inquiry period. Be sure to explain that, while some individuals may be ready to go through this Rite at this point, others may not, and that if someone needs more time to discern, learn about, and decide to follow the Catholic way of life, that is fine. If the individual is interested in celebrating these Rites, and you or others with whom you have spoken have concerns about his or her readiness, explain your concerns and that it might be in the inquirer's best interest to continue to discern for a period of time. At the conclusion of your conversation, unless you or the inquirer needs more time to come to a decision, let him or her know whether or not he or she will participate in the Rite of Acceptance or Welcoming. Notes on the conversation should be taken as needed.

Name: _____

Seeking admission as a catechumen (unbaptized) candidate (baptized)

Godparent(s)/Sponsor(s), if determined: _____

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- 1) What has been your experience of the sessions up to this point? What has affected you the most? What have you enjoyed the most? What has challenged you the most?
 - 2) What changes have occurred in your relationship with God or with your family or friends during this time?
 - 3) What kind of changes do you see in yourself?
 - 4) How has your relationship with your godparent/sponsor (if established) been working out?
 - 5) What experiences have you had in this parish community up to this point? Are you beginning to have a sense of belonging to this parish community?
 - 6) What experiences have you had in reading the Scriptures?
 - 7) Tell me about how you pray.
 - 8) How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ?
 - 9) To what degree do you see yourself turning away from sin and developing a desire for virtue?
 - 10) Do you feel that you have a good grasp of the gospel (the good news) that Jesus Christ came to reveal? What do you most desire to learn more about?
 - 11) How would you describe what being a Catholic/living a Catholic life means? What does it mean to you that a Catholic is called to live a life of charity?
 - 12) What does it mean to be a member of the Body of Christ? A member of the Roman Catholic Church?

After explaining the importance of the Rite of Acceptance or the Rite of Welcoming, and the questions that will be asked of the inquirer during the Rite, then ask:

- 13) Do you understand what is being asked of you in the Rite of Acceptance or the Rite of Welcoming?
- 14) Do you feel that you are prepared to take this step in the initiation process?

