

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe • Year B • November 22, 2015

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—Daniel 7:13–14

From the earliest times of the Church, believers have interpreted the mysterious figure of the “Ancient One” to be God the Father.

SECOND READING—Revelation 1:5–8

Verse 7 is a combination from Daniel 7:13 (the first reading) and Zechariah 12:10. This combination is also found in Matthew 24:30.

GOSPEL—John 18:33b–37

Jesus is brought before Pilate for questioning, but Jesus is clearly in control. His questioner is confused but Jesus is not. Jesus is stately, composed, and is answering calmly and with the total truth.

Church Teaching

The Kingdom of God causes us to evaluate everything in this world—every claim on our lives, allegiances, and fortunes—through Christ’s eternal all-powerful dominion. It is a surprising and shocking dominion in that Christ triumphs from the cross.

The Cross overturns sin, death, and evil. It is paradoxical because it goes against worldly understanding. Christ’s kingdom is shown through love, self-sacrifice, service, healing, reconciliation, and peace.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 541–556

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 77–87

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 107–109

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set a table with a gold cloth, a crucifix, and a candle.

Discover

1. Ask the following questions, and invite the group to reflect on them quietly before sharing their responses with one or two other people:

What did you see or hear in the Liturgy of the Word?

What word, phrase, or image from the readings stays with you?

2. Invite several volunteers to share their reflections with the large group.

Deepen

1. Ask the following questions, and invite the group to reflect on them quietly before sharing their responses with one or two other people:

What images come to mind when you think of kingship?

In what ways does Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, fit your images and ideas of kingship?

In what way does Jesus not fit your images and ideas of kingship?

In what way do you experience Jesus as leader—especially as servant leader?

2. Invite several volunteers to share their reflections with the large group.

Pray

Use the prayer from the participant’s handout: *All-powerful God and Father, you raised your Son from death and placed him at your right hand to rule the nations as the everlasting King over all creation. Living in the Holy Spirit, may our hearts burn with divine love and may all our words and deeds mark us as faithful followers of Christ. Amen.*

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Readings

Daniel 7:13–14

Psalm 93:1–2, 5

Revelation 1:5–8

John 18:33b–37

Welcome

Begin by welcoming everyone who is present, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who are joining the group.

Engage

Begin by rephrasing one or two questions from the Dismissal Session, and invite the group to share in small groups. Then ask several volunteers to share their reflections with the large group.

Explore

1. Summarize the **Sunday Word** section of the participant resource. Then discuss the following:
 - Why is it fitting that the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe concludes the liturgical year?
 - Some titles of Jesus include: the Alpha and the Omega, Son of God, the Son of Man, the Messiah, the Redeemer, the King of Heaven and Earth.
2. Invite the group to read the **Catholic Doctrine** section of the participant resource. Then highlight the following points:
 - Jesus is the King of Heaven and Earth. He came to Earth that we might know how great God's love is for us.
 - Mary is the prime example of what it means to follow the plan of God. Her yes demonstrates how we are all called to freely submit our will to God's plan.

- The Cross is the ultimate paradox. It challenges all earthly understanding of the meaning of success.
- Life does not end in death. Death is the doorway to eternal life with God for all who choose to follow Christ.

3. Highlight the **Key Terms, Voices of Faith, and Further Reading** sections.

Apply

1. Encourage catechumens, candidates, and their sponsors to spend time this week visiting a nursing home or assisted-living facility. Point out that visiting the sick is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.
2. Invite the catechumens and candidates to complete these statements:

From the prayer, discussion, and study for this Sunday, I understand the Church's teaching to be . . .

I am challenged to live the message of this Sunday by . . .

Pray

Pray the minor exorcism (RCIA 94H). Have the sponsor stand behind the catechumen with their hand on the shoulder of the catechumen. (If candidates are present, invite them to also place their hand on the shoulder of a catechumen. The language of this prayer refers specifically to those seeking baptism.)