

Lesson Plan Process

The Catechetical Process

The Encounter with Christ Adolescent Confirmation Catechist Lesson Plans follow the same catechetical process (Invite, Discover, and Live) as other OSV catechetical materials, including *Alive in Christ* Grades 7 and 8. Each unit Lesson Plan for parish is intended for 75 minutes, with the flexibility for activities or projects to be done at home in between lessons.

The Invite Step (15 minutes) begins the lesson with prayer followed by God's invitation through Sacred Scripture. Candidates open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in Scripture and reflect on it. The unit's key concepts are presented along with an activity to access prior learning or tap into the candidate's faith and life experience. A Symbol of Faith, Encounter with Christ, and Catholic Faith Words are then presented and serve as a transition to the Discover step and unit objectives.

The Discover Step (45 minutes) promotes readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This step helps form Catholic identity through the study of Scripture, knowledge of Church teaching, and an understanding of Catholic sacramental practices. It presents the doctrine of the lesson in developmentally appropriate language and images. Symbols and steps of the Rite of Confirmation are explored and explained. Charts, on-page questions, and activities give candidates the opportunity to process and reinforce what they have learned and apply it to their own lives and the experience of the Church.

The Live Step (15 minutes) helps the young people relate knowledge of the faith and the ways we worship, live, pray, and serve together as Catholics. Candidates are given the tools to connect their faith to everyday life and to deepen their relationship with God. They are presented with an overview of what was learned and of a Saint whose life exemplifies the lesson.

As you follow this catechetical process, you will in fact mirror the divine pedagogy by offering your candidates the opportunity to know God and his truth through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. You will inspire them to be open to the Holy Spirit so that they will respond in faith and love and accept the gift of new life in Christ!

As a catechist, during the **Invite** step you:

- Call the young people together and prepare them to hear the **Word of God**.
- Pray with the youth.
- Guide the candidates through the opening **Scripture passage and reflection**.
 - Proclaim God's Word.
 - After proclamation of the Scripture, allow time for sacred **silence**.
 - The young people should feel free to **share** what they experienced, what they felt God was saying to them, or what he wanted them to know in a special way today. Assure them that sharing is voluntary.
- Prompt continued thought about God's Word and move to unit objectives by using the "**Have you ever thought**" questions.

Preview unit **concepts** from the second and third Invite pages.

- Getting Started: Introduces the **main points** of the unit.
- Graphic Organizer: Provides an organizer that **relates** unit concepts and helps the candidates make connections through an activity or questions.
- Faith Symbols: Highlights a symbol of the **Catholic faith** to help young people prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Encounter with Christ: Presents revealed teaching that focuses on Christ and how we are in relationship with him personally, as a Church, and in the world.

INVITE

Pages 7-9

Objectives

- Reflect on God's presence in our lives as expressed in the words of Psalm 139
- To introduce the key themes of the unit and to reflect on God's presence in the candidates' lives

Let Us Pray

Invite the youth to gather in the prayer space. Begin by praying the Sign of the Cross. Have a volunteer read the leader's part, then prompt the group to join in praying aloud the part marked "All." Afterward, direct the candidates to take their seats.

Lead into the session with the following or similar words:
 "Jesus called his first disciples after their return from a day of work as fishermen. He calls each of us, too, as we go about our daily lives, and he is always with us. Let's listen to what the psalmist says about God's relationship with us."

Scripture

Guide the candidates through a reflection on the verses of Psalm 139.

- You might wish to play instrumental music during the reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and quiet themselves. Encourage them to humbly open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them. Also let them know there will be time to silently reflect on the reading, then you'll have a couple of discussion questions for them.

- Proclaim the Scripture as the candidates listen. Allow for several minutes of silent reflection.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Call on volunteers to respond.
- Ask: What does this psalm say to you about God's presence in your life?
- Call on volunteers to respond.

Have you ever thought...

Share that God, as our loving Father, is always present in our lives. He never abandons us. He is patient and understanding even when we do not welcome or respond to his love.

- Read aloud both questions in this section and call on volunteers to respond.

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DISCOVER
Pages 10-11

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of Jesus' call of the first Apostles
- Reflect on this event from the perspective of the Apostles who were called by Jesus

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Have the candidates silently read the two introductory paragraphs on page 10.

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Scripture from Luke Chapter 5:4-11.
- Lead a discussion of the Scripture, using the following questions:
 - What did Jesus tell Simon, James, and John would change in their lives? (He said they would be fishers of men.)
 - What did Jesus mean by this? (That their work would be to help others know about God)

ACTIVITY

Imagine

Invite the candidates to write their responses to the Imagine questions.

- Call on volunteers to share their responses.

Optional Activity

Extend the Imagine activity by having the young people imagine that Jesus is here today to choose disciples.

- Have the youth work in four groups to identify occupations or trades in our contemporary culture from which they would not expect Jesus to choose disciples.
- Where would the initial call take place for each occupation?
- What would concerns be for the people called?

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As a catechist, during the **Discover** step you:

- Teach the **objectives** of the lesson located at the beginning of each step in the catechist Lesson Plan downloaded from the website.
- Prepare the Scripture reading with the preceding introduction, and proclaim or have a candidate proclaim the **Word of God**.
- Direct the young people to the green **activity** that draws on their religious imagination to put themselves into the scenario just proclaimed.
- Next, work through a block of text that delves into Church **teaching** on the Sacraments.

- The second **Discover** spread includes text as well as a Go to the Source and Celebrating the Sacrament feature.
- Go to the Source sends the young people on their own to **Scripture** as they explore the Word of God and connect it to the unit objectives and/or life experiences.
- The **Celebrating the Sacrament** feature takes one of the parts of the Rite of Confirmation and explains it more deeply.
- This section also includes charts that will help young people visualize an aspect of **preparation** for Confirmation, such as renewal of baptismal promises or frequently asked questions about Confirmation and the effects of the Sacrament.

DISCOVER
Pages 12-13

Objectives

- Explore how the Holy Spirit was at work in the lives of holy people
- Explore the words of the prophets inspired by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit in the History of God's People

Summarize the first two paragraphs on page 12 for the group.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Scripture passage from Isaiah 11:1-3a.

- Point out that this passage names Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which they will learn about in a later unit.
- Point out, too, that the Holy Spirit inspired the *inerrant* Word of God in the Bible. Be sure the candidates understand the meaning of *inerrant* when describing Sacred Scripture. The Catechism teaches that Scripture faithfully and without error teaches the truth that God wanted to share for our salvation.
- Ask: About whom is this passage speaking? (The passage is speaking about Jesus.)

Have the candidates read the remaining text to themselves.

- Ask: What are some times in Scripture when we see the Holy Spirit working in Mary's life? (The Holy Spirit prepared Mary for her role as the Mother of God; Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit; Mary was present with the Apostles at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon them.)

Go to the Source

Organize the candidates in pairs or small groups.

- Distribute Bibles (one per pair or small group).
- Have the candidates read Matthew 3:13-17, about the baptism of Jesus. Then have the pairs or groups discuss how the passage is connected to the passage from Isaiah.
- Allow time for discussion, then invite a spokesperson from each group to share a key insight about the passage with the larger group.

Optional Activity

Consider this group activity to increase the candidates' understanding of the major Old Testament prophets. This activity will help strengthen the young people's familiarity with the books of the Bible.

- First organize the class into six groups. Then distribute Bibles, one per candidate.
- Assign each group one of the following prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos, Micah.
- Direct the groups to use their Bibles to learn about their assigned prophet and to work together to identify at least three important facts about him. Explain that they can use the introduction to their assigned book of the Bible for some important information, such as the period when the prophet wrote, key themes of his writing, and important events the prophet addressed.
- Call on a spokesperson from each group to share their findings.

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As a catechist, during the **Live** step you:

- Will have the candidates work on activities that will unpack the Sacrament and objectives taught. These will reflect the practice of our **Catholic faith**.
- Will have the young people moving the lessons from their head to their heart. Sections like *From Head to Heart* and *Listening with Our Hearts* ask the candidates to consider making these concepts part of their daily lives.

LIVE
Pages 14–16

Objectives

- To reflect on how Jesus calls each of us today
- To consider what discipleship means and how to grow as disciples
- Consider ways to live out what has been learned
- Explore the faith life of Saint Clare of Assisi

Connect: From Head to Heart
ACTIVITY

Read aloud the reflection questions. Invite the candidates to write their responses.

- Call on volunteers to share what they have written.

If time allows, direct the candidates to complete the drawing activity about the Holy Spirit.

Optional Activity
Expand the “Head to Heart” activity on page 14 using the Reflection below.

- Read aloud the introduction below that begins with “Jesus calls,” then ask volunteers to read aloud some or all of the Scripture passages. For each passage, ask the following or similar questions:
 - What are some times in your life when you can follow Jesus’ example?
 - What can make it challenging to follow Jesus’ example?
 - What was a time when you followed Jesus’ example as presented in this passage? How did that strengthen you as a disciple?

Reflection
Tell the candidates: Jesus calls us each day to live as his disciples. He teaches us how to live through his own example, handed down to us in the Gospels. Obedience to God’s will guides us to true freedom and happiness. Here are some passages that show the way to live, as taught and lived by Jesus himself.

Have the candidates work independently or in groups and read the following passages. Then have them summarize what is said in each passage.

- Taking time to pray: Mark 6:45–46
- Obedience to God’s will: Luke 22:41–42
- Caring for those in need: Matthew 9:27–31
- Forgiving enemies: Luke 23:33–34
- Resisting temptation: Matthew 4:1–11
- Speaking out against wrongdoing: Matthew 21:12–13

The Grace to Guide Us
Read aloud this section on page 15.

- **Say:** The first disciples left everything to follow Jesus. You don’t have to give up everything, but that doesn’t mean that discipleship is always easy. Yet the Holy Spirit will always give you the guidance you need, if you open your heart to his presence.

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Unit Prayer

Gather around a prayer table with a Bible, a candle, and a container of Holy Water or some other sacred place.

Catechist: Let us take a deep breath and become aware of the presence of God with us. Let’s begin with the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Catechist: We have been reminded of God’s great love in the creation of the world and in his calling to each of us by name. As we prepare to fully enter into the Church and our relationship with God, the Holy Spirit opens our hearts. He helps us to see what we need to grow closer to him. Please take out your slips of paper and read what you found most important from this first unit lesson. Remember what you wrote in prayers at home by yourself and with your family. Consider how your ideas can take root in your parish and community.

[Individually, each candidate reads what he or she wrote and why.]

Catechist: Loving Father, we thank you for opening our hearts and minds to what you are saying to us in our lesson. We pray that we will continue to be aware of what your Holy Spirit is prompting us to know, and how we are being called to live. Help us to follow the example you set for us through Jesus Christ your Son. Together, let us pray: **Glory Be to the Father.**

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world with out end. Amen.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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- Will introduce the young people to a Person of Faith, a Saint whose life exemplifies the content of the unit.
- Will discuss with the candidates how they can take these lessons home where the Holy Spirit will help them encounter Christ. The Taking the Message Home section will challenge the candidates to put their faith into practice.
- Will prepare and hold a final prayer session emphasizing what the candidates learned from the unit and praying for the Holy Spirit’s help to put these things into practice.