



# RCIA

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## INQUIRY

**13-16**  
YEARS

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# EXPERIENCES OF GOD

## Aim

Explore how we can live a Christian life.

## Resources

### Leaders

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle
- Electronic device – laptop/tablet for YouTube links

### Young People

- Journal
- Fuel – The Daily Catholic App

## Preparation for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the young person.

Consider your experiences of God. Be willing to share these with the young person.

## Background Information for Catechist

This session will explore how the young person sees God in their life. The session will also explore God's love for us.



## Exploring

What brings you here?

God loves us - Each of us is uniquely gifted and talented.

Where do you see God's love in your life?

We can experience God's love in the love we receive from our parents, families, in nature and in the world around us.

What is God's plan for us?

## Scripture

Have the young person read each passage below out loud and take a moment to reflect on the passage and discuss what it means to them.

Below are several scripture references showing God's love for us:



Psalm 86:15

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.



Isaiah 43:1

I have called you by name, you are mine.



Isaiah 43:15

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."



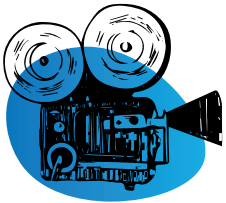
Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



## Video

God loves each of us and knows each of us by name.  
Watch this YouTube clip.

Fr Mike Schmitz – Why God Loves You  
<https://youtu.be/52Vm3YTDQ0s>

Video **Link 1.1**



Are there any insights, new ideas, questions or challenges you have after watching this clip?

## Activity

In your Journal, draw a timeline. Add all the major events in your own life.

Where was God walking with you?

Listen to the following poem:

### “ **Footprints in the Sand**

Mary Stevenson

One night I dreamed a dream.  
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
one belonging to me and one to my Lord.  
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,  
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.  
“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
You’d walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my  
life, there was only one set of footprints.  
I don’t understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me.”  
He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you,  
never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
it was then that I carried you.”

Looking back in your life, are there times when you know that God was with you?



## Scripture and Prayer

### Scripture

Light a candle before reading the scripture and let the young person know that we light a candle as Jesus is the light of the world.

Christians use scripture to get to know God more deeply and use God's word to lead them on their journey through life.

Ask the young person to be still, close their eyes and listen closely to the words from scripture.



#### Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

### Music

I Surrender - Hillsong Live

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukF\\_x-Xd0E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukF_x-Xd0E)

Video **Link 1.2**



### Prayer



***Loving God,***

***You know all our ways.***

***Be with us as we journey together  
getting to know you.***

***We ask this prayer through your Son Jesus.***

***Amen.***

# JESUS

## Aim

To help the young people grow in their understanding of who Jesus is.

## Resources

### Leaders

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle
- Electronic device – laptop/tablet for YouTube links
- At Home with God's People

### Young People

- Journal
- Fuel – The Daily Catholic App

### Materials for this Session

- Download [Activity Sheet: Timeline of Jesus' Life](http://www.crossroadsrcia.org) from [www.crossroadsrcia.org](http://www.crossroadsrcia.org) (copy on page 9)

## Preparation for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the session and for the young person.

Think of your own stories and be ready to share them. How have you developed your relationship with Jesus?

## Background Information for Catechist

This session will look at the life of Jesus, including his birth, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension and the fulfilment of his promise in the sending of an Advocate, the Holy Spirit.



# Follow up from last session



Check to see if there were any questions or comments from the previous session or from the Journal Activity.

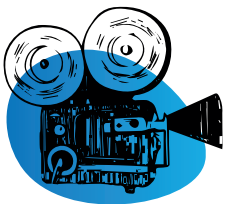


## Exploring



What stories do you know about Jesus?

Talk to the young person about Jesus' upbringing in a Jewish family where he learnt the prayers of his tradition and listened to the scriptures in the synagogue.



## Video



Historical Jesus, Archdiocese of Brisbane

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/beliefs-and-works/historical-jesus/>

Video **Link 2.1**



Are there any insights, new ideas, questions or challenges you have after watching this clip?



## Activity

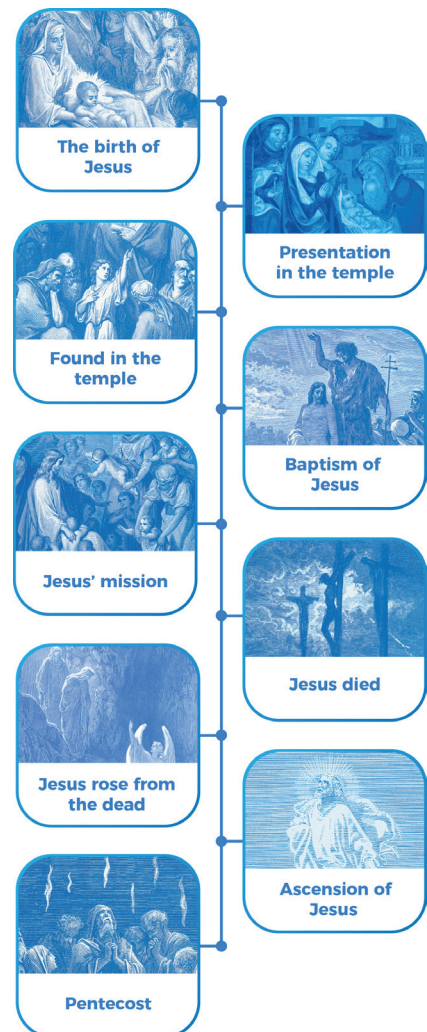
Print the [Activity Sheet: Timeline of Jesus' Life](http://www.crossroadsrcia.org) from [www.crossroadsrcia.org](http://www.crossroadsrcia.org) and cut out the event cards. On a whiteboard, or on the ground using string, make a timeline of the life of Jesus using the cards.

Each event has a corresponding Gospel reading (listed below). Discuss the events and scripture passages and arrange them in chronological order.

Explore any moments in Jesus' life the young person may not be familiar with.

### Timeline of Jesus

- The birth of Jesus:** We don't know exactly when Jesus was born as the Bible doesn't give the date. We celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas day.  
[Luke 2:1-20](#)
- Presentation in the temple:** Jesus was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth since Jesus was born into a Jewish family. [Luke 2:22-24](#)
- Found in the temple:** When Jesus was 12 years old he was lost and after 3 days, his parents found him in the temple.  
[Luke 2:41-47](#)
- Baptism:** When Jesus was 30 years old, he was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. [Matthew 3:13-17](#)
- Jesus' Mission (teaching and healing):** Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God. He spent 3 years healing, calling others, teaching, listening, and praying.
  - Healing - [Luke 5:12-13](#)
  - Calling others - [Matthew 4:18-22](#)
  - Teaching - [John 7:14](#)
  - Listening - [Mark 5:34-36](#)
  - Praying - [Matthew 6:9-13](#)
- Jesus died:** Jesus died on the Cross.  
[Mark 15:33-37](#)
- Jesus rose from the dead:** Jesus rose from the dead. [Luke 24:1-5](#)
- The Ascension of Jesus:** Jesus ascended into heaven. [Acts 1:6-9](#)
- Pentecost:** The Holy Spirit was sent to us.  
[Acts 2:1-4](#)



**Activity Sheet:  
Timeline of Jesus' Life**

■ ↓ Cut out the below cards.



**Jesus' mission**



**Jesus rose from  
the dead**



**Presentation  
in the temple**



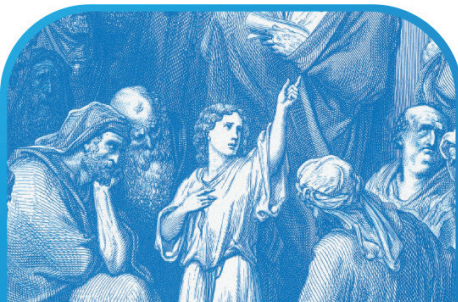
**Pentecost**



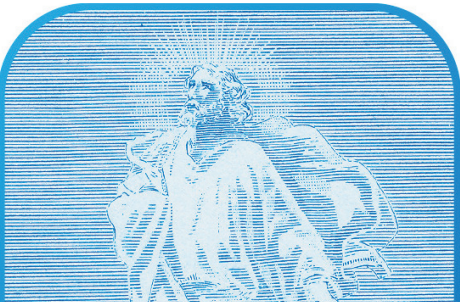
**The birth of  
Jesus**



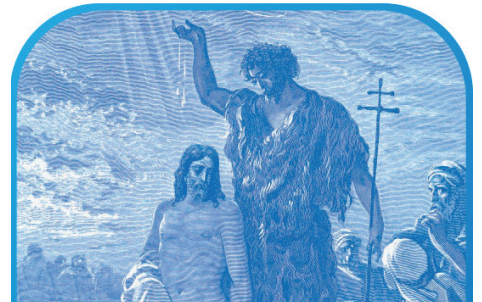
**Jesus died**



**Found in the  
temple**



**Ascension of  
Jesus**



**Baptism of  
Jesus**





# Exploring

Which moment in Jesus' life stands out for you?

Based on what you heard, how would you describe the person of Jesus and his characteristics?

Seeing Jesus' 'life in action', what would a follower of Jesus look like today?  
What are some examples?



# Scripture and prayer

## Scripture

Light a candle before reading the scripture.

Ask the young person to be still, close their eyes and listen closely to the words from scripture.

 John 13:34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture, invite the young person to say a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful to them. What struck you about this scripture?

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

How can you respond to this scripture passage in the coming week?

## Music

What a Beautiful Name - Hillsong  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE>

Video **Link 2.2**



### Prayer



***Loving God,  
You love each of us.  
Help us to love one another as you have each of us.  
Be with us as we journey together getting to know you.  
Amen.***



## Living it out in the everyday

### Journal activity

Write in your Journal your thoughts on the passage that speaks to you.

### Challenge activity

Investigate this interactive map of where Jesus lived:  
<http://www.about-jesus.org/jesus-places-map.htm>

Map [Link 2.3](#)



Scripture passages to look up

- The birth of Jesus – [Matthew 1:18-25](#)
- Wedding of Cana – [John 2:1-11](#)
- Jesus stills the storm – [Mark 4:35-41](#)
- Jesus and Zacchaeus – [Luke 19:1-10](#)

# PREPARING FOR THE RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

## Aim

To prepare those who are not baptised for the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens – the first step.

## Preparation

### for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the session and for the young person.

## Resources

### Leaders

- Prayer cloth, cross, candle
- Electronic device – laptop/tablet for YouTube links
- At Home with God's People

### Young People

- Journal
- Fuel – The Daily Catholic App

# Background Information for Catechist

The Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumens is the liturgical rite marking the beginning of the catechumenate. The young person expresses their intention to respond to God's call and the Church accepts. Therefore, it is important to celebrate this rite with the community. However it is not necessary to hold this rite in front of the whole congregation if the young person is only comfortable celebrating with family, close friends and sponsor/catechist.

### “ RCIA 250

It is important that this rite be celebrated with an actively participating but small congregation, since the presence of a large group might make the children uncomfortable.

Readings that can be used during the rite outside of Sunday Mass are as follows:

- First Reading: [Genesis 12:1-4a](#)
- Psalm: [Psalm 33:4-5](#)
- Gospel Acclamation: We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
- Gospel: [John 1: 35-42](#)

If the young person is comfortable being presented during a Sunday Mass, the second option is to hold the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens during the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

To commemorate the Rite of Acceptance, the young person may be presented with a Catholic Youth Bible and a Mass book.

### For those already baptised in another Christian tradition

The candidates who have already been baptised in another Christian tradition are invited to come forward during a Mass and receive a blessing. They do not participate in the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens.

The moment the young person is received into the catechumenate, he/she becomes part of the Catholic community.



## Follow up from last session

Check to see if there were any questions or comments from the previous session or from the Journal Activity.



## Exploring

This rite marks an important step in the journey for the young person. It is a step from being an Inquirer to becoming a Catechumen, that is a person who is preparing to become Christian. This also means being accepted into the parish community.

Why do you want to become a Christian?

Why do you think it would be a good thing to become a Christian?

Why do you think it would be a good thing to believe in Jesus?

### Rite

RCIA 257

The priest will invite the candidates, parents and sponsors to come forward.

The priest will ask the following questions:

What do you want to become?

***A Christian.***



Why do you want to become a Christian?

***Because I believe in Christ.***



What do you gain by believing in Christ?

***Eternal Life***

Affirmation by the parents (or Sponsor if given the authority by the parent)  
Signing of the candidates with the cross.

Rehearse the questions that are asked during the ritual. Remind the young person about all the practical information, such as the date and time this will all take place.



## Scripture and prayer

### Scripture

Light a candle before reading the scripture below. (This reading will be read at the rite, if the Sunday readings are not used.)

Ask the young person to sit quietly and listen to the words.



John 1:35-42  
The First Disciples of Jesus

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.”

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture, invite the young person to say a word or two from the passage that is meaningful for them.

What struck you about this scripture?

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

### Music

I Will Follow – Chris Tomlin  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgqD\\_HQqir0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgqD_HQqir0)

Video **Link 3.1**





## Prayer



***Loving God,  
Be with us as we decide to follow Jesus.  
Open our hearts to hear your call.  
Amen.***