



RCIA

INQUIRY

9-12
YEARS

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ALL ABOUT ME AND GOD

Aim

To explore who God is and who we are.

Resources

Leaders

- Break Open the Word
- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle – set up a prayer space

Child

- Activity Book (page 3-4)

Preparation for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the session and for the child.

In what ways do you experience God's love in your life?

Think of your own stories and be ready to share these.

Background for Catechist

This session will explore how the child 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

Explain that God loves each of us and knows each of us by name.

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.

Activity Book

All about Me and God

Instructions for the task in the Activity Book

1. In your Activity Book (page 3-4), there is a space to describe yourself through words, drawings or a photo. I am....
2. Along the timeline, mark major events in your life.
3. Pick one of the events in your life and write a message to God about your memories of this time.

Think about times when God is waiting for you.

God is love. Put the people on the timeline who show God is love to us.



Living it out in the everyday

Activity Book

Ask someone in your family to add some words to describe you.

Write this in your Activity Book (page 3) under *Living it out in the everyday*.



Scripture and Prayer

Scripture

Light a candle before reading the scripture and let the child know that we light a candle to remind us that 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 child 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.

Prayer



***Loving God,
You know all my ways and are always with me.
Help me to know you more each day.
We ask this prayer through your Son Jesus.
Amen.***

JESUS

Aim

To help the child grow in their understanding of Jesus.

Resources

Leaders

- Break Open the Word
- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle – set up a prayer space
- Electronic device – laptop/tablet for YouTube links

Child

- Activity Book (page 5-6)

Preparation for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the session and for the child.

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

Background for Catechist

This session will look at the life of Jesus, what life was like at the time of Jesus and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. It will also look at other people in Jesus' life, including Jesus' mother Mary and his friends.



Follow up from last session

Check to see if there are any questions or reflections arising from the previous session or from the Activity Book.

What words did you collect from your family?



Exploring

What stories do you know about Jesus?

Where did you find out about Jesus?

What would Jesus' life been like?

What religious tradition did Jesus belong to?

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

During Jesus' public ministry, he spent 3 years healing, calling others, teaching, listening, and praying. He called others to follow him and to be his disciple.

Let us listen to a scripture passage about Jesus.

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”

And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Or watch this passage on YouTube
Wedding at Cana

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeI2A5JWgSc>

Video **Link 2.1** 

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture, invite the child to share a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful for them.





Exploring

In this story, we see Jesus as the son of Mary.

Are there any words not understood?

What did you hear?

In this story, Jesus cared for his family and friends. It was the beginning of his ministry and he was hesitant to begin. Sometimes we need family and friends to encourage us to use our gifts.

We see Jesus listening to his mum in this passage.

Friends of Jesus

What makes a good friend?

Write these qualities in your Activity Book (page 5).

Do you know the name of any of Jesus' friends?

Here are some:



Matthew 10:2-3

Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter's brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James's brother), Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus."

Other names of Jesus' friends include: Mary, Martha, Lazarus.

We are all friends of Jesus. Next time you talk about Jesus' friends remember to add your name to the list of his friends.

Do you know of any stories of the friends of Jesus?

Activity Book

How can we become friends of Jesus?



John 15:15

“I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.”

“I have called you friends.” In the gospel reading [John 15:15](#), Jesus refers to us as his friends as he shares with us all he has heard from God.

Being friends with Jesus asks us to share with our friends the love that Jesus gives us. Love is the heart of friendship.

In your Activity Book (page 6), draw your hand and then inside the hand draw or write how you can be friends with Jesus.

For example, helping others and caring about others.

We could be Jesus’ friend by talking to him through the day, reading the Bible, and listening to his words. We could also reach out to others in friendship.



Scripture and Prayer

Scripture

Before reading the scripture, we light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Listen closely to the following scripture passage.



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 child to share a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful for them.

What did you hear in this scripture passage?

Prayer



***Loving God,
You love each of us.
Help us to love one another as you have loved us.
We ask this prayer through your Son Jesus.
Amen.***



Living it out in the everyday

Activity Book

Do something kind or helpful for a friend this week that will really help them.

Write this in your Activity Book (page 5) under *Living it out in the everyday*.

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 of the journey of RCIA).

Preparation

for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the session and for the child.

Resources

Leaders

- Break Open the Word
- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle – set up a prayer space

Child

- Activity Book (page 7-8)

Background for Catechist

This session will look at the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens.

The Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumens is the liturgical rite marking the beginning of the catechumenate. The child 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 child 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 child 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 child 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 child 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 child is received into the catechumenate, he/she becomes part of the Catholic community.



Follow up from last session

Check to see if there are any questions or reflections from the previous session or from the Activity Book.

Practical things

Rehearse the questions that are being asked during the ritual and advise all the practical information such as the date and time this will all take place.



Exploring

This rite marks an important step in the journey for the child. 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 in to the parish community.

Why do you want to become a follower of Christ - a Christian?

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

Why do you think it would be good 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.

Activity Book

Ask the child to write down their answer to the following questions in their Activity Book (page 7-8).

What do you want to become?

Why do you want to become a Christian?

What do you gain by believing in Christ?

Have the child bring these answers to the rite and use them when asked the questions.



Living it out in the everyday

Activity Book

In the Activity Book (page 7-8), we see the following words:

“ RCIA 254

Try to live as children of God, for our Lord taught us: ‘Love God with all your heart and love one another as I have loved you’.

How do we do this?

Write this in your Activity Book (page 7) inside the cross.

“ RCIA 257

Christ has called you to be his friends. Always remember him and be faithful to him

How do we do this?

Write this in your Activity Book (page 8) inside the cross.



Scripture and Prayer

Scripture

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

Ask the child 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 child to say a word or two from the passage that is speaking to them.

What struck you about this scripture?

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

Prayer



Loving God,

Help me to know you more each day as I decide to follow you.

Open my heart and mind to your call.

We ask this prayer through your Son Jesus.

Amen.