

Catechist Handout

Week 2 – 9/26/2021

REVELATION



OBJECTIVES – What you want to accomplish in this session

1. Getting to know my group/getting to know my group better
2. Understanding and committing myself to follow specific guidelines for small group sharing
3. Exploring and understanding the concept of REVELATION as it applies to self, others and God
4. Exploring what is meant by the Catholic teaching that God is self-revealing
5. Learning what the Church sees as the sources of divine revelation

Key Ideas for this week – What we want to communicate this session

- Self-disclosure is part of life. We are always in the process of revealing things about ourselves to ourselves and others. Others are always revealing things about themselves to us.
- Teen Faith is all about learning to share our thoughts and feelings with others (in an appropriate way) and learning to accept the self-disclosure of others respectfully.
- God is self-revealing. God self-discloses because God wants to be in relationship with us and all of creation.
“The difference between Christianity and every other faith in the world is that all other religions are about humankind trying to reach up to God. Christianity is about God reaching down to humankind.” (think Cross of New Life)
- We call the gift of God’s self-communication Divine Revelation
- Catholics believe that the primary sources of divine revelation are the Bible and Tradition.

NOTE: primary does not mean only

Tonight’s Schedule

5:15-6:40pm – Small Group Lesson Plan

6:40-6:45pm – Announcement-**Please remind Flame 2 students to choose their Confirmation Sponsor by next week, 10/3.** They can fill out the form on-line under **Youth Ministry → Confirmation Preparation** and then **“Forms.”**

LESSON COMPONENTS – How we are going to accomplish the objectives

Community Builders (20 minutes)

Ice breakers: Do 2-3 icebreakers with your group. Choose from the following options based on whether your group is just forming or if they have been together prior to this year. If you have another good ice-breaker, go for it!

CATECHIST NOTES

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All faith classes, but especially IGNITE and FLAME are about

LEARNING TO TRUST & BECOMING TRUSTWORTHY

- ⇒ Trusting yourself
- ⇒ Trusting others
- ⇒ Trusting God

Why is trust so important?

1. For our small group

TRUST → SHARING

2. For life

**IF YOU CANNOT TRUST
YOU CANNOT LOVE**

SMALL GROUP TIP

Icebreakers and community builders are

- critical for developing small group identity and cohesion
- a way to establish small group rituals and classroom routines which engage members

Your Peers may know icebreakers from other groups they are involved in. They are a great resource – use them!

1. What I did this summer

- a. Everyone shares something they did this summer
- b. Competition aspect (feel free to come up with your own!)
 - Who went the furthest
 - Who went the highest
 - Who saw the most relatives

2. Two truths and a lie

Each member of class gets 5 minutes to brainstorm and write down two truths and a lie about him or herself

Go around circle sharing what they wrote

Class can ask 5 questions, vote on what they think

3. Something I know about everyone

Everyone has to think of something they know about everything or something they can string together about everyone in the group

Good for classes who have been together before

“I can name everyone’s favorite color”

“I know where everyone goes to school”

“I can name one sport everyone plays”

4. Fun fact bowl

Everyone writes down a fact, goes into a bowl

Pull out papers, class tries to guess who is who

5. Me too!

First teen gives a fact about themselves—I love basketball, I have two sisters, etc. If that statement or fact is true about another teen, they stand up and say “Me too!” Then they run to stand next to the teen who just went.

They start to form a line (all teens stay standing)

Then you continue until all teens are in the line. If no one stands for a teen’s fun fact, they must continue saying things about him or herself until someone does.

6. More or Less

Teens should stand in a line with the facilitator observing. They will line themselves up from “most” to “least” for each of these Statements (or ones you or your Peers think of!):

Distance from farthest place you have ever traveled

Years at Holy Family

Number of people in your family

7. Risky-Safe

Teens choose and answer SAFE or RISKY questions. Teen Faith has sets of this game already made up or you and your peers can create your own.

Think about keeping a RISKY/SAFE packet in your bin and using it as needed. You can always create new questions.

Ice breakers are readily available on line – here is one such link

<https://youthgroupgames.com.au/top-ten-icebreaker-games>

Catechist Notes

★ Using peers on the first day sends the message they are key leaders within the small group.

Building a caring and supportive Teen community is what we are all about.

Belonging ⇨ Believing

★ [Why Small Groups? The reason behind intentional Christian community](#) – good resource article. You can sign-up on this site for weekly newsletters on aspects of small group facilitation.

Even if this is your 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year together, It is important to do the ice breakers. There’s always something new to learn about each other. Groups who have been together should be expected to share on more than a superficial level. However, this is the first time they have been together in a while so a simple ice breaker and two more in-depth ice breakers would be appropriate.

Why using Community Builders is important

Community builders include

- Ice breaker activities
- Communication exercises
- Team building exercises
- Problem solving exercises
- Affirmation exercises

These kinds of activities develop skills groups need to function effectively and positively impact group dynamics

- fostering trust and respect
- building cohesion and commitment
- creating a supportive and encouraging climate.

Shared experiences by adults and teens

Goal Setting Activity (20 minutes)

- **Having each group member set his/her own goals for the year**
 - helps them own the process
 - gives you a place to begin a conversation with them throughout the year.
- **You and your Peers should prepare some goals you have for the year so that you can model/show your teens**
 - what you are looking for
 - that you are hoping to get something out of this experience as well.

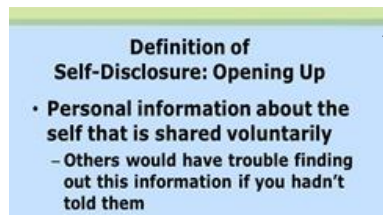


Direct teens to this graphic on TH1

- ★ **If you have been together** for a period of time consider writing a group goal for this year.
- **Encourage teens to work on their own.** These are personal goals. It is important to have them write them down in their TH.
 - ★ Let your group know you will periodically review these goals to see how each person is doing and how the group might support him/her in achieving their goals.

Catholic Teaching/Insight (25-30 minutes)

- **What is revelation?** Direct teens to TH pages 1 and 2
 - An uncovering or unveiling
 - Making the unknown known
 - A sharing of self
 - Trusting another enough to let them in to my world of thoughts and feelings
 - Disclosing the real me
 - We are always engaged in some form of revelation
 - Define Self-disclosure
- **Discussion about self-disclosure (self-revelation)**
 1. What are the benefits of sharing who we are with others?
 2. What makes revealing ourselves to others risky?
 3. What has to happen to make it safe to share who we are?
 4. What encourages sharing? What hinders sharing?



- ★ Help the teens see that revelation is not just a religious idea. Sharing who we are is part of life. Learning when and how to do it well is an important life skill. This might be a good time to mention the importance of setting and respecting personal boundaries when it comes to sharing.

Catechist Notes

Our mission is to ENGAGE

- Engagement is invited and expected
- Engagement happens over time and is cumulative
- Engagement flourishes in an atmosphere of respect and trust
- Engagement needs to be appreciated and affirmed
- Engagement is good for us
 - Being engaged fosters a deep sense of personal satisfaction and connection.
 - Engagement cultivates authenticity
 - Engagement leads to contribution and commitment

Look for signs of engagement

Early signs of engagement

- Physical presence
- Attentiveness
- Verbal and non-verbal Reactions (nods, smiles, facial expressions, eye contact, comments, questions...)
- A willingness to participate

Signs of increasing engagement

- Active listening
- Asking questions
- Sharing thoughts and feelings
- Appreciation of others
- More frequent participation
- Reliability
- Verbal and non-verbal signs of compassion

Direct teens to this slide on TH1.

This is a critical conversation to have with your small group. We want all group members to feel **safe**. It is important to articulate both what encourages group sharing and what hinders sharing. Having a fruitful conversation tonight about this will prime the pump for next week's lesson on covenant.

Guidelines for small group sharing

1. **Commit to confidentiality.** What is said in the group stays in the group.
2. **Listen** carefully. Allow others to complete their sentence or thought. Be patient with one another.
3. Allow a pause in the conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.
4. **Do not criticize or judge** what another person says.
5. No **'Cross Talk'** - Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, texting or checking your email.
6. Don't give advice unless someone has asked for it
7. We are not here to fix each other. Give encouragement and speak the truth. Don't try to solve the problem or change each other.
8. Respect silence. People need time to process ideas and form their thoughts.
9. Give others a chance to speak. Everyone who wants to share ought to be able to do so. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.
10. Respect another's desire for privacy. No one is obligated to share.
11. Use "I" statements rather than "we" statements. Speak for yourself; let others speak for themselves.

➤ **Asking the tough questions** - Direct teens to TH 3

- Is essential when seeking the TRUTH
**Knowledge is having the right answer.
Intelligence is asking the right question.**
- Is not always easy and can make us (or others) feel uncomfortable
- Questioning
 - Stimulates creativity – out-of-the-box thinking
 - Generates new approaches to old problems
 - Promotes growth and change
- Authentic belief is never threatened by questions or diverse points of view
the faith that grows out of questioning is stronger than the faith born out of blind acceptance

Catechist Notes

Guidelines for small groups

Go over each bullet point. Stop frequently and make sure everyone understands what is being asked and why it is important.

★ If you have been together for a while maybe you want to add something to the guidelines or focus on one or two of them the group has struggled with in the past.

Explain that making a group emotionally safe is a big task and everyone has to do his or her part or it just won't happen.

Ask the teens to go to TH2 and fill out the box on what they can do to make the group a safe place to share. (Writing something down reinforces the idea)

STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

What we share here stays here!

Two exceptions

1. If you disclose being physically, emotionally or sexually abused or
2. You disclose wanting to hurt yourself or others.

Explain to your teens that we have a legal and moral responsibility to report these things.

Teens need to know

1. We want them to be honest about what they think and feel
Going through the motions does not help them sort out what they believe or grow as spiritual people
2. We are not looking for 'blind acceptance' of Church teaching.
3. We are not preparing them to be confirmed, we are preparing them to choose whether or not they want to be confirmed.
4. All their questions are welcome

Catechist Notes

Direct teens to the response boxes on TH3

Direct teens to pages 3-4 of the TH. Visual learners will appreciate following along in the TH

Many have heard this before but repetition reinforces previous learnings.

★ [How Can I Lead Great Small-Group Discussions?](#) Four easy things any leader can do to facilitate growth-focused discussions. If you find this article helpful there are several more available from this newsletter.

SMALL GROUP TIP

When sharing in discussion Catechists and Peers should only go first if they are trying to model a particular kind or level of sharing. Otherwise, take your turn in the middle.

Time for personal reflection is an important part of every group meeting. Teens need to make the information presented their own. Don't skimp on this part of the lesson.

This visual is a standard element in the IGNITE lesson plans. You can use what the teens note in the I Learned Statements to review what you did at the beginning of the next lesson. This eliminates the blank stare you may receive if you try to do this without the prompts.

➤ What is divine revelation?

God's self-disclosure to us. God shares who He is for the same reason we share who we are with others. God wants us to know who He is, that He loves us and wants a relationship with us.

Have the teens share where they have experienced God's self-revelation

Have teens identify things they struggle with about who God is

➤ What is Biblical Revelation and how is it connected to divine revelation

God making himself and his divine plan known to the human race through WORDS and DEEDS in human history, recorded in what we call the Bible.

1. The Bible assures us that God wants to be known and has given us a very large body of knowledge about His nature, character, attributes, and activities.
2. The Bible tells us that **the self-disclosure of God is on-going** in human history. This means God continues to share more and more with us.

★ If this is true then there is always more to learn and understand about God



This is also true of our self-disclosure – no matter how well we think we know ourselves or others, there always more to learn and understand. We are all **still becoming** our truest best selves

3. The Bible tells us God enters into personal, intimate relationships with individuals and with groups of individuals. This is the kind of relationship God wants with you.

➤ Review the key ideas for the week with the teens.

Putting Faith into Action (5 minutes)

I Learned Statements – complete at least two of the sentences below

I learned...	I discovered...	I was reminded that...
I was surprised by...		The question I have is...

LESSON PREPARATION NOTES:

Is there something I want to pick up or go over from last week's class?

My community building activity this week will be

What parts of the lesson will the Peer Ministers lead/facilitate?

Do I need anything from the Faith Office prior to class?

Other

Session Notes

It would be helpful to you and to the Teen Faith staff if you take 5-10 minutes to evaluate how your session went.

Do you need to follow-up on any of your teens as a result of this session?

What worked well in this session?

Was there an issue or question raised in this session you would like to follow up on with your group?
