

Catechist Handout for REVELATION

Week 1 – 9/19/2021



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

- 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)
- Catholics believe that the primary sources of divine revelation are the Bible and Tradition.

Tonight’s Schedule

5:15-5:25pm - Students go classrooms for attendance

5:25-6:35pm - Small Group Lesson Plan (**Ignite classes go to courtyard**)

6:35-6:45pm – Ignite classes head back to classroom for dismissal

LESSON COMPONENTS – How we are going to accomplish the objectives

Community Builders (20-25 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!

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

CATECHIST NOTES

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?

For our small group

TRUST → SHARING

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 great opportunity to let your peers lead
- a way to establish small group rituals and classroom routines which engage members

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. 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”

3. Fun fact bowl

Everyone writes down a fact, goes into a bowl
Pull out papers, class tries to guess who is who

4. 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.

5. More or Less

Teens should stand in a semi-circle with the facilitator in the center. 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 travelled
- Years at Holy Family
- Number of people in your family

6. 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 sets the precedence for your small group that these teens are leaders of the 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.

Using Community Builders Community builders include

- Ice breakers
- Communication exercises
- Team building exercises
- Affirmation exercises

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 two simple ice breakers and one in-depth ice breaker would be appropriate.

Shared experiences by adults and teens

Goal Setting Activity (15-20 minutes)

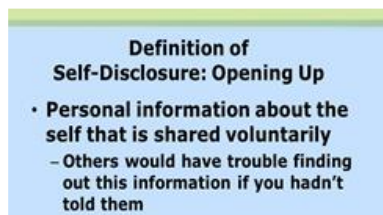
- **Having each group member set his/her own goals for the year**
 - helps them own the process
 - gives you a place to begin a conversation with them throughout the year.
 - **You and your Peers should prepare some goals you have for the year so that you can model/show your teens**
 - what you are looking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



Direct teens to this graphic on TH1

Catholic Teaching/Insight (20-25 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 and connect it to what IGNITE is about
 - **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 it is a life and 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 come to sharing. Let them know this will be an idea that comes up often in IGNITE



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.

➤ 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.

God makes himself known to us in many ways

1. Creation
2. Christ
2. Other people
3. Personal experiences
4. Signs and symbols
5. The Bible
6. The Church
7. Direct communication (mystical encounters)

God's self-disclosure is freely given and ongoing, yet we will never fully know God.

Catechist Notes

Guidelines for small groups

Have the teens take turns reading each bullet point. Stop frequently and make sure everyone understands what is being asked and why it is important.

Making a group emotionally safe is a big task and everyone has to commit to this. It is especially important for IGNITE teens who may not have done much small group sharing.

STRESS 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 that has to be reported. This is both a legal and moral responsibility we cannot ignore.

SMALL GROUP TIP

In discussion make sure everyone who wants to, has a chance to contribute – this includes the catechist and peers. 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.

★ [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.

➤ **What is biblical revelation?**

God making himself and his divine plan known to the human race through WORDS and DEEDS in human history. These words and deeds are recorded in what we call the Bible or Scripture.

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.
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...

Direct teens to pages 3-4 of the TH.

Visual learners will appreciate following along in the TH

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.

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?

