

# **Key To Each Session**

## **SESSION TITLE**

### **DOCTRINAL ELEMENT**

The eight doctrinal elements reflect the most important foundations of Catholic doctrine and faith. Each semester there will be eight sessions (“catechetical nights”) which cover the eight doctrinal elements. Additionally, there is a ninth element called an “issue night” which addresses common cultural issues that teens may face. All of these elements can be found on the Four-Year Curriculum Guide (pg 7).

### **TOPIC**

The topic for the night is a lens or specific focus for the evening. This is the basis for the teaching. There are sixty-four different topics in the four-year curriculum.

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### **GOAL**

This gives an overview of the objective for the session. It expresses what you want teens to remember most when they walk away from this night.

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### **SECONDARY RELIGION GUIDELINES**

These are the required doctrinal elements for High School aged youth compiled by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington in 1998. These elements are even more detailed and comprehensive than what the USCCB require in their 2010 document, *Adaptation of Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*. Therefore the *Journey to Emmaus* curriculum is structured around and cites each of the *Secondary Religion Guidelines* because it is what our local Church requires and fully encompasses what the USCCB has compiled. These guidelines can be found at:

[http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth/documents/secondary\\_religion\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth/documents/secondary_religion_guidelines.pdf)

### **SCRIPTURE**

Here you will find Scripture passages that relate to the topic of the session.

### **CATECHISM**

Here you will find citations from the Catechism of the Catholic Church that relate to the topic of the session.

### **GOLDEN THREADS**

These truths are the very basic tenets of our faith. Everything that we believe in some way relates back to this hierarchy of truths. For greater depth, read the additional insert called “The Hierarchy of Truths: The Golden Threads of Catechesis” (pg 11).

### **ANNUAL THEME RELEVANCE**

This is a short explanation as to how the topic relates to our annual theme. This year the theme is “Built on Christ” based upon Colossians 2:7, “Rooted and Built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith.” This theme was set by Pope Benedict XVI for World Youth Day 2011.

### **PROCLAMATION**

These are the specific doctrinal points that the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and the rest of the team must be familiar with prior to leading the session. These are the key points to be communicated to the teens during the session.

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# Key to Curriculum

## **MEDIA SUGGESTIONS & OTHER RESOURCES**

Here you will find suggestions of movies, internet videos, websites, music, books, and other resources that you can incorporate into the session to creatively communicate the Church's teaching.

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## **GATHER**

This section includes an icebreaker to get your session started and opening prayer suggestions related to the topic. This section might also include a description of the environment or setting for the session.

## **EXPLANATION**

This is a suggested talk or talking points that you could give to communicate the catechetical points of the session. Teenagers do not typically learn the faith through a lecture format. Therefore, this is a suggested talk which you can fill with personal stories, testimonies, and other recommended media and activities to provide for a more lively and comprehensive approach to catechesis.

## **APPLICATION**

This is the point in the session where the teenagers are invited to reflect upon or apply what they have learned in order to make it more concrete in their lives. Included are different examples of activities that can be used to drive home the catechesis of the evening. In general, at least one activity is a calm and reflective activity and another is an active, upbeat activity. This allows you to choose an activity based on the group of teens you intend to have or the type of activity you think best fits your group's needs. Some sessions have the activities incorporated directly into the explanation section which provides an easy flow for the session.

## **SEND**

This section has two parts. The first part is answering the question, "What does this have to do with Jesus?" This is reminder to both the catechists and the student to reflect upon how this Church teaching relates to Jesus Christ Himself. Everything that we teach should point the students to Jesus Christ. The second part is the closing prayer.

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR HISPANIC YOUTH MINISTRY**

This section gives a few reflections on how the topic is viewed in light of the Hispanic culture and suggestions for working with Hispanic youth.