

Echoes of Faith®

EMMAUS EDITION

CONTENT OVERVIEW



a Kendall Hunt Company

THE EMMAUS LEARNING DESIGN

Each segment of each module of *Echoes of Faith* has been developed according to RCL Benziger's unique Emmaus Learning Design process. This process has been inspired by the story of The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:12-35). This unique learning design has been developed to assist you in enriching your relationship with Christ as a disciple and as a catechist.

This chart explains five major moments that occur in the Emmaus story. They make up the same process you'll experience in every segment of *Echoes of Faith*. It's also the same process you can use as you catechize others, for the *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC) teaches, "The pedagogy for catechist formation should model the pedagogy proper to the catechetical process (NDC 55E)."

The Road to Emmaus

Jesus joins the two disciples on the road and begins to walk with them. He **invites** them to tell him what they are discussing.

As Jesus describes all the passages that referred to him in the Scriptures, the disciples **discover** a deeper meaning to God's Word.

Through **dialogue** with Jesus and with each other, the two disciples continue on their way of encountering God.

During a meal with the two disciples, Jesus breaks and blesses the bread. They **recognize** him in this moment.

With hearts burning, the two disciples eagerly return to Jerusalem to **witness** to the others all that happened.

The Catechetical Journey

We **invite** you to join us on a faith journey. Each segment begins with prayer and a reflection on personal experience.

As God's Word is opened up, you will **discover** a deeper understanding of the Church's teachings.

As a disciple in a community of faith, you will **dialogue** with others sharing new insights.

As you take time to seeing the signs of faith in your life, you will **recognize** Jesus and his presence in your life.

In this final moment of the segment, you will make a choice on how you will **witness** the Gospel message to others.

Each segment includes prayers, short video selections, reflection questions, and opportunities to dialogue and connect with peers to help you apply what you have learned. At the conclusion of each segment, you will find a summary and an optional assessment to check your understanding. Each segment also includes options for further study.

I BELIEVE, WE BELIEVE

Professing the truth of the Catholic faith

The *I Believe, We Believe* module offers an introduction to the central faith statements in the Nicene Creed that we profess at Mass on Sunday. These creedal statements summarize the Christian faith. As you embark on a journey of faith through these truths of the Catholic Church, keep the following goals in mind.

Goals

- To understand more fully the truths you profess in the Nicene Creed as a member of the believing community
- To reflect upon these truths to deepen and enrich your personal faith
- To give you more confidence to express and share the Catholic faith with others

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: God the Father

- God the Creator
- The Revelation of God
- Faith: Call and Response
- God the Holy Trinity

Segment 2: God the Son

- The Fullness of God's Revelation
- The Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery
- The Reign of God
- The Sermon on the Mount

Segment 3: God the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit, Animator
- The Call to Conversion
- The Voice of the Spirit
- The Holy Spirit in the Church

Segment 4: The Christian Creed

- The Living Water of Jesus
- The Early Church
- The Value of Creeds
- The Faithful on Earth

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THE CHURCH

Living as the holy people of God

This module, *The Church*, will introduce you to some basic understandings about the origin, nature, and mission of the Catholic Church. Some Catholics may describe their experiences of the Church as related to sacramental celebrations, participating in Mass, attending Catholic school or parish religion classes. Some may even offer other examples of living as the holy people of God, such as parish picnics or engaging in works of Christian service. Whether we are parents, catechists, consecrated to the religious life, or other faithful adults trying to live the values of Jesus every day, we strive to be enthusiastic and effective witnesses for Christ and his Church. This module will invite you to reflect on some basic aspects of being a member of the holy People of God, the Church.

Goals

- To understand more fully the role the Church plays in conveying the person and message of Jesus to the world
- To reflect on the ways in which the Church can and does enrich your own Christian life
- To become more confident in expressing the importance of the Church to others

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: The Origin of the Church

- Jesus and the Church
- The Reign of God on Earth
- The Holy Spirit in the Church

Segment 2: The Mission of the Church

- Sharing the Joy of the Gospel
- The New Evangelization
- The Mission of Disciples

Segment 3: The Mission of the Church

- The People of God
- The Body of Christ
- The Communion of Saints

Segment 4: The Church Ordered

- The Order of Clergy
- The Role of the Laity
- The Consecrated Life

Segment 5: The Church for Renewal

- The Early Church
- A Period of Reform
- Fruitful Dialogue

Segment 6: Mary, Mother of the Church

- Mary's Unique Role
- Marian Devotions
- Teachings about Mary

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THE SCRIPTURES

Proclaiming God's Word to the world

The Scriptures module offers a basic introduction to the Bible. This module is important because you'll be introducing those whom you catechize to this holy book. Don't worry if you are not an expert. As you participate more in other faith formation programs, you will increase your knowledge about the Bible and gain greater insight into Sacred Scripture. Studying the Word of God is the work of a lifetime.

Goals

- To understand how the Bible is a holy book in which God reveals himself and his plan of salvation
- To reflect upon God's Word in order to deepen and enrich your personal faith
- To give you more confidence to proclaim and share the Word of God with others

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: What Is the Bible?

- The Word of God
- The Formation of the Bible
- Literary Forms in the Bible

Segment 2: Why Is the Bible Holy?

- The Canon of Sacred Scripture
- The Context of Sacred Scripture
- The Inspiration of Sacred Scripture

Segment 3: What's in the Bible?

- A Master Story
- A Journey of Liberation
- God's Abiding Presence

Segment 4: Jesus: The Alpha and the Omega

- The New Covenant
- The Message of Jesus
- The Christian Mission

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CATHOLIC MORALITY

Choosing the Way of Christ

The third pillar of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is called, "Life in Christ." This section, addresses the topic of Catholic morality. Morality deals with how we are to live as Christians. We seek this understanding in and through Jesus, who describes himself as ". . . the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Morality deals with your fundamental actions as a Christian, both alone and with others.

Since this module is only a brief overview of a very large topic, your study here is intended to only provide you with a basic introduction to Catholic morality. Throughout this module, you'll engage in a process of faith reflection. As you study more, and attend further classes and workshops, you will increase your knowledge and insight. And keep in mind that learning how to choose the Way of Christ is the work of a lifetime.

Goals

- To explore the foundations of Catholic morality and the practice of the moral life
- To reflect on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew Chapters 5-7) as a framework for the Christian moral life
- To become more confident in living the moral life by imitating Christ

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: Happiness in Christ

- True Happiness
- A Virtuous Life
- Being Salt and Light

Segment 2: Life in Christ

- The Commandments
- The Virtues
- Sin and Conscience

Segment 3: Living as Children of God

- Sources of Morality
- Discerning Moral Responsibility
- The Virtuous Person

Segment 4: The Moral Life of the Community

- Formed by the Community
- Transformed by Grace
- Life of Discipleship

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PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY

Responding to God's calling

The *Prayer & Spirituality* module offers an introduction to our relationship with the living God. This module places prayer within the context of our spirituality. Prayer and spirituality are our wholehearted "yes" to the mystery of God seeking us.

Goals

- To appreciate the rhythm of prayer as listening and responding to God's call
- To gain a better understanding of various expressions in prayer and discerning God's will
- To explore the richness of the Our Father as expressing the heart of the Gospel

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: Our Search for God

- Christian Spirituality
- Desire for God
- God's Initiative

Segment 2: Prayer that Transforms

- Defining Prayer
- The Habit of Praying
- Contemplative Activity

Segment 3: The Our Father

- A Summary of the Gospel
- Hope in God
- Hope for Ourselves

Segment 4: Discerning God's Will

- Developing a Discerning Heart
- Elements of Discernment
- An Examen of Consciousness

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LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

Participating in the Mystery of Christ

The second pillar of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, The Celebration of the Christian Mystery, addresses the Church's liturgy and sacraments. You will learn in this module how the patterns and meaning of rituals used in the Christian liturgy provide avenues into the mystery of Christ. You will explore the Church's sacramental principle, and receive a brief introduction to the Seven Sacraments.

Goals

- To explore the meaning of ritual and the power of symbols, especially as they relate to the Church's liturgies
- To learn about the Church's basic teachings on the Seven Sacraments
- To understand why the Church's sacramental life is central to her identity

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: The Meaning of Liturgy

- The Paschal Mystery
- Defining Liturgy
- Symbolic Actions

Segment 2: Sacraments of Initiation

- The Sacramental Principle
- The Sacrament of Baptism
- The Sacrament of Confirmation

Segment 3: The Eucharist

- Eucharist: Source and Summit
- The Liturgy of the Word
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Segment 4: Sacraments of Healing and Service

- The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
- The Sacrament of Holy Orders
- The Sacrament of Matrimony

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GETTING STARTED AS A CATECHIST

Inviting others to faith

This *Getting Started as a Catechist* module might be called “triage” for new catechists. Triage is actually a medical term describing how personnel prioritize needs in an emergency situation. Everyone needs attention, but some need it more urgently than others. In a similar way, new catechists have a hundred questions, but which questions should we answer first? This module was designed to teach you the very first things you need to know to begin your journey as a catechist.

Goals

- To explore four important aspects of preparing for a catechetical session:
 - the physical environment
 - the social environment
 - creative activities
 - lesson planning

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: Preparing the Physical Environment

- Adjusting the physical space
- Developing a climate for prayer
- Enriching the space for faith and culture

Segment 2: Providing the Social Environment

- Welcoming students to the learning space
- Relating to the students
- Managing the catechetical space

Segment 3: Using Creative Activities

- Enhancing catechesis with a variety of activities
- Connecting to the life of faith
- Teaching faith themes through activities

Segment 4: Planning for Success

- Establishing a process
- Identifying effective strategies
- Choosing appropriate questioning strategies

ROLES OF THE CATECHIST

Echoing the way of Christ the Teacher

This module introduces you to the ministry of catechesis. You are more than a teacher, more than a transmitter of information, and far more than just a volunteer. You are a person called to participate in one of the most important works of the Church—sharing and handing on the Catholic faith to others. You are called to echo the way of Christ the Teacher. This module will introduce you to four important roles or aspects of being a catechist.

Goals

- To explore four important aspects or roles of a catechist

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: The Catechist as Companion and Guide

- The six Tasks of Catechesis
- The art of accompaniment
- Accepting your role as “leading learner”

Segment 2: The Catechist as Storyteller

- Reasons we are storytellers
- Techniques for storytelling
- The importance of storytelling in catechesis

Segment 3: The Catechist as Leader of Prayer

- The importance of personal prayer
- The importance of communal prayer
- Appropriate uses of prayer in catechesis

Segment 4: The Catechist as Witness for Justice

- The justice dimension of the Gospel
- The relationship between charity and justice
- Encouraging learners to live as witnesses for justice

THE LEARNER

Exploring the development of the whole person

Faith includes all you know about God, how you relate to God and to all of God's creation, and how you choose to act in response to the gift of God's love. Your ultimate aim, as a catechist, is to help your learners grow in your relationship with God toward a faith that is "living, explicit, and fruitful" (*General Directory for Catechesis* 82).

This module will introduce you to the most influential theories of cognitive, psycho-social, moral, and faith development. These theories will help you understand how your learners think, relate to one other, reason between right and wrong, and grow in faith.

Theories evolve over time, but the ones highlighted here are used most in contemporary catechesis. The bishops point out that catechists study these theories for a purpose, but they are always to be put "at the service of evangelization" (*National Directory for Catechesis* 55D). In the same spirit, this module will discuss each developmental theory in its relationship to faith.

All of the theories speak of advancing levels and stages, but as you study them, bear in mind the theories connection to faith and grace. Although God calls us to the mature faith of stewards, we still remain disciples of the Lord, and we are all children of God throughout our lives.

Goals

- To explore scientific theories related to human development that influence catechesis

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: Building Knowledge

- Applying developmental theories to catechetical practice
- Piaget's theory of cognitive development
- Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences

Segment 2: Relating to Others

- Erikson's theory of psycho-social growth
- Relating as a child, a disciple, or a steward

Segment 3: Learning to Love

- Kohlberg's theory of moral development
- Understanding the limitations of a learner's abilities

Segment 4: Growing in Faith

- Fowler's theory of faith growth
- Respecting the faith development of individual learners

GRADE LEVEL METHODOLOGY

Inviting children and the youth to faith

New catechists begin their ministry with three questions: Who am I? What do I teach? How do I teach? These questions address what the *General Directory for Catechesis* calls their being, knowing, and *savoir-faire* (GDC 238). This module is about the last of these dimensions—the “how-to” of catechesis. You will find that one size does not fit all—methods vary according to the age and abilities of the children you catechize.

This module includes an overview of appropriate catechetical methods for children in grades 1-8. The module has four levels: Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, and Grades 7-8. Throughout, you will be prompted to follow the path closest to the grade level you teach.

Goals

- To learn appropriate methods of catechesis for the grade level you teach

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: The Faith Journey

- Steps on the journey
- Gifts for every age
- Age-appropriate ways to grow in faith

Segment 2: Teaching Sacred Scripture

- Scripture-based activities
- Using learners' gifts
- Techniques for engaging learners

Segment 3: Teaching the Catholic Tradition

- Increasing understanding
- Inviting a response
- Building knowledge

Segment 4: Praying in the Classroom

- Ritual prayer as catechesis
- Symbols of God's presence
- Using gestures in prayer

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Inviting other adults to faith

This module will help you to work effectively as a facilitator in various kinds of adult faith formation settings such as Scripture study, prayer groups, parish renewal groups, small faith communities, or RCIA. It does not treat the content of what is covered in these settings. Rather this module will teach you how to bring out the reflections of your learners, support their interactions with one another, and summarize the insights you hear from them. Through the four segments of this module, you will have the opportunity to reflect on a number of important aspects of the adult faith journey and the value of faith sharing.

Goals

- To appreciate the lifelong journey of faith, and to learn skills for facilitating that journey for others

Overview of this module:

Segment 1: The Faith Journey

- Personal stories of faith
- Adult faith and conversion
- Faith growth in the community

Segment 2: The Value of Faith Sharing

- Benefits of small groups
- Needs of small groups
- Addressing cultural needs

Segment 3: Facilitating Faith Sharing Groups

- Creating a welcoming environment
- Skills of a facilitator
- Addressing personality traits

Segment 4: Catechesis and Transformation

- The importance of the Church's tradition
- Including doctrine in faith sharing
- Connecting faith and life