

Contents

About Call to Faith

A Thematic Approach to Young Adolescent Catechesis . . .	4-5
Session Contents	6-7
Scheduling and Organizing	8-11
The Role of Session Leader	12-13
Leading a Session	14-15

Participant Session Plans

Session 1 GOD Our Creator	16-23
Session 2 IN GOD'S IMAGE	24-31
Session 3 Knowing GOD Through Scripture	32-39
Session 4 JESUS Sign of God's Love	40-47
Session 5 THE CALL to Holiness	48-55
Session 6 FAITH and Tradition	56-63
Faith in Action	64-67

Resource Bank

Reproducible Session Resources	68-74
Ministry and Multimedia Resources	75-76
Resources for Building a Learning Community	77-80

Revelation Session Contents

Purpose	Scripture References	Content Summary
Session 1 God Our Creator All creation comes from God. He created human beings to live with him in glory. Young people will explore the account of creation and recognize how they are formed in the image and likeness of God.	Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 1:1-2:4, Genesis 9:1-17, Genesis 15:1-21, Genesis 17:15-19, Genesis 21:1-3, Exodus 14:21-31, Genesis 2:10-14, 1 John 1:5, 1 John 4:6	We can come to know God through all that he has created and through human reason. ► Out of nothing, God created the heavens and the earth, and made humans in his image and likeness, making it possible to know him and return his love. ► God promised to restore the human race to the harmony and perfection for which he originally created us, and throughout history he has shown himself and his plan in many ways. ► From the Genesis creation accounts and the world around us, we get a sense of the attributes of God—eternal, almighty, truth, love, merciful, holy, living. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 47, 68, 69, 230, 231, 315-319, 353</i>
Session 2 In God's Image God created human beings in his image and likeness. Because of this uniqueness, we have a natural desire to know God and to be with him. Young people will learn that God calls us to live in covenant with him, a relationship of deep love and mutual commitment.	Matthew 6:25-33, Colossians 1:15, Genesis 27, 1 Samuel 3, Jeremiah 1, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Exodus 20:2-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21	God made humans in his image and likeness so we could be in relationship with him. ► With a soul, reason, and free will, humans can set their priority and direction in life toward friendship with God. Jesus is the model for living out this relationship. ► God first established a series of covenants with his people, Israel, promising to be faithful to them and to be their God. God also established a new covenant, through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. He calls each of us into his covenant of love. ► The natural and revealed law—especially the Ten Commandments—guide people in what is good and evil, what is faithful living, and what it means to be made in the image of God. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 44, 70-72, 228, 381, 415, 416, 1975, 2080, 2081</i>
Session 3 Knowing God Through Scripture In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to us through human authors. Jesus, the true Word of God, continues to speak to us today in the proclamation of Scripture and in the life of the Church. Young people will explore various aspects of Scripture and make connections to their daily lives.	Matthew 2:1-12, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 6:20-36, John 4:46-54, Mark 12:28-34, John 1:1-14, John 11, Deuteronomy 6:5, Psalm 107:1, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 64:8, Micah 6:8a	God speaks to us and tells us about himself and his plan for us. ► God is the principal author and inspiration of the sacred words of Scripture that humans have recorded under his guidance and direction. ► The four Gospels, which developed over the course of time after Jesus' Resurrection, are at the center of the New Testament because they record the truth of the life and ministry of Jesus. ► God continues to speak to us today through the Scriptures, as we proclaim them at Mass, reflect on them personally, rely on them for making choices, and study them to learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 136, 136-140, 592, 1190, 1802, 2662</i>
Session 4 Jesus, Sign of God's Love Jesus is the ultimate communication between God and humans. In Jesus we learn all we need to know about God the Father's great love for us. Youth will observe the life of Jesus, the Son of God, to gain insight into God the Father, who is united with Jesus in love with the Holy Spirit.	John 3:16, Luke 22:20, Matthew 26:26-30, Luke 11:2-4, Galatians 4:6, Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21	Jesus is the fulfillment of the law, and he reveals God the Father to us. ► Through Jesus' life and teaching, we recognize him as the sign of God's love. ► Jesus has a close and intimate relationship with the Father. He invites us to share in that relationship as God's sons and daughters. ► The natural and revealed law helps us choose what is good and live as God's people through the Holy Spirit. Jesus plants within our hearts a new law of love. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 68, 73, 561, 620, 621, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 2798</i>

Purpose	Scripture References	Content Summary
<p>Session 5</p> <p>The Call to Holiness</p> <p>The natural desire of a person in relationship with God is to become more like him, which means growing in holiness. In this session, young people will learn how holiness compels a person to act as Jesus would act in the world today.</p>	<p>Psalm 8:3-6, Daniel 7 and 10, Tobit 12, Daniel 10 and 12, Revelation 12, 1 Corinthians 13:1-2, 1 John 2:5-6</p>	<p>The Church is a sign of the holiness of God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Each of us is called to be holy in even the ordinary circumstances of our lives. God created humans to share in his glory, to be holy, and to be joined fully with him. ▶ The Church is holy because her founder is holy and because the Holy Spirit lives within her. The Church helps us grow in holiness, especially through prayer and worship. ▶ A life of holiness is built on love. The love that we have for our brothers and sisters reflects our love for God. By responding in love, we also recognize God's love for us. <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 264, 319, 350, 353, 867, 2720</i></p>
<p>Session 6</p> <p>Faith and Tradition</p> <p>Scripture and Tradition help us understand who God is and who we are in relationship to him. In this session, youth will come to understand faith as a gift from God that calls for acceptance on our part. Faith compels and empowers us to live lives of love and justice.</p>	<p>1 Timothy 2:3-4, Mark 9:24, Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 16:16, Luke 17:5-6, 1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, John 11:16, John 14:5, John 20:24-29</p>	<p>God reveals his love to us. We are free to respond to his love in faith and action, by what we say and do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ God's revelation is contained in his written word of Scripture and the lived Tradition of the Church, passed down from generation to generation. Together they make up one common source of revelation, or deposit of faith. ▶ Faith is a gift from God, which requires a free human choice. It leads to action. Faith is an individual act and act of the Church as a whole. The faith of the Church nourishes and strengthens the faith of each us. ▶ Faith makes a difference in our lives; others can see by the way we live that we believe in God. <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 96-98, 176, 179-182, 1833, 1840, 1841</i></p>
<p>Faith In Action!</p> <p>CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING THEME:</p> <p>Care for God's Creation</p> <p>This theme's Faith in Action feature teaches young adolescents the principle of care for God's creation.</p>	<p>Psalm 24:1-2, Matthew 6:25-33</p>	<p>The Catholic Church calls us to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ seek and find God in creation and to praise God for his beauty and goodness. ▶ respond to God's covenant of love for us by loving God and our neighbor, and by caring for God's creation. ▶ resist consumerism and choose a lifestyle in harmony with the earth and the needs of all. <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 45, 384, 2451-2454, 2456, 2459</i></p>





IN GOD'S Image

Session Background

Purpose

God created human beings in his image and likeness. Because of this uniqueness, we have a natural desire to know God and to be with him. Young people will learn that God calls us to live in covenant with him, a relationship of deep love and mutual commitment.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ understand that Jesus is our model for living our friendship with God the Father.
- ▶ explore the meaning of covenant and God's covenant with his Chosen People.
- ▶ understand the Ten Commandments and their meaning for our lives today.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 44, 70–72, 228, 381, 415, 416, 1975, 2080, and 2081.

It is important that we conscientiously teach the Ten Commandments, the moral foundation of our faith, especially in light of the Beatitudes.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 44

Catechist Formation

Human beings were created to be in relationship. It is part of our nature. Because we were created by a God who is himself a community of Persons—and we are created for the expressed purpose of union with our Creator—how could it be otherwise? There is a natural inclination within each of us to be with others. When those relationships are defined by justice and love, they become what God intended them to be. When they are defined by selfishness and abuse, they become disordered. The Church offers us many sources of guidance and support to create relationships that are signs of God's love.



How do the relationships in your life help you to come to know God better?



Catechist Prayer

God, companion me as I seek to pass along my love for you and your Church to the young people you have entrusted to my care. Bless me with wisdom, patience, steadfastness, and, above all, a loving heart, that I may faithfully and honorably teach them your truth. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ As they expand their relationships and social responsibilities, younger adolescents are beginning to grapple with the expectations of others, including the sometimes conflicting expectations of family members and peers. This session allows youth to reflect on the promises and commitments that they make. Guide them as they consider their priorities and their friendship with God.
- ▶ Because younger adolescents usually lack the perspective and experience that come from having lived through many personal crises, the stresses of life can seem immediate and insurmountable to them. Your sharing an adult perspective can alleviate their sense of being overwhelmed.

Preparing for the Session

GO
online

For a session planning sheet, visit
www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

FACILITATE the Ball Toss Activity.

READ about Darryl on PAGES 12–13.

EXTEND THE SESSION with Hot Potato game,
add 10 minutes.

SHARE about life's demands.

WHAT DOES FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

READ JESUS' EXAMPLE on PAGES 14–15.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY on Expectations.

PRESENT about covenants, PAGE 16.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY on My Covenants.

SHARE about your covenant with God.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reflecting on God's
surprising call, add 15 minutes.

READ about LAWS OF LOVE on PAGES 18 and 19.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY on Our
Relationship with God.

EXTEND THE SESSION by Digging Deeper into
the Commandments, add 15 minutes.

READ what CATHOLICS BELIEVE on PAGE 19.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

REFLECT on LIVE OUR FAITH on PAGE 20.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY on ways that God cares
for us.

EXTEND THE SESSION by learning about Saint
Marcella on PAGE 21, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 2** in the *Revelation Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Invite a young person to help with the ball toss activity.
- ▶ Invite a volunteer to proclaim the Scripture reading for the opening prayer.

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other preparation work needed.

Supplies Needed

- *Revelation Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- pens
- copies of **Resource 2**—one per participant
- 3 x 5 cards—one per participant
- several balls of various sizes (ping pong ball, tennis ball, super-ball, softball, soccer ball, kick ball)
- ten half-sheets of newsprint
- ten markers
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In **What's the Issue?**, you will share about the demands and expectations in your life. 1 minute
- ▶ In **What Does Faith Say?**, you will share about your relationship with God. 1 minute

Facilitating the Session

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

GO
online

Visit www.osvcurriculum.com.
Look under Reproducible Resources
for a printable version of this prayer.



PRAY Begin by welcoming the young people.
▶ Ask for the group's attention, and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

▶ Light the candle. Have one participant read the prayer.

We thank you, God our Father, for the gift of life! Send your Holy Spirit to help us to praise you, and have faith in the plan you have for each and every one of us. May the Spirit help us to be patient and to accept that you have called us all, not just by any name, but by our own names, to be your living images, to be like you, and to help others to know you. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY Ball Toss 5 minutes

This activity illustrates how demands and expectations can weigh on us.

- ▶ Invite a volunteer to help with this activity.
- ▶ Ask the participants to name demands and expectations others have of them. Toss a new ball to the volunteer with each suggestion named. If he/she drops a ball, he/she has to try to pick it up without dropping the other balls, while trying to catch and hold on to the additional balls being tossed.
- ▶ After all the balls have been tossed, ask the participants what they noticed in the activity.
- ▶ Ask the volunteer how it felt to have the balls tossed so quickly while trying to hold on to them.
- ▶ Thank the volunteer, collect the balls, and continue with the next piece of the session.

READ Read the story on **PAGES 12–13** aloud to the group.



PAGE 12



PAGE 13

EXTEND THE SESSION 10 minutes

Hot Potato Game

In this activity, all participants get an opportunity to experience a variety of demands at the same time.

- ▶ Divide participants into groups of six to eight. Ask them to sit in a circle.
- ▶ Give each small group an object (like a tennis ball) that is easy to pass from person to person.
- ▶ Give these instructions:

When the music begins, pass the object from person to person until the music stops. If you are caught with the object when the music stops, you must stand and receive a consequence! Once the game resumes, each time the object is passed to you, you must stand and do your consequence before passing the object on to the next person.

- ▶ Start the music. Stop it and ask all who have the object to stand. Give this group a consequence (see list below).
- ▶ Continue to start and stop the music. The point is to get young people to experience having to follow through on a variety of demands at the same time.
- ▶ Consequences:
 - Name all the Gospels.
 - Do two jumping jacks.
 - Sing "Jesus Loves Me."
 - Stand up and spin around twice.
 - Say the names of all the sacraments you know.
 - (Add your own ideas!)

SHARE Share about the various demands you have in your life—where they come from and how you try to manage them. Let the participants know if you've ever felt like Darryl—being pulled in several directions. Ask for volunteers to respond to these

WHAT ABOUT YOU? questions:

- What do you do when you are torn in different directions?
- Where do you go to simply talk or get advice?

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

READ Read **CONNECT** and **PURPOSE AND DIRECTION** on **PAGE 14**. Invite three volunteers to each read a paragraph aloud from **JESUS' EXAMPLE** on **PAGE 15**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY **Expectations** 10 minutes

In this activity, participants will work in groups of three.

- ▶ Give each group a sheet of paper and a pen. Ask one person in each group to serve as the recorder.
- ▶ Have the recorders divide their sheet of paper into thirds, and label one section *Family*, another *Friends*, and the last, *God*.
- ▶ Read the **FAITH WALK** on **PAGE 15** to the participants.
- ▶ Ask the small groups to brainstorm ideas for expectations they would give themselves with regard to their families. List those ideas under the *Family* heading. Allow 2 minutes.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE? (continued)

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

JOINED WITH GOD




PAGE 14

CONNECT TODAY

PAGE 15

CALLLED TO COVENANT



QUESTIONS

ACTIVITY

CALLLED TO COVENANT

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITY

CONNECT YOUR FAITH

PAGE 16

PAGE 17

FYI Distribute **Resource 2:**
My Covenants.

My Covenants

1. How do you think you can improve your relationship with your family, with friends, and with God?

2. Think about where you need God in your life.

3. How do you think you can improve your relationship with your family, with friends, and with God?

4. Think about where you need God in your life.

5. How do you think you can improve your relationship with your family, with friends, and with God?

6. Think about where you need God in your life.

7. How do you think you can improve your relationship with your family, with friends, and with God?

8. Think about where you need God in your life.

9. How do you think you can improve your relationship with your family, with friends, and with God?

10. Think about where you need God in your life.

GUIDE PAGE 69

- ▶ Next, ask the small groups to brainstorm ideas for expectations they would give themselves with regard to their friends. List those ideas under the *Friends* heading. Allow 2 minutes.
- ▶ Finally, ask the small groups to brainstorm ideas for expectations they would give themselves with regard to God. List those ideas under the *God* heading. Allow 2 minutes.
- ▶ Ask the recorders to share their group's responses with the large group.
- ▶ Ask: Which ideas are similar between the three different headings? What does that tell you?

PRESENT Talk about covenants, using the content from **PAGES 16–17**. Use these or similar words:

We all have people we count on and people who count on us. Usually we trust these relationships; sometimes we make promises to one another.

We can trust God because he is true to his promise to be with us and call us back, even when we disobey and stray from his love. Adam and Eve sinned, but God did not abandon the human race. Through a series of covenants, God remained faithful and eventually saved the human race. A covenant is like a contract between two persons, but it is more serious and heartfelt than a legal contract. It is a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans involving mutual commitments.

God shows us over and over that he will remain faithful to the covenant, even when we fail.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY **My Covenants** 10 minutes

In this activity, participants will write their covenant with family, friends, and God.

- ▶ Help the participants begin to write their covenants by asking:
Think about how you can improve your relationship with your family, with friends, and with God.
Think about where you need God in your life.
- ▶ Using **Resource 2**, invite the participants to use the answers to those questions as a start to writing their covenants.

SHARE Share about your own covenant relationship with God.

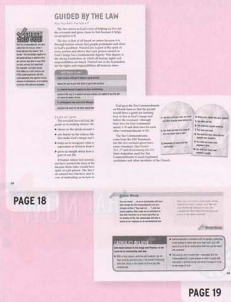
EXTEND THE SESSION 15 minutes

Called by Name

In this activity, participants consider God's surprising call by reflecting on the call of Samuel.

- ▶ Read **CALLED BY NAME** on **PAGE 16**.
- ▶ Form groups of three. In each group, one young person will be Samuel, one will be Eli, and one will play the role of God.

- ▶ Have each group read Samuel 3:1–10, with each person reading the parts for their assigned character. The youth who is Eli will also be the narrator, reading the parts that are not assigned to a character.
- ▶ Prepare ahead of time newsprint with the questions listed below. Post the newsprint for this activity and distribute 3 x 5 cards to youth. Ask young people to reflect and journal on these questions from the perspective of their character. Allow a few minutes for individual reflection.
 - *What was happening in this story?*
 - *What is your character feeling?*
 - *For Samuel and Eli: What do you learn about God from this story?*
 - *For God: What are you communicating about who you are in this story?*
- ▶ Have participants discuss their responses within their groups.
- ▶ Ask for volunteers to respond to questions in the large group.
- ▶ Conclude by asking:
 - *What does this story tell us about what God is like? How does God reveal something about himself in this story?*



READ Invite the participants to read silently the **LAWS OF LOVE** on **PAGES 18–19**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY **Our Relationship with God** 10 minutes

- In this activity, participants will describe the Ten Commandments in “youth-friendly” language, applying the laws to their lives.
- ▶ Divide the participants into ten small groups, and assign one commandment to each small group. If your large group is less than 15, you may give each small group two commandments.
 - ▶ Give each group a half-sheet of newsprint and a marker.
 - ▶ Invite them to review the wording of their commandment on **PAGE 19** and think how they might write it using more youth-friendly words—but still communicate the same message.

EXTEND THE SESSION 15 minutes

Digging Deeper into the Commandments

- In this activity, the participants will examine a commandment in more detail, looking for examples from their lives.
- ▶ Using the same small groups from the previous activity, ask the participants to re-examine their commandment, and look for examples of how people their age can live that commandment today.
 - ▶ For example, young adolescents may look at the Fifth Commandment and say, “No problem. I won’t take anyone’s

life or commit murder.” But in the world of a young adolescent, what types of situations may fall under the Fifth Commandment? Read **CHECK THIS OUT!** on **PAGE 18**.

- ▶ Invite the small groups to make a list of their ideas on newsprint and present to the large group.

READ Read what **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 19**.

- ▶ Ask participants:

In addition to the Ten Commandments, what else do we have that helps us know right from wrong?

REFLECT Review the ideas from **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 20**.

- ▶ Encourage young people to reflect on the **WHAT ABOUT IT?** and **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** questions on their own. Remind the participants to share **FAITH AT HOME** using the suggestion on **PAGE 20**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY How God Cares for Us 5 minutes

- ▶ Distribute a 3 x 5 index card and pen to each participant.
- ▶ Invite young people to think of one or two ways that God cares for them and to write those ideas on their cards.
- ▶ Let participants know that these will be shared in the closing prayer.

EXTEND THE SESSION 10 minutes

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Have the group read silently the story of Saint Marcella on **PAGE 21**.

- ▶ Ask the participants:

How can someone be happy without many of the comforts we are accustomed to having? Saint Marcella was tortured because the Goths thought she had a treasure, lots of money. What “treasure” do you think Saint Marcella had? What “treasure” do you have?

WHAT NOW?



PAGE 20



PAGE 21



PRAY

Gather the participants in the prayer area. Invite them to place their 3 x 5 cards from the How God Cares for Us activity in the basket on the prayer table.

Gathering

Play or sing one of the suggested songs.

Reading

Invite a volunteer to proclaim Micah 6:8.

Response

Earlier, we wrote on a card one or two ways in which God cares for us. As I pass the basket around, please take a card. I invite you each to read what is written on the card. After every three people, we will say together:

We thank you, God, for loving us.

Going Forth

Loving Father, we thank you for our time together learning more about how we can be your people, living and loving one another as you love us. May the Holy Spirit grant us the courage to stay strong as we try to do your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother and Savior. Amen.

WHAT NOW? (continued)



Visit www.osvcurriculum.com.
Look under Reproducible Resources for a printable version of this prayer.

FYI If you don't have time for the prayer service, you may choose to pray together the prayer on **PAGE 20** of the *Faith Booklet*.

Suggested Songs

"Who Calls You By Name,"
David Haas, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc., *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music* CD2, track 2

"My Soul Is Thirsting," © 1997, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP Publications