

Catechetical Sessions on the Creed: **An Overview**

Catechetical Sessions on the Creed focuses on understanding the treasure, the gift, the challenge, and the sacrament that is Church. The young people are supported as they grow in their faith and in their knowledge about the basic truths of the Catholic faith. They are encouraged to make the mission of the Church their own and challenged to set their heart on all that is good, holy, and true about being a young Catholic in the world today.

This manual focuses on part A of the *CFH*, offering 14 sessions on "The Creed." The sessions are designed to help the participants delve into some core Catholic practices, attitudes, and beliefs and to foster an understanding of what it means to be Catholic. In addition, each session offers activities to cultivate good learning experiences among young people while remaining focused on the central tenets of the Catholic faith. The intergenerational, ecumenical, and parish community-building activities that are included help the participants broaden their understanding and learning.

Session Outcomes

Chapter 1: "Being Catholic: The 'CliffsNotes' View"

- The learner will identify and name core Catholic beliefs and discover how those beliefs foster Catholic identity.
- The learner will understand some core Catholic practices and how they are relevant to the learner's life.

- The learner will gain insight into some key Catholic attitudes and the ways those attitudes can be lived out.

Chapter 2: "Knowing God: Reason and Revelation"

- The learner will gain insight into the Catholic Church's understanding of Revelation and its transmission.
- The learner will understand how Catholics come to know the truth about God and why that has meaning for their lives.

Chapter 3: "Faith"

- The learner will gain a better understanding of the Church's creeds and how they relate to a life of faith.
- The learner will be prepared for a more meaningful recitation of the Nicene Creed during the liturgy.
- The learner will recognize the trinitarian structure of the Church's creeds.

Chapter 4: "God Our Father"

- The learner will recognize that people use various images to gain insight into the mystery of God.
- The learner will explore central images of God in the Scriptures and in Church Tradition.
- The learner will investigate the meaning of the doctrine of the Trinity and consider how it helps people to more deeply understand the mystery of God.

Chapter 5: "The Human Person"

- The learner will understand key aspects of the Church's teaching on Creation.
- The learner will reflect on the goodness of God's Creation and her or his own identity as a part of Creation.
- The learner will be introduced to the doctrine of original sin.

Chapter 6: "Jesus Christ: True God and True Man"

- The learner will distinguish between the fully divine nature of Jesus and the fully human nature of Jesus.
- The learner will recognize the mystery of Jesus through discovery of who Jesus is.
- The learner will recognize Jesus as the center of the Catholic faith.

Chapter 7: "Mary, Mother of God: An Intergenerational Session"

- The learner will review Mary's extraordinary gift to us when she said yes to becoming the mother of Jesus.

- The learner will consider Mary's role as the first disciple—an example of the life all Christians are called to live.
- The learner will reflect on his or her own experiences of saying yes to God's will.

Chapter 8: "Jesus' Message and Mission"

- The learner will understand the effectiveness of parables in Jesus' ministry and their use in communicating the Kingdom of God.
- The learner will probe the concept of the Reign of God and how it guided Jesus' mission.
- The learner will reflect on her or his own way of being and on goals for the future in light of Jesus' mission and invitation to enter the Kingdom.

Chapter 9: "Jesus' Death"

- The learner will explore the Passion and death of Jesus and its profound meaning for all Christians.
- The learner will gain a general understanding of the key events surrounding the Passion and death of Jesus.

Chapter 10: "Jesus' Resurrection"

- The learner will understand the Paschal mystery—particularly the mystery of Jesus' passage through death to new life.
- The learner will understand the Resurrection of Jesus to be both historical and transcendent, the fulfillment of God's promise, and the work of the Holy Trinity.
- The learner will explore the story of the Resurrection and its significance both in the story of Jesus and in the faith journey of all Christians.
- The learner will explore the significance of Jesus' death and Resurrection for her or his own life.

Chapter 11: "The Holy Spirit"

- The learner will more deeply understand the Holy Spirit as one of the three persons in the Trinity, active and present in the world today.
- The learner will become familiar with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The learner will discover the meaning and significance of many of the Church's symbols of the Holy Spirit.
- The learner will be reminded that belief in the Holy Spirit involves having faith that God is active and present in his or her life and in the lives of others today.

Chapter 12: "The Mission of the Catholic Church"

- The learner will appreciate the images used to describe the Church's nature and mission.

- The learner will explore the meaning and significance of the scriptural images of the Church as the people of God, the Body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- The learner will reflect on the Church as a mystery and as *one, holy, catholic, and apostolic*.

Chapter 13: "The Organization of the Catholic Church"

- The learner will understand the hierarchical structure and decision-making process of the Catholic Church.
- The learner will appreciate her or his unique and important role within that structure.
- The learner will begin to understand the focus of ecumenism.

Chapter 14: "The Last Things"

- The learner will explore the Church's view of death and last things.
- The learner will identify the characteristics of particular people who, by living with extraordinary faith, provide the Church today with examples of the life of holiness we are all called to by God.
- The learner will identify potential areas of growth while striving to live a saintly life.