

AMS LESSON PLANNING OUTLINEⁱ

*FORMING DISCIPLES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION*ⁱⁱ

At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father...who suffered and died for us and who now, after rising, is living with us forever. To catechize is "to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfillment in that person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions and words and of the signs worked by him. (CCC no. 426; On Catechesis in Our Time, no. 5.)

LESSON PLAN OUTLINE: PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSONⁱⁱⁱ

Sunday Gospel: The topics in the AMS Sample Faith Formation Thematic Calendar come from the Sunday Gospel. Use the Lectio Divina prayer method to pray with the Scripture over the week.

Topic: Think of a creative and catchy title for your lesson. See the AMS Sample Faith Formation Thematic Calendar for topics.

Methodology: Choose one of the Catechetical Methodologies, namely, the person of the catechist, service, art and environment, storytelling, and critical thinking.

Grade Level: _____

Note: If this lesson plan is for adults, describe the group, e.g. parents, catechumens, sponsors, retirees, etc. Use 8th grade Standards to create faith lessons for adults.

State the Standard^{iv}: Write the standard you prefer to use for this lesson plan as found in *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization: Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide*.

Indicator^v: What must the students/participants know, understand and do by the end of the faith lesson? State one indicator in measurable terms as found in the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide.

State the name of the textbook and the pages: The textbook publisher may have created a correlation to the AMS Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization. The correlation helps catechists identify content to support the teaching of the topic.

Background Reading for Catechist/Facilitator: The AMS Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization provides three correlations to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Compendium and United States Catechism for Adults for enrichment.

Environment: How will I set up the space? How will the desks, tables or chairs be arranged? Describe how you will create "sacred space", e.g. posted pictures, Bible enthroned, colors of the liturgical season, sacramentals, etc. (the prayer space is the focal point in the classroom). U-shape or circle conduces to faith sharing.

Materials: What do I need in order to accomplish my objectives, e.g. items for sacred space, student textbook, catechist's guide, videos, recordings, DVD player, etc.

LESSON PLAN OUTLINE: TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome: How will I welcome the students/ participants? (This is more than an icebreaker. Try to connect to students'/participants' lives. Establish rapport. Let the Welcome lead into the prayer.)

Prayer: How will we pray? (Allow ample time for prayer. Don't be afraid to use various forms of prayer: liturgical celebration, lectio divina, music, etc. Choose a prayer that connects with the topic of the lesson.)

Review: How can I find out what the students know/remember from past lessons and build on it? (Keep this part brief. Review and move on. Do not stop to re-teach.)

Preview: What can I do to give an overview of what will follow? (Use an eye/ear catcher: poster, flash cards, outline, or announcement, etc. to let the students know what is planned for the lesson.)

Presentation: How will I teach the content of the lesson? (Be specific about the content and the steps you will take to present it. It is here that you will apply in depth one of the core methodologies that best fits with the topic of the lesson.)

Evaluation/Response: How do I know they "got it"? (Write down the specific ways in which you will: first, evaluate whether or not the objectives were accomplished; and second, let the students express or reflect on their appreciation of the meaning of the lesson for their lives.)

Assignment: What can they do to remember and apply the lesson? (The AMS Family Faith Assessment, Parent Segments of *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* or family pages in the Textbook are tools to strengthen the partnership with parents. What does the publisher have on online for families?)

Announcements: _____

Closing Prayer: How can I bring closure to the lesson and end on a prayerful note? (The closing prayer can be very short, e.g. a song, a short litany. Involve students as leaders when possible.)

Catechist Team Evaluation of the Lesson: Think about what you did well and what you could have done differently to improve this lesson? What could you do different next time you teach this lesson?

ⁱ The language used in this Lesson Planning Outline is geared to work with children and teenagers. When using it with adults, you may want to substitute the word "session" for "lesson," and the word "participant" for "student."

ⁱⁱ The AMS Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide, Grades Pre-K. to 8.

ⁱⁱⁱ Keep it simple: Start by choosing one topic, one methodology, one standard and one indicator.

^{iv} *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is structured around 14 Standards derived from the 4 pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 6 Key Elements of Catholic Life outlined in the National Directory for Catechesis, no 20. The 14 Standards are: 1) Creed, 2) Sacred Scripture, 3) Sacraments, 4) Liturgy, 5) Conscience, 6) Christian Living, 7) Prayer, 8) Catholic Church, 9) Ecumenism, 10) Catholic Principles and Relationships, 11) Vocation, 12) Catholic Social Teaching, 13) Inter-Religious Dialogue, and 14) Missionary Vocation. Please see the chart on pages 3-4 of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide.

^v Indicators are measurable or observable objectives of the lesson. These are correlated with the standards and are specified for each grade level. Please see page 18 of the Curriculum Guide for an explanation of how to read the Curriculum Guide for your grade level. If you are teaching young adults, use the indicators for 8th grade level.