

Family Catechesis Workshops 2007-2008

Archdiocese of New York

Workshop Overview

Workshop 1. Developing Family Catechesis

Topic 1. Introduction to Family Catechesis

- Foundational Insights: Why is Family Catechesis So Important?
- Practical Examples: How does Family Catechesis Work?

Topic 2. Organizing a Family Catechesis Program

- Scheduling family catechesis programs
- Developing a budget for family catechesis programs
- Developing a plan for promoting the involvement of families and registration
- Finding and preparing leaders for family catechesis programs

Participant Resources

- Why Family Catechesis is So Important
- Guide to Organizing Family Catechesis Programs

Workshop 2. Designing and Facilitating Family Catechesis Learning Programs

Topic 1. A Learning Process for Family Catechesis

- Learning Process for Family Catechesis
- Examples of Family Catechesis

Topic 2. Designing and Facilitating Family Catechesis Learning Program

- Hands-on practical experience of designing a family catechesis program
- Essentials for facilitating the variety of activities in a family catechesis program

Topic 3. Resources for Family Catechesis

Participant Resources

- Guide to Designing and Facilitating Family Catechesis Programs
- Family Catechesis Design Process and Sample Session

Bibliography

Foundational

- Anderson, David, and Paul Hill. *Frogs without Legs Can't Hear – Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation*. Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress, 2003.
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Learning Resources

- Chesto, Kathleen. *F.I.R.E. – Family Intergenerational Religious Education*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, [5 Volumes: *The Believing Community, Becoming Community, Celebrating Community, The Responding Community, The Living Community*]
- Martineau, Mariette. *People of Faith Coordinator's Manual*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Religion, 2005.
- Martineau, Mariette and Joan Weber. *People of Faith – Celebrating Sacraments (Intergenerational Manual)*. Orlando: Harcourt Religion, 2005.
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- Roberto, John. *People of Faith – Following Jesus (Intergenerational Manual)*. Orlando: Harcourt, 2005.
- Roberto, John. *People of Faith – Professing Our Faith (Intergenerational Manual)*. Orlando: Harcourt, 2006.
- Roberto, John. *People of Faith – Living the Moral Life (Intergenerational Manual)*. Orlando: Harcourt, 2007.

Online Resources

- www.generationsoffaith.org [intergenerational sessions and family at-home activities]
- www.homefaith.com [family resources]
- www.creativecommunications.com [family resources]
- www.harcourtreligion.com (Harcourt Religion Publishers) [family resources]
- www.ltp.org (Liturgy Training Publications) [family resources]
- www.faithfirst.com (RCL/Benziger Publications) [family activities]
- www.AmericanCatholic.org (St. Anthony Messenger Press) [family resources]
- www.cyberfaith.com (Sadlier Publishing Company) [family learning sessions and family activities]
- www.twentythirdpublications.com (Twenty-Third Publications) [family resources]
- www.loyolapress.com (Loyola Press) [family learning sessions and family activities]

Why Family Catechesis is So Important Today

Archdiocese of New York
Family Catechesis Workshops

John Roberto
LifelongFaith Associates

The Christian Family

“... in every Christian family the different aspects and functions of the life of the entire Church may be reflected: mission; catechesis; witness; prayer etc. Indeed in the same way as the Church, the family is a place in which the Gospel is transmitted and from which it extends. The family as a locus of catechesis has a unique privilege: transmitting the Gospel by rooting it in the context of profound human values. ...It is, indeed, a Christian education more witnessed to than taught, more occasional than systematic, more ongoing and daily than structured into periods.”

(General Directory for Catechesis, 1997)

The Christian Family

“The Christian family is ordinarily the first experience of the Christian community and the primary environment for growth in faith. Because it is the “church of the home,” the family provides a unique locus for catechesis. It is a place in which the word of God is received and from which it is extended.

The Christian Family

“With the Christian family, parents are the primary educators in the faith and the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children.” But all the members make up the family, and each can make a unique contribution to creating the basic environment in which a sense of God’s loving presence is awakened and faith in Jesus Christ is confessed, encouraged, and lived.”

(National Directory for Catechesis)

Research: Five Factors

(Christian Smith, *Soul Searching*)

- The evidence clearly shows that the single most important social influence on the religious and spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents.
- “We’ll get what we are.” Most parents most likely will end up getting religiously of their children what they themselves *are*.
- The best way to get most youth involved in and serious about their faith communities is to get their parents more involved in and serious about their faith communities.”

Research: Family & Faith

Search Institute

The *Effective Christian Education* study found that families that express faith do the following things:

- talk about religious faith
- have family devotions, prayer, or Bible reading at home
- have family projects to help other people

Research: Family & Faith

Search Institute

Youth in families that often express faith do the following things *twice* as often as those families that do not express faith:

- read the Bible and prayer when alone
- read and study about the Christian faith
- are spiritually moved by the beauty of God's creation
- have often felt God's presence in their life

Research: Religious Upbringing

Robert Wuthnow, *Growing Up Religious*

The prime source of faith for self-described "religious" people was the way faith permeated the daily life of their family. Time and again they pointed to variations on several common family activities. Religious formation happens when "specific, deliberate religious activities . . . are firmly intertwined with the daily habits of family routines." "Compared with these practices, the formal teachings of religious leaders often pale in significance. Yet when such practices are present, formal teachings also become more important."

Research: Religious Upbringing

Robert Wuthnow, *Growing Up Religious*

1. Eating: Family Meal—eating together, saying grace before meals, sharing information about our lives—is one of the most potent ways of forming faith.
2. Sleeping: Bedtime rituals and prayer
3. Having conversations: Talk of values, character, and holiness

Research: Religious Upbringing

Robert Wuthnow, *Growing Up Religious*

4. Sacred objects/religious images
5. Celebrating the holidays
6. Moral instruction
7. Being part of a faith community
8. Family devotions and reading the Bible
9. Role of generations (grandparents)

Research: Religious Upbringing

Robert Wuthnow, *Growing Up Religious*

“The daily round of family activities must somehow be brought into the presence of God. Parents praying, families eating together, conversations focusing on what is proper and improper, and sacred artifacts are all important ways in which family space is sacralized. They come together, forming an almost imperceptible mirage of experience.”

(Robert Wuthnow, *Growing Up Religious*)

Research on Family Faith

David Dollahite and Loren Marks

1. Turning to God for support, guidance and strength
2. Sanctifying the family by living religion at home
3. Resolving conflict with prayer, repentance, and forgiveness
4. Overcoming challenges and trials through shared faith

Research on Family Faith

David Dollahite and Loren Marks

5. Abstaining from proscribed activities and substances
6. Sacrificing time, money, comfort, and convenience
7. Serving others in the family & faith community
8. Nurturing spiritual growth through example, teaching, and discussion

Research: 5 Keys

Youth and Family Institute

1. **Caring Conversation.** Christian values and faith are passed on to the next generation through supportive conversation. Listening and responding to the daily concerns of our children make it easier to have meaningful conversations regarding the love of God, and are ways to express God's love to others. Hearing their parents "faith stories" is one of the most important influences on the faith of children and teenagers.

Research: 5 Keys

Youth and Family Institute

2. **Family Devotions and Prayer.** The Christian faith shapes the whole of our lives and involves a lifetime of study, reflection, and prayer. Family devotions provide a way to learn more about the Bible and Christian tradition as a family, and apply the teachings to daily life as a follower of Jesus Christ. This understanding of a devotional life includes, but is not limited to, public worship, bedtime prayers, Bible reading and study, table grace, evening and morning prayers, and praying alone at any time of the day or night.

Research: 5 Keys

Youth and Family Institute

- 3. Family Rituals and Traditions.** Families identify themselves and tell their family stories through daily routines, celebrations, and rituals. Family rituals can take many forms from daily rituals such as mealtime, bedtime, leaving and returning; celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries, and special achievements; church year rituals at home such as Advent and Lent; milestones such as births and deaths, first day of school and graduations, etc. Family rituals and traditions speak volumes about what the family values, believes and promotes, and how much the family values its faith.

Research: 5 Keys

Youth and Family Institute

- 4. Family Service.** Engaging in service with one's family can be a powerful opportunity for growing in faith. Both children and adults are more likely to have a growing, strong faith when their family serves others together. There are many opportunities for service: some in the home, some in the congregation, some in the larger community. Whatever type of service you choose, it is best done with family members or other intergenerational groups.

Research: 5 Keys

- 5. Family Meals.** So many of the family's faith practices happen around the family meal—having conversations, praying, reading the Bible, celebrating rituals and traditions, to name a few. The family meal is one of the few rituals that allow us to act out our concern for each other, our need and desire to be together. The family meal is the time when family comes first—establishing, enjoying, and maintaining ties. Just as a meal was central in the ministry of Jesus, the family meal can be a central faith experience for family members, and the family as whole. It is a daily opportunity to discover Jesus' presence in the midst of family life.

Integrating Faith & Daily Life

“the daily activities of family life are the canvas for experiencing and sharing their faith life with one another, and that activities that call them as a family beyond their own boundaries are also significant”

(Diana Garland)

Key Features of IG Learning

1. Inclusive of all ages and generations, single or married, with or without children.
2. Builds community and meaningful relationships across all the generations in a parish.
3. Provides a setting for each generation to share and learn from the other generations.

Key Features of IG Learning

4. Involves the whole family in learning together and equips families with the knowledge, skills, and faith-sharing activities for nurturing faith at home.
5. Provides an environment where new ways of living one's faith can be practiced.
6. Provides adult role models for children/teens.
7. Promotes understanding of shared values and a common faith, as well as respect for individuals in all stages and ages of life.

Key Features of IG Learning

- 8. Helps to overcome the age-segregated nature of our society and church programs.
- 9. Enhances people's identification with their church and integration within the community.
- 10. Incorporates a variety of ways to learn: prayer, community building, interactive and experiential presentations and activities, group discussion and sharing.

Benefits of Family Catechesis

- 1. Involves the whole family in congregational life and learning, building up the faith of the whole family.
- 2. Provides a way to teach, model, and demonstrate family faith practices.
- 3. Provides the resources for families to live Christian practices at home.

Benefits of Family Catechesis

- 4. Eases the transfer of learning to the home because the whole family experiences the learning and practices together.
- 5. Builds up the confidence and ability of parents to share faith and values with their children by providing parent education, resources, support, and encouragement.

If we want children and teens to become lifelong Catholics and members of the church we have to start now by involving the whole family in the life of the church.

IG Learning Process

IGRE: two or more different age groups of people in a religious community together learning/growing/ living in faith through

- in-common experiences
- parallel learning
- contributive-occasions
- interactive sharing

An ideal IGRE program will have all four patterns of relationships.

IG Learning Process

1. an all-ages learning experience for the whole assembly
2. age-appropriate in-depth learning experiences for families with children, adolescents, young adults, and adults
3. an all-ages contributive learning experience in which each generation teaches the other generations
4. reflection on the learning experience and interactive group sharing

IG Learning Process

Meal and Community Building (30 minutes)

Part 1. Gathering and Prayer (10-15)

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience (20-30)

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience (75-90)

- Option 1. Whole Group
- Option 2. Age Group
- Option 3. Activity Center

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application (15-20)

Part 5. Closing Prayer (5-10)

Part 2. All Ages Learning

All Ages Methods

- table sharing
- dramatic presentation
- game or simulation
- video or media presentation
- art project
- storytelling
- participating in a ritual
- praying together
- quiz

Part 2. All Ages Learning

Examples:

- Holy Week: Quiz
- Death of the Messiah: Stations of the Cross
- Easter Season: Dramatizing Gospel Stories
- All Saints: Saints of Fortune Game
- Advent: Images of the Messiah in Word, Art, and Music
- Justice-Solidarity: A Global Banquet

Part 3. In-Depth—Whole Group

- Intergenerational learning activities and age-appropriate learning activities for families with children, teens, young adults, and adults at table groups
 - ✓ Option 1. Entire session intergenerational
 - ✓ Option 2. Presentations to entire group with age-specific table group activities

Example: *We Are Called to Pray*

1. Gathering and Opening Prayer
2. All Ages Learning: I'm Ready God, Where Are You? (Drama)
3. In-Depth Learning: Paths of Prayer
 - Activity 1: Creating a Space for Prayer
 - Activity 2: Praying with Scripture
 - Activity 3: Praying with the Psalms
 - Activity 4: Intercessory Prayer
 - Activity 5: The Jesus Prayer
4. Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application
5. Part 5. Closing Prayer

Part 3. In-Depth—Age Group

- Parallel learning groups with age-appropriate learning plans for:
 - ✓ young children (pre-school)
 - ✓ families with children (grades 1-5)
 - ✓ middle school youth
 - ✓ high school youth
 - ✓ young adults
 - ✓ adults

Example: *Identity of Christ*

1. Gathering and Opening Prayer
2. All Ages Learning: Gospel Portraits of Jesus (multimedia experience)
3. Age-Appropriate Learning: Exploring the Gospel Portraits of Jesus Christ
 - Families with Children Learning Plan
 - Adolescent Learning Plan
 - Adult Learning Plan
4. Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application
5. Part 5. Closing Prayer

Part 3. In-Depth—Activity Center

- Learning stations or centers with a variety of structured learning activities on a common theme
 - ✓ Age-specific
 - ✓ Intergenerational

Activity Center: Example

Theme: Jesus, Son of God

Methods

- ✓ Dramatic presentations & role plays
- ✓ Creative art activities
- ✓ Storytelling & Scripture imagination activities
- ✓ Media presentations
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Prayer and ritual
- ✓ Group discussion & family conversations

Activity Center: Example

Activity Centers

1. Jesus is Born (Infancy Narratives)
2. Jesus Is God 's Beloved Son (Baptism and Transfiguration)
3. Jesus Teaches Parables of the Kingdom of God
4. Jesus Heals People
5. Jesus Forgives Sin
6. Jesus Raises People from the Dead
7. Jesus Feeds People

From Content to Learning Format

- For content that is all-ages appropriate and requires a sequential presentation consider the whole group format
- For content that requires age-appropriate concepts and methods consider the age group format
- For content that can be designed into individual learning activities and does not require sequencing, consider learning activity centers.



Church Year
Example:
Advent
Home Kit

Home Kit

Advent Season Home Kit

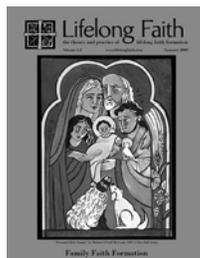
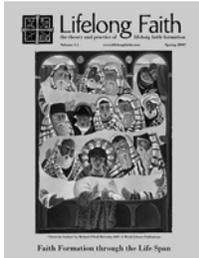
- **Prayer:** prayers for every day of Advent, table prayers for Advent and the Christmas Season, weekly prayers for the Advent wreath
- **Rituals:** blessing before the Christmas meal and the Christ candle, a blessing for a Christmas crèche, a blessing for a Christmas tree, a blessing upon opening gifts

Home Kit

- **Learning:** Jesse Tree and/or an Advent wreath; day-by-day Advent calendar; family/teen/adult Advent reflections books; list of Advent-Christmas storybooks and DVDs, guide to the Advent-Christmas Lectionary
- **Service:** Advent-Christmas service projects, alternative gift-giving suggestions, a list of organizations for making charitable donations
- **Family Enrichment:** recipes for family baking activities, ideas for making gifts, meal time activities

Lifelong Faith Journal

LifelongFaith Associates
www.lifelongfaith.com



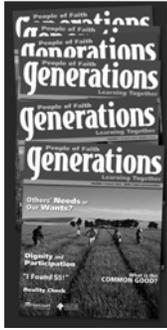
Generations of Faith Online

www.generationsoffaith.org

People of Faith IG Sessions



People of Faith Home Magazines



FASHION ME a People



2nd Annual
Gathering on
Lifelong Faith
Formation

January 10-12
Orlando, FL

Why Family Catechesis Is So Important?

John Roberto

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1. Church Teachings

General Directory for Catechesis

“ . . . in every Christian family the different aspects and functions of the life of the entire Church may be reflected: mission; catechesis; witness; prayer etc. Indeed in the same way as the Church, the family ‘is a place in which the Gospel is transmitted and from which it extends.’ (Cf. EN 71) The family as a *locus* of catechesis has a unique privilege: transmitting the Gospel by rooting it in the context of profound human values. (CF GS 52; FC 37a) . . . It is, indeed, a Christian education more witnessed to than taught, more occasional than systematic, more ongoing and daily that structured into periods.” (GDC no. 255)

National Directory for Catechesis

The Christian family is ordinarily the first experience of the Christian community and the primary environment for growth in faith. Because it is the “church of the home” (FC, no 11), the family provides a unique *locus* for catechesis. It is a place in which the word of God is received and from which it is extended. With the Christian family, parents are the primary educators in the faith and “the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children” (LG, no. 11). But all the members make up the family, and each can make a unique contribution to creating the basic environment in which a sense of God’s loving presence is awakened and faith in Jesus Christ is confessed, encouraged, and lived.” (NDC 29D, pp. 100-101)

2. Research on Family Faith Practices

1. *Soul Searching – The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Teenagers*. Christian Smith. (Oxford University Press, 2005)
2. *Effective Christian Education Study* (Search Institute, 1990) (www.search-institute.org)
3. *Growing Up Religious*. Robert Wuthnow. (Beacon Press, 1999)
4. “How Highly Religious Families Strive to Fulfill Sacred Purposes.” David Dollahite and Loren Marks. *Sourcebook on Family Theories and Methods*. Edited by V. Bengston, D. Klein, A. Acock, K. Allen, and P. Dilworth-Anderson. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2005.
5. *Frogs without Legs Can’t Hear – Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation*. David Anderson and Paul Hill. Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress, 2003.

3. Family/Intergenerational Learning Process

Registration and Hospitality

Upon arrival at the learning program, participants are welcomed by the hospitality team, sign-in for the program, make or receive a name tag, and pick-up their home kit and handouts for the session. People receive their learning group or table group assignments for the program. Depending on the time of day, the program may begin or end with a meal.

Part 1. Gathering and Prayer

The facilitator or emcee for the program welcomes everyone, and provides an overview of the learning program and an introduction to the event and theme that is the focus of the learning program. Sometimes the teaching team leads the group in a community-building activity. The prayer and music team lead the opening prayer service.

Part 2. All-Ages Learning Experience

Each session has a multigenerational experience. All-ages learning experiences equalize the ages, so that listening to music or singing, watching a dramatic presentation, making an art project, watching a video, hearing a story, participating in a ritual, or praying together are things that different-aged people do at the same time and place in a similar manner. Shared experiences are absolutely critical for intergenerational learning.

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experiences

Through structured learning activities and discussion all generations explore the meaning of the Church event and develop the ability to participate meaningfully in the event. Intergenerational learning programs include three sets of learning experiences for families with children in grades 1-5, adolescents, and adults. In-depth learning experiences can be conducted in one of three formats.

The **Whole Group Format** provides a series of facilitated learning activities for everyone using a small group or table group format. Groups can be organized in one of two ways: intergenerational (mixed ages in a group) or age groups (separate groups for families with children, teens, young adults, and adults). A lead facilitator or team guides the entire group through an integrated learning program – giving presentations, leading activities, and so on. All presentations and activity instructions are given to the whole group. The age-appropriate learning activities are conducted in table groups. Where needed, catechists and small group leaders facilitate the work of the table groups.

The **Age Group Format** provides simultaneous age-appropriate learning for groups. Though age groups are separated, each one focuses on the same topic – utilizing specific learning activities that are designed for their life cycle stage: families with children, adolescents, young adults, and adults. Catechists or facilitators lead the age group sessions. Age groups are organized in a variety of ways. The number of groups will vary depending on the number of participants and the available space in the parish facility. For example, if there are a small number of teens in grades 6-12 parishes can group them together for large group presentations and activities and then divide them into groups of grade 6-8 and 9-12 for reflection and discussion. Here is a suggested breakdown of age groups:

- 3 years old and younger: child care
- 4 and 5 year olds (including kindergarten): pre-school program with one or more catechists in a separate meeting space
- parents with children in grades 1-5
- middle school adolescents in grades 6-8
- high school adolescents in grades 9-12
- young adults (singles, married couples) from 18-39 years old
- adults 40 years old and older

The **Learning Activity Center Format** provides structured learning activities at a variety of stations or centers in a common area. Learning activity centers are self-contained learning experiences, focusing on a very specific topic or theme. They include brief presentations by the facilitators, interactive and experiential activities, group discussion and sharing. Each center can utilize a different learning method, such as drama or role play, creative arts, prayer, ritual, film, games, demonstrations, exhibits, and music. Learning Activity Centers can be used with all age groups. They can be developed for an intergenerational audience or for particular age groups, such as families with children or adolescents or adults. Learning Activity Centers can also be utilized in the families with children learning program within the Age Group Format.

The choice of the most appropriate learning format is determined by the content of the learning program, as well as the size and number of parish meeting rooms. From a facility perspective, the Age Group Format requires a large meeting for the entire group and smaller meeting rooms for age group sessions, while the Whole Group Format and Learning Activity Center Format only require a large meeting.

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

The whole group re-gathers, and each generational group briefly shares what they have learned and/or created in their in-depth experiences. Whole group sharing provides an opportunity for each generation to teach each other. Groups can share the project or activity they created, offer a verbal summary or symbol of learning, or give a dramatic presentation. Whole group sharing can also be conducted in intergenerational groups, sharing learning in small groups, rather than using presentations to the entire group.

To conclude the program participants have the opportunity to reflect on what they learned and to prepare to apply their learning to their daily lives. This part of the intergenerational learning program sends people home ready to participate in the event and utilize the home activities.

The facilitator or emcee then reviews the home kit activities, such as prayers, rituals, service projects, family enrichment activities, and learning activities. Individuals and families then have time to create an at-home action plan for using the home kit.

Part 5. Closing Prayer Service

The session ends with a prayer service on the theme of the event that is the focus of the intergenerational learning program.

4. Examples of Family/Intergenerational Programs

Here are three examples of intergenerational learning programs. Each example demonstrates one of the three learning formats in Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience of the design.

Whole Group Format Example: “We Are Called to Pray”

(From *Responding in Prayer* by Leif Kehrwald, Mariette Martineau, and Joan Weber, Orlando, FL: Harcourt Religion, 2006)

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

- Participants are organized into intergenerational table groups of approximately eight people.
- The Opening Prayer Service introduces the focus on the program through prayer.

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience: I’m Ready God, Where Are You?

- The All Ages Learning Experience is a drama that introduces the concept of prayer as a gift, covenant, and communion. It includes an opportunity for the participants to create a prayer journal for their households.

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience: Paths of Prayer

- The In-Depth Learning Experience is conducted for the whole group through a series of learning activities. Of the five activity options listed below, leaders will conduct three activities for the whole group, seated at intergenerational tables.
- Activities:
 - Activity 1: Creating a Space for Prayer
 - Activity 2: Praying with Scripture
 - Activity 3: Praying with the Psalms
 - Activity 4: Intercessory Prayer
 - Activity 5: The Jesus Prayer

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Age Group Format Example: “Identity of Christ”

(From *Following Jesus* by John Roberto, Orlando, FL: Harcourt Religion, 2005)

1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

2. All Ages Intergenerational Learning: Gospel Portraits of Jesus Christ

- Begin by asking the participants to reflect upon their own understanding of Jesus, to select images or titles that are the most important for them today and share these images in an intergenerational small group.
- Develop and present a multimedia presentation on ten Gospel titles for Jesus: Messiah, Savior, Prophet, Lord, Servant, Son of God, Teacher, Healer, Good Shepherd, and Bread

of Life. Incorporate Gospel stories and commentary, songs, and pictures in your multimedia presentation.

- Engage the participants in an intergenerational discussion: what they heard and saw, how it compared to their own images, what they learned about the identity of Christ.

3. Age-Appropriate Learning: Exploring the Gospel Portraits of Jesus Christ

Families with Children Learning Plan

- Part 1. Review the Ten Gospel Portraits: Families review the ten Gospel images of Jesus and then select several images that speak to them as a family.
- Part 2. Create Family Portraits of Jesus: Families describe what Jesus would be doing today if he lived in our world. How would Jesus be a servant, savior, prophet, teacher, good shepherd, and so on? Children illustrate each Gospel portrait with a picture of Jesus in action.
- Part 3. Create Family Prayers: Families create a family prayer for each Gospel title they selected on a table tent or placemat.

Adolescent Learning Plan

- Part 1. So Who Do You Say Jesus Is?: Adolescents identify which Gospel titles for Jesus are important to their own understanding and relationship with Jesus, and then share their reflections with a small group.
- Part 2. Create a Portrait of Jesus Christ Today: Adolescents create a contemporary “gospel” to present Jesus to other young people so that they will understand who Jesus is and how to follow him, and then share it with the whole group.
- Part 3. Reflect and Discuss: Adolescents discuss what they learned about Jesus Christ through the activity and presentations.

Adult Learning Plan

- Part 1. Gospel Titles of Jesus: Adults identify which Gospel titles for Jesus are important to their own understanding and relationship with Jesus, and then share their reflections with a small group.
- Part 2. Is Jesus Your God?: In small groups, adults read, reflect, and discuss an essay with built-in questions to help them reflect on the meaning of the essay.
- Part 3. Believing in Jesus: Adults discuss how the learning experience helped them to “meet Jesus again for the first time” and how they can give their heart to Jesus, the living Lord, more fully.

4. Sharing Learning Reflections on the Identity of Christ

5. Closing Prayer

Learning Activity Format Example: Jesus, Son of God

(From *Professing Our Faith* by John Roberto, Orlando, FL: Harcourt Religion, 2006)

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience: Who Do You Say That I Am?

- Introduce the focusing question with a brief presentation.

- Conduct a short activity so that people can name who Jesus is for them.

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience: Experiencing the Son of God through Gospel Stories

1. The focus of the activity centers is to discover the qualities of God by exploring a variety of Gospel stories that present the words and actions of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2. Each learning activity center provides an interactive and experiential way for people to explore one aspect of Jesus' divinity through Gospel stories.
3. Activity centers will explore the birth of Jesus and stories from the Gospels of Jesus teaching the parables, being baptized, healing people, forgiving people, raising people from the dead, and feeding people.
4. Activity centers will engage participants in presentations, discussions, and activities. Several centers include dramatic presentations, while others engage you in creative arts or prayer or a ritual activity. One center includes a film presentation. There is even one that includes eating. If the children get tired, there is a storytelling center just for them.
5. Each center is staffed by a team who will guide participants through the learning activities.
6. Each center is designed for all ages, participants can select the centers that interest them the most. Families with children need to stay together.

Activity Centers

(Participants have time to experience 3-4 activity centers.)

1. Jesus is Born (Infancy Narratives)
2. Jesus is God's Beloved Son (Baptism of the Lord and Transfiguration)
3. Jesus Teaches Parables of the Kingdom of God
4. Jesus Heals People
5. Jesus Forgives Sin
6. Jesus Raises People from the Dead
7. Jesus Feeds People
8. Stories of Jesus (Storytelling Center)

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer