

Assessment/Evaluation Strategies for Unit #2

How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?

Note to Catechists: Before moving on to Unit #3, schedule an entire class session for reflection (or mystagogy, as our early Fathers did and the catechumenate process requires). Regardless of which Level of Implementation (1, 2, or 3) you are using this catechetical year, pause to ask your learners what they have learned thus far from focusing on the Unit #2 Big Idea. Why? ...because (1) all faith concepts addressed during this unit will more likely be embedded in long-term memory (life-long faith formation), if this reflective time is taken; and (2) the Cardinal asks us: “How do you know that they know?”

Since catechists of public school learners do not issue individual grades, they should avoid using most testing and assessment pages in published religious textbooks. Textbook tests assume that all pages in a chapter or session were used; our Archdiocese is using our custom-made CFLFF scope and sequence rather than those of publishers. Testing learners over pages and topics not discussed would be unfair and, thus, a waste of valuable instructional time.

Since grading is not a concern, discerning “Understanding” IS !!! Your job is to coach and facilitate activities by modeling thinking, roaming the room to monitor the groups’ thinking to correct misconceptions and/or confusions of faith facts, and nudging learners to think more deeply about the Unit Big Idea. Listen and ask questions of clarification; **no new information should necessarily be given during these Unit evaluation sessions, unless new information is initiated by a learner or group.**

Catechist’s Preparation:

- ❖ Take time to go back and review the KEY learning targets for your grade level’s scope and sequence for this unit. The learning targets listed below are those that your learners should understand more deeply before next fall’s RE sessions. [Note: the first number references grade level.]
 - Prayer – 1.4.1.1/1.4.1.2; 2.4.1.1/2.4.2.3; 3.4.1.1/3.4.3.3; 4.4.1.1/4.4.3.2; 5.4.1.1/5.4.3.2
 - Mass – 1.2.3.2/1.2.2.10; 2.4.4.2/2.2.3.1; 3.4.4.3/3.2.2.6; 4.4.4.3/4.2.3.3; 5.4.4.3/5.2.2.9/5.2.2.10
 - Sacraments – 1.2.2.2; 2.2.2.9/2.2.2.1; 3.2.2.1/3.2.1.1; 4.2.2.4/ 4.2.2.1; 5.2.2.1/5.2.2.2
- ❖ Select one or more activities from the “menu” below. Your ability to gather needed materials will help you in your selection. IF you select an evaluative activity that is not listed below, that’s OK....BUT make sure that the activity doesn’t just assess this unit’s topics/themes (e.g., Prayer, Mass, Sacraments), but rather assesses the “deep understandings” of our faith cited in the grade level KEY Learning Targets for this unit. Your goal is to select activities that, if possible, “connect” two or more topics/themes. For example, we pray at home as well as at Mass; Mass allows us to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist...and Baptism is another sacrament of our Catholic faith.
- ❖ Based on the number and age of your learners, decide how you will group your learners:
 - Will you put learners in pairs, triads, groups of 4-5 and ask each group to work independently and then share with the entire class?
 - Will you allow groups to select from several activities on the menu below OR will you ask each group to work on the same activity?
 - Will you allow a given individual to work alone rather than with a group?
 - Might you combine your learners with those in another catechist’s class of the same grade level OR an adjacent grade level? After all, everyone is reflecting on the same Big Idea.

- [For younger learners] Will you ask the Big Idea question/talk through the activity with the entire group and then scribe their responses because of their lack of writing fluency?
- ❖ How might you share the “products” (e.g., web, poster, picture, poem, flip book, skit) from this session with parents, parishioners, etc.?

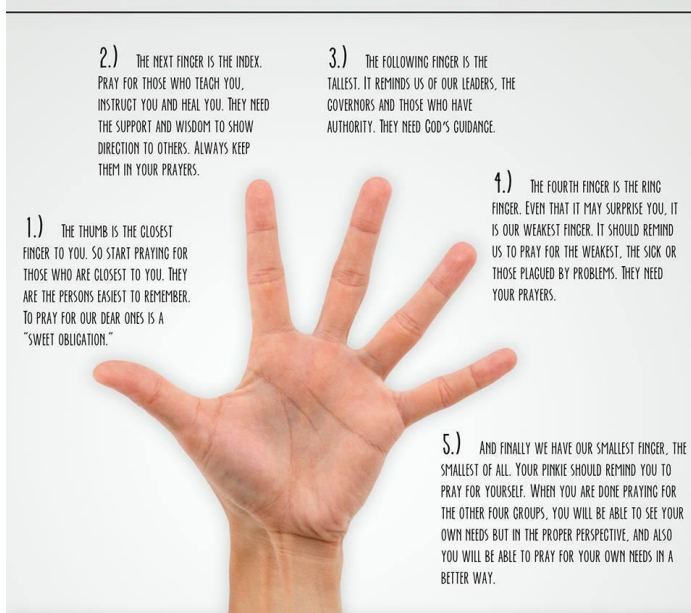
Suggested Lesson Sequence

- Opening Prayer
- Essential Question for Evaluative Session: use the Big Idea Question for Unit #2
- Activity (or two or more of choice by learners) in small groups
- Debrief/Self-Reflect: Learners explain in their own words how the activity they just completed helps them to answer the Big Idea Question (*How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?*)
- Closing Prayer

MENU of Assessment Strategies/ Evaluative Activities

- ❖ Pope Francis Five-Finger Prayer –

POPE FRANCIS' FIVE FINGER PRAYER



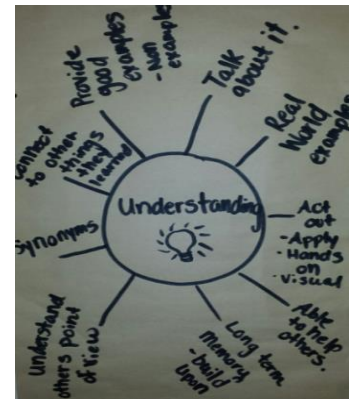
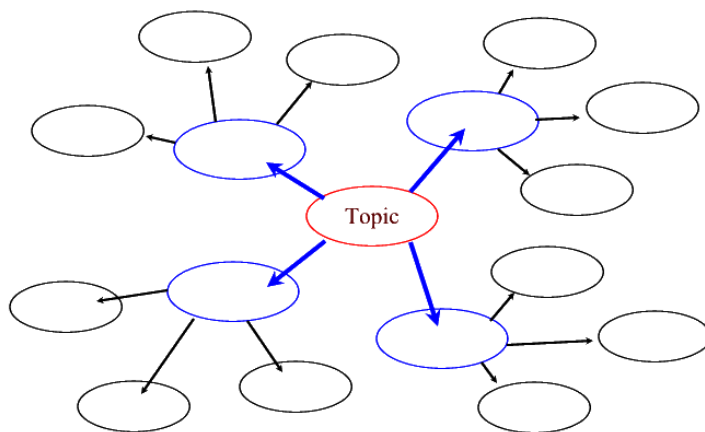
Pope Francis' Five Finger Prayer



Ask learners to trace one hand on a blank piece of paper. For each “purpose” for praying, ask them to jot down one person or thing they are praying for.....as they focus on each of their five fingers. Have each learner share their ideas with a small group or the entire class. Conclude this session by asking all to explain why do we pray, for whom do we pray, when should we pray, what should we pray, how should we pray, etc.? Read aloud your grade level’s learning targets as statements of faith about prayer.

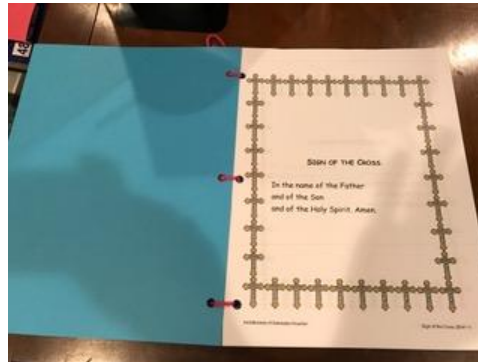
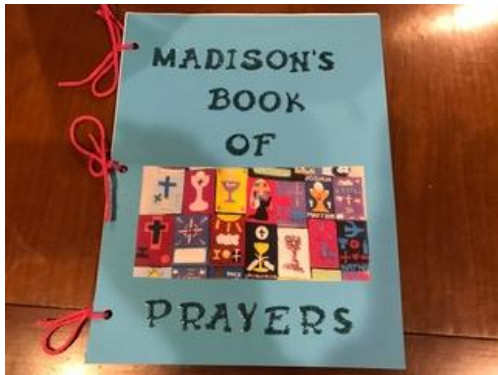
- ❖ Assessment Strategy: **WEBBING** – Divide your class into thirds. Give each group a large piece of paper and markers to sketch a “web.” Have one group write PRAYER in their web’s middle circle; another group, MASS; the third group, SACRAMENTS. Ask learners to brainstorm words and phrases that come to mind about their group’s word. Monitor this activity by walking around to each group and giving verbal “nudges.” (i.e. why do we pray, what prayers did we learn during this unit, what happens at Mass, how do we participate in Mass, what Mass responses did we review during this unit, what are sacraments, why do we celebrate them, what do we see as signs and symbols connected to the sacraments?)

Age-appropriate Modifications: Catechists may serve as recorder and scribe to write all responses on a “class web” for **younger learners** OR young learners could draw pictures on their group’s web rather than writing words. For **older learners**, post the three, completed group webs around the room and do a “Gallery Walk” (ask all to walk around the room and read/review/react to each web). Give each learner a marker and ask them to ADD ideas, especially to webs done by other groups. Also ask learners to put a question mark [?] by any idea on a web they are unsure of; also ask each learner to place an emoji of choice (or a star or smiley face 😊) to indicate that the reviewer understands the comment written on the web. [Learners need to self-evaluate – to know that they know what they understand, as well as to know what is still vague or confusing about a topic.]



- ❖ Assessment Strategy: **REFLECTING ON SCRIPTURE** - See “Unit 2 Scriptural Connections” under “Other Resources” for your grade level on www.catecheticalresources.org to select additional Bible passages that reinforce the three themes/topics of this unit: prayer, Mass, and Sacraments.
- ❖ Assessment Strategy: **Sentence Starter** – As an Exit Slip for this evaluative session, ask learners to complete the sentence *“I know and love Jesus Christ because.....”*

- ❖ Assessment Strategy: **Book of Prayers** – Print selected prayers with borders from our website appropriate for the age of your learners and have each construct a “Book of Prayers.” Ask each learner to personalize theirs by illustrating the cover. Send this book home and ask parents to use it during prayer time.



- ❖ Assessment Strategy: **Manipulative Cube** (See online under “Other Resources” for Grades 1-5 for directions for making “The Cube of Love.”). To correspond to Unit 2, ask learners to decide what words or pictures should be placed on each of the six sides of the cube.
- ❖ Assessment Strategy: **Grab Bag Assessment**
 - Write the following Catholic identify words (and others you addressed during Unit 2) on separate pieces of paper: **Sign of the Cross, The Lord’s Prayer, Sacrament of Baptism, Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, Hail Mary, Sunday Mass, Glory Be to the Father, Grace Before Meals, Nighttime Prayers, Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Holy Water, Bread & Wine, Amen, Lord I am not worthy..., The Lord’s Day, grace, genuflecting, etc.**
 - Place all in a basket, brown bag, or gift bag.
 - Ask learners to sit or stand in a circle.
 - Pass the container around and ask each learner to select ONE slip of paper.
 - Go around the circle having each learner:
 - Read their slip of paper;
 - Define or explain what it means in his/her own words;
 - Connect that word or phrase or action by explaining HOW it helps us to know and love Jesus Christ.