

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH II
SESSION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
👉 God reveals Himself—I respond in trust
CANDIDATE GUIDE

Session Topic: God Reveals Himself, I Respond in Trust

SESSION MESSAGE

God loves us and wants us to know Him. God reveals Himself most fully through Jesus Christ and invites each person into a relationship with Him. We respond by listening to God, receiving His grace, trusting His goodness, and taking the next faithful step.

1. GOD TAKES THE FIRST STEP

We do not have to discover God entirely on our own. **God takes the first step by making Himself known and inviting us into a relationship with Him.**

Divine Revelation is more than God giving us information. It is God sharing:

- **Who He is**
- **His love for us**
- **His plan of salvation**
- **His desire for a relationship with us**

Scripture

“In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son.”

Hebrews 1:1–2

God gradually revealed Himself throughout salvation history through covenants, prophets, mighty works, and sacred events. Finally, God revealed Himself most fully through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Catechism

God revealed Himself to humanity from the beginning and invited people into communion with Him. Even after humanity turned away through sin, God did not abandon His people. He continued to offer hope, mercy, redemption, and salvation.

CCC 54–55

Important Truth

God reveals Himself because He loves us and desires a personal relationship with us.

2. HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

God makes Himself known to us in several connected ways.

Through Creation

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH II
SESSION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
✎ God reveals Himself—I respond in trust
CANDIDATE GUIDE

The beauty, order, power, and goodness of creation point toward the wisdom and greatness of God.

Scripture Reference: Romans 1:19–20

Through Sacred Scripture

The Bible tells the story of God’s relationship with humanity. Through Sacred Scripture, we learn about God’s:

- Faithfulness
- Mercy
- Commandments
- Promises
- Covenants
- Plan of salvation

Through Sacred Tradition and the Church

Sacred Tradition faithfully hands on the Gospel entrusted by Christ to the Apostles. The Church preserves, teaches, celebrates, and passes on what God has revealed.

CCC 74

Through Prayer and the Sacraments

In prayer, we speak honestly with God and learn to listen for His guidance. Through the Sacraments, Jesus gives us His grace, healing, forgiveness, and strength.

Most Fully Through Jesus Christ

Jesus is not simply one messenger among many. **Jesus is the Son of God and the fullest revelation of the Father.**

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

John 14:9

Jesus reveals the Father through His:

- Words and teachings
- Actions and miracles
- Compassion and mercy
- Sacrifice on the Cross
- Death and Resurrection

In Simple Words

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH II
SESSION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
✎ God reveals Himself—I respond in trust
CANDIDATE GUIDE

God reveals Himself through creation, Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, the Church, prayer, and the Sacraments. Most fully, God reveals Himself through Jesus Christ.

3. TRUST IS OUR RESPONSE

When God reveals Himself, He invites us to respond. **The proper response to God's revelation is faith.**

Faith is more than believing that God exists. Faith means freely entrusting our lives to God because He is loving, truthful, merciful, and faithful.

Catechism

God addresses humanity as friends and invites everyone into communion with Him. Faith is our response to God's loving invitation.

CCC 142–143

To respond in trust means:

- **Believing** that God is truthful
- **Listening** to God's Word
- **Receiving** God's love, mercy, and grace
- **Following** Jesus during times of certainty and uncertainty
- **Taking** the next faithful step

Scripture

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.”

(John 14:1)

Trust does not mean that we understand everything that happens. Trust means believing that **God remains loving, faithful, and present even when the way forward is unclear.**
Important Truth

Faith is not simply knowing facts about God. Faith is entrusting our lives to the God who has revealed His love to us.

4. WITNESSES WHO TRUSTED GOD

Biblical figures and saints show us that trusting God is possible, even during uncertainty, suffering, or fear.

Abraham: Trusting God's Promise

God called Abraham to leave his homeland without showing him the entire journey. Abraham trusted God's promise and took the first step.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH II
SESSION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
✍️ God reveals Himself—I respond in trust
CANDIDATE GUIDE

Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1–4

Lesson: Trusting God may require moving forward without knowing every detail.

Mary: Trusting God’s Word

Mary did not understand everything that would happen after the angel’s announcement. Nevertheless, Mary freely trusted God and responded:

“May it be done to me according to your word.”

(Luke 1:38)

Lesson: Trust means saying yes to God and believing that His grace will provide what we need.

Saint Faustina Kowalska: Trusting Divine Mercy

Saint Faustina centered her spiritual life on childlike trust in God. Her witness reminds us that no weakness, fear, or failure is greater than the mercy of Jesus.

Lesson: We can approach Jesus honestly and confidently because His mercy is greater than our fears and failures.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta: Trusting Through Service

Saint Teresa responded to God’s call by serving Jesus among the poorest and most vulnerable. Her life shows that trust in God becomes visible through loving service.

Lesson: Trusting God leads us to love and serve others, even when the mission is difficult.

Central Truth

- **Abraham trusted God’s promise**
- **Mary trusted God’s Word**
- **Saint Faustina trusted God’s mercy**
- **Saint Teresa trusted God enough to serve**

“GOD INVITES US TO DEVELOP THAT SAME TRUST.”

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH II
SESSION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
👉 God reveals Himself—I respond in trust
CANDIDATE GUIDE

HOW CAN I RESPOND IN TRUST?

Trust grows through a daily relationship with God.

We respond to God through:

- **Prayer:** Speaking honestly with God and listening in silence
- **Scripture:** Allowing God's Word to guide our thoughts and choices
- **The Sacraments:** Receiving grace, healing, forgiveness, and strength
- **Obedience:** Following Jesus even when His way is challenging
- **Service:** Using our gifts to love and help others
- **Surrender:** Placing our fears, plans, and future in God's hands

God may not reveal His entire plan at once. God asks us to trust Him and take the **next faithful step**.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Choose one or two questions and write your responses.)

1. Where is God revealing His presence in my life?

2. What makes it difficult for me to trust God?

3. What situation do I need to place in God's hands?

4. What faithful step might God be asking me to take?

My Faith Response

Complete the statement:

God, I trust You with _____.

because _____.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH II
SESSION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
👉 God reveals Himself—I respond in trust
CANDIDATE GUIDE

Confirmation Connection

Confirmation strengthens our response to God. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we receive grace to:

- Understand the faith more deeply
- Trust God more completely
- Follow Jesus more faithfully
- Witness to Christ courageously
- Live as mature disciples
- Use our gifts in service to others

CENTRAL MESSAGE

God reveals Himself because He loves me and desires a relationship with me. He makes Himself known most fully through Jesus Christ. I respond by listening to His Word, trusting His goodness, receiving His grace, and taking the next faithful step. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens me to live this response with courage and faith.

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

This week, I will respond to God by:

I will ask the Holy Spirit to help me:

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH II
SESSION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
👉 God reveals Himself—I respond in trust
CANDIDATE GUIDE

SESSION REFERENCES

Sacred Scripture

- Hebrews 1:1–2
- Romans 1:19–20
- John 1:14–18
- John 14:1–11
- Genesis 12:1–4
- Luke 1:26–38

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- **CCC 50–53:** God reveals His plan of loving goodness
- **CCC 54–64:** The stages of Divine Revelation
- **CCC 65–67:** Jesus Christ is the fullness of Divine Revelation
- **CCC 74:** Divine Revelation is transmitted to every generation
- **CCC 142–144:** Faith is humanity’s response to God
- **CCC 153–165:** The gift and characteristics of faith
- **CCC 1285:** The meaning and importance of Confirmation
- **CCC 1302–1303:** The effects of Confirmation