

Lectionary Based Catechesis Guidelines for Catechists

Each member of the group should have a copy of the resource sheet for the week.

The year and week number are given in the headings. (The equivalent week numbers in 'Ordinary Time' are also given, where appropriate.)

The **Principal Service readings** are listed, with a brief description of each. The focus of the session will normally be on the gospel reading; however, the other readings may also be used, if desired.

The **Opening Prayer** can be said together, or members may take it in turns to lead the prayer. The same opening prayer is used each week.

The **Gospel Reading** is printed out in full, from the New Revised Standard Version. This should be read by one member of the group, while the others listen. The reading should be followed by a period of silence for reflection. Members of the group should not at this point turn to read the next section, but rather reflect on the text on its own, letting it speak to them and in them. After this period of silence (which can be lengthened as the group becomes more established), each member shares his or her thoughts and feelings, while the others listen – it should not turn into a discussion at this point. At the end of this time of sharing, the scripture is read again.

Next, the group looks at the **Comments and Questions** section, and a more detailed discussion or teaching session can take place. The Quotations may be brought in to the discussion, if desired.

One of the **Quotations** may be used for a short meditation at this point.

The list of **Related Topics** gives an opportunity to look at a doctrinal or moral issue, selected by either the catechist or group members. This can be looked at within the current session, or in a separate session, as desired. (Note: work on details of resources to link to the 'related topics' remains to be done.)

The session ends with prayer. Silent prayer or spontaneous and free prayer may be included, and then the catechist or a member of the group can use the **Closing Prayer**, which is related to the readings for the week.