



NEWMAN INSTITUTE

KNOWING, LOVING AND SHARING THE FAITH

Methods of Faith Formation

Session 1: Understanding Students and Leading them to Christ

TIME	ACTIVITY	GOAL	CONTENT
5 min.	Overview and Introductions	Preview “evangelizing catechesis” and the call to nurture disciples	The call to evangelize & aim of catechesis (<i>CT</i> , 5); opening theme/question: How can we meet students “where they are,” and help put them “in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ”?
10 min.	Opening Prayer	Model guided meditation	Guided meditation on the Parable of Sower (Mt 13:3-10)
15 min.	<u>Paired Discussion:</u> Communion with Christ	Discuss what it means to help put people into communion with Christ.	Discuss personal experiences of being in communion with Christ, and how catechists help people encounter the Lord.
20 min.	<u>Talk #1:</u> Engaging Minds and Hearts	Review conceptual frameworks for understanding how students learn	“Head, heart, hands”; visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners; multiple intelligences (video: Engage me)
20 min.	<u>Standing Activity:</u> “Head, Heart, Hands” and the Sacraments	Apply ways to unite “head and heart,” and to help students learn with their hands	Give examples of how we can teach the Sacraments using Head (knowing), Heart (loving/praying), and Hands (serving); divide group by grade levels
20 min.	<u>Talk #2:</u> Diversity in Communion	Discuss the diversity students we meet—in terms of developmental and learning issues, plus cultural and socioeconomic differences	Recognizing and respecting differences within the community of Catholic learners Video: Casting Crowns, “ Who am I? ”
15 min.	<u>Small group activity:</u> Respecting Diversity & Embracing Unity	Identify examples of diversity among your students, and reflect on points of unity or communion	Using a graphic organizer, each group will come up with examples of diversity and points of similarity or unity.
10 min.	Review/Wrap-up	Preview online resources; encourage catechists to review stages of development in manuals; complete session evaluation	Reconsider opening theme/question: How can we meet students “where they are,” and help put them “in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ”?
5 min.	Closing Prayer	Personal Prayer Petitions	Have the whole group take turns sharing prayers for their students.