

LESSON PLANNING FOR PARISH CATECHISTS, GRADES K-5

Pre-planning:

1. Know your manual

- Review the front and back matter
- Pay special attention to the *Ecclesial Method*

2. Learn how each chapter is organized

- Unit Overview & Unit Maps (tabbed pages)
- Chapter Summary (first page)
 - Opening paragraph
 - *Preparing Our Hearts*
 - CCC references (for background)
- Chapter Overview Chart (back side of summary page)
 - Key elements: *Words to Know, materials, sidebars, aims*
 - Objectives
 - Ecclesial Method in action
 - Focus on the *Proclamation*

3. Utilize the Lesson Prep Audios from the digital platforms

Planning a Weekly Lesson (one chapter):

1. Prepare through prayer

2. Choose an option

Option 1 – Teach Directly from the Manual

- Follow the Ecclesial Method as presented
- Trust the order of the chapter
- Focus on the chapter aims
- You do not need to:
 - Cover everything
 - Use every suggested activity
- Do select activities based on students' needs

Option 2 – Use the Lesson Planner Guide

Where to find it

- Resource Library
(Parish Edition > Any grade K-5 > All Tab)
- Catechist Portal
(Any grade K-5 > Resources by Type Menu)

How to use it

- Choose the correct grade-level planner
- Select the version (45 min or 60–90 min; Kinder only has 45 min.)
- Using your manual (and optional digital tools):
 - Choose options for each step of the Ecclesial Method
- Idea: Send unused activities home for family formation

Best practices

- Print and store planners in a binder
- Reuse yearly and update with notes

Option 3 – Use Ready-Made Lesson Plans

Where to find it

- Resource Library (under each chapter, parish edition K-5)

How to use it

- Choose a version based on
 - Class length and
 - Access to digital content during classtime

Best practices

- Print and keep in a binder
- Jot down notes regarding what worked well

3. Final Planning Reminder

Follow the lesson order.

Trust the method.

Invite the Holy Spirit.

When the fullness of faith, clear structure, lived virtue, and authentic witness come together, catechesis becomes truly evangelizing.



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