

# RCIA That's Easier to Teach... Because It Speaks to Them

## RCIA/RICA For Adults, Teens and Children

The ever-popular and long-running RCIA program, *Journey of Faith*, has a fresh, new look and expanded leader materials. Written in the engaging, pastoral style of the Redemptorists, it speaks directly to adults, teens, and children. *Journey of Faith* and *Jornada de Fe* speak more clearly to people where they are in their faith journey and offer more integration with their daily life.

The content fully addresses relevant life issues, faith topics, and questions in a catechetical approach to the RCIA/RICA.

## More of What You Need to Teach With Confidence

The comprehensive Leader Guide gives you everything you need to walk into your RCIA class and start leading—whether you're a veteran RCIA instructor or a first-time volunteer. The expanded materials include:

- A wraparound design enables you to see what your participants see so you can spend more time teaching and growing in faith alongside your group.
- Complete instructions for how to use *Journey of Faith* with an explanation of the lesson plan components, including schedule options.
- Tips on how to be an effective catechist.
- Practical suggestions for teaching in a group setting.
- Additional discussion points that prepare you for responses and keep the conversation going.
- A complete glossary—available online as well—of all new concepts and terms taught in the lessons.

Supplemental material suggestions such as *Breaking Open the Word* and *The Word Into Life* scriptural study for RCIA groups and the popular *Catholic Update* newsletters on core RCIA topics.



**Journey**  
OF **Faith**

LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

# Journey of Faith



FOR ADULTS



INQUIRY

LEADER GUIDE



*Journey of Faith for Adults* welcomes adults of all ages and backgrounds to the Catholic faith in a way that's relevant and meets them where they are in their own faith journey, using an engaging pastoral style. Now with a new, more modern design, *Journey of Faith* combines discussion questions, private journaling, and other activities to appeal to a variety of learners and offer a program that flexible enough for you to modify to your particular needs. For parishes that enjoy Liguori's *Catholic Update* newsletter, lesson-by-lesson references allow you to easily supplement any topics with timely and enlightening articles.

The lessons in *Journey of Faith for Adults, Inquiry* begin with the concept of faith in the Catholic Church and continue the exploration into many topics that will be discussed further throughout the program. Some of the concepts include the Trinity, Jesus as fully human and fully divine, an introduction to the Bible, prayer life, the Mass, Church leadership, Mary, and the saints.

The comprehensive *Leader Guide* gives you everything you need to walk into your RCIA sessions and start leading—whether you're a veteran catechist or a first-time volunteer. Additional discussion points prepare you for their responses and keep the conversation going. The contemporary wraparound design enables you to see what your participants see so you can spend more time sharing and growing in faith alongside your group.



## ***Journey of Faith for Adults Inquiry Leader Guide (826269)***

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## Q1: Welcome to the RCIA

### Objectives

Participants will...

- recognize the RCIA as an opportunity to ask questions about God, faith, and the Catholic Church.
- recall the origin and periods of the RCIA process.
- interpret the RCIA as Jesus' invitation to join the Church.

### Leader Meditation

*Psalm 139:1–16*

Reflect on your faith journey—if possible, before the Blessed Sacrament—considering the many times God has protected and guided you. He has brought you to this moment and has led and entrusted each inquirer to your care. Ponder this great trust, this opportunity to be their companion and guide. Pray for wisdom and courage. Rely on the Lord's help. He will lead you as you lead them.

### Related Catholic Updates

- "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: The Catholic Faith Is Alive in the RCIA" (C1706A)
- "What Catholics Believe: An Overview of Catholic Teaching" (C8610A)
- "What It Means to Be Catholic: Satisfying 12 Human Needs" (C0708A)

### Leader Preparation

- Read the lesson handout, this lesson plan, the opening Scripture passage, and the *Catechism* sections.
- Read the front sections of this leader guide. The USCCB website may also help you explain the RCIA and *Catechism* further.
- Be familiar with the vocabulary terms in this lesson: RCIA, rites, catechist, inquiry, catechumen(ate), godparent, sponsor, purification and enlightenment, sacraments of initiation, mystagogy, catechism. Definitions can be found in this guide's glossary.
- Obtain copies of the *New American Bible* (or other Catholic translation) and *Catechism* for each participant as well as any required materials listed earlier in this guide on page 15. Enlist creative ways to supply prayer journals and other unique items (see activity below and "Integrating the Parish Community" above).
- Gather copies of your parish's RCIA calendar or a list of key event dates for each participant.

### Welcome

As the group gathers, welcome each individual, repeating back names. Direct participants to the supplies, nametags, refreshments, and restrooms. Take some time for introductions. (The activity at the end of the lesson is a good ice breaker that can be used at the beginning or the end of the session.) After giving initial instructions and announcements, take questions and respond briefly. Begin promptly.

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 139:1–16*

Read the passage aloud from a Catholic Bible or study *Lectionary*. Allow for a moment of silence, and then ask for comments or reactions to the words. Finally, share a few words of encouragement and affirmation. Indicate that God is leading them and has been with them their whole lives.

Light the candle and explain that it is a sign and reminder of the Lord's presence. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" and "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (John 8:12 and 9:5; Matthew 18:20). Begin with this prayer:


*Heavenly Father, through the gift of your Son and the power of your Holy Spirit, we ask you to guide us in our faith journey. Help us to hear your voice and to follow where you lead. And give us your peace. Amen.*

"God...reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life."

CCC 26








# Journey of Faith

Q1

INQUIRY

**In Short:**


- Jesus invites you to the Church.
- The RCIA is a time to ask questions.
- The RCIA process has four periods.



Feelings can be powerful, but you wouldn't want a relationship founded only on feelings. Relationships are stronger and healthier when they're built on solid ground. We trust and respect decisions that are well-considered, shared, and entered into freely.

• How do you make big decisions?

• Why are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church?



**What Does the RCIA Mean?**

The RCIA stands for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. It's the process through which unbaptized adults and older children are formed in the teachings and practices of Catholicism and are *initiated* into the Catholic Church. It's marked by various **rites** or rituals, which usually occur at Sunday Mass. Sometimes the process includes baptized adult Christians or Catholics who are preparing to receive the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist.

**Welcome to the RCIA**

There are many people searching for a way to meet their spiritual needs and identify with a community of faith. People who feel the desire to know more about the Catholic Church and to explore its life may simply need a friendly invitation. Perhaps your spouse or a close friend is Catholic, or you saw or read something that prompted questions and inspired interest. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church's way of extending an invitation.

**Take Your Time**

No need to rush; it makes sense to go at your own pace and move thoughtfully through the biggest decisions of our lives. People rarely get married, buy a house, change careers, or move cities without giving such significant decisions appropriate time and consideration. Our initial interest leads to further exploration, helping us get to know our options and ourselves better. You might have felt this tug at your soul before and have only now chosen to act upon it.

Our Catholic faith isn't so much a set of beliefs, although we do have them, but more of a relationship that starts with our Lord and develops as we observe and encounter him in our lives.

**Why Do Catholics Initiate Others Into Their Faith?**

Jesus told his followers to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). No other ancient religion sought converts: not Egyptians, Greeks, or Romans. But Christians—not just Catholics—still welcome and invite anyone to join us.

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ADULTS

Before moving forward with your lesson, ask if any inquirer is unfamiliar with the Bible. Briefly review its organization before you begin (see Q5: *The Bible*). Distinguish between the Old and New Testaments but emphasize the importance of each and their unity as the inspired word of God. The Old Testament, or Hebrew Scriptures, covers the beginning of salvation history within and through the Hebrews' (or Israelites') covenant relationship with God. The New Testament covers the fulfillment of salvation history in and through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and includes teachings and letters from the early Christian Church.

## Welcome to the RCIA

Start the discussion with general questions about what brought everyone to the group today. Such as:

- Is anyone here with a family member or friend?
- Do you know a parishioner here?
- How were you introduced to the Catholic faith and our RCIA process?

## Take Your Time

Read the questions in the lesson together and invite participants to respond to each one. This will deepen the group's knowledge of each other's backgrounds and perspectives. It will also help the team members and sponsors to form a sense of each participant's needs.

# Journey of Faith



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## Why Do Catholics Initiate Others Into Their Faith?

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This is because we believe that:

- Following Jesus makes people happier and more at peace, both here and in the life to come. We believe the Catholic Church has the fullest and most authentic understanding of Jesus.
- The Christian community is strengthened by the conversion of all people, who are created in God's likeness and called to discipleship.

*"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*

John 10:10

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."*

John 15:11

## Jesus Says, "Come!"

Jesus doesn't just want us to follow him into the faith blindly. He wants us to make the choice freely and with all the information we need to make a decision.

- "Come, and you will see" (John 1:39). Jesus invites people to observe him to see if he accomplishes what he says. You will study Jesus closely in the RCIA.
- "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). These are some of the first words Jesus spoke during his ministry. He didn't say, "Understand me" or, "Obey me." He allowed people to consider his ways and to freely make up their minds.
- "Come, follow me" (Mark 10:21; Luke 18:22). "Follow me" is perhaps the simplest definition of our faith. The RCIA is like a winding road: hard to see far down, but revealed as you go. Fortunately, Jesus leads the way.

## What Happens in the RCIA?

Most processes are a series of weekly sessions with a team of **catechists** (religion teachers), sponsors, and fellow participants. Each session is a safe place to discuss the faith and explore questions about Catholicism or religion and spirituality in general. All questions are welcome and honored.

God invited Mary to be the mother of Jesus because Jesus couldn't be born without her free and informed consent. Before giving her consent, Mary asked "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34). Like Mary, we all have free will to accept Jesus into our lives and to ask our questions. That's how much God respects—and even expects—your honest questions.

## Is the RCIA New?

This process began in the earliest years of the Church. In those first centuries, it was a challenge to convert to Christianity because the Roman Empire often persecuted those who didn't follow its pagan religion. The Church wanted to make sure that candidates really knew what they were doing and were willing to stand up for their faith in a hostile environment. In the 1960s, the Church called for a return to this early model in order to provide Christian formation in the same gradual way people experience and enter any lasting and loving relationship.

- What questions do you have today?



## How Long Does the RCIA Last?

It depends. People come with their own unique stories and needs. While many classes begin in late summer or early fall and end at Pentecost, some schedules will vary or run year-round, allowing you to proceed at your own pace.



LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

# Journey of Faith



FOR ADULTS



CATECHUMENATE

LEADER GUIDE



The ever-popular and long-running RCIA program, *Journey of Faith*, welcomes adults of all ages and backgrounds to the Catholic faith and meets them where they are in their own faith journey, using an engaging pastoral style. Now with a new, more modern design, *Journey of Faith* combines discussion questions, private journaling, and other activities to appeal to a variety of learners, offering a program that's flexible enough for you to modify to your particular needs. For parishes that enjoy Liguori's *Catholic Update* newsletter, lesson-by-lesson references allow you to easily supplement any topics with timely and enlightening articles.

*Journey of Faith for Adults, Catechumenate* guides participants toward full conversion by discussing core concepts of Catholic belief and practice in straightforward language using real-life examples. Complex and sensitive issues are addressed from a contemporary perspective with authority and understanding. The topics in *Catechumenate* include the RCIA process and rites, salvation history, each of the seven sacraments, Church history, dignity of life, social justice, and moral living.

The comprehensive *Leader Guide* gives you everything you need to walk into your RCIA sessions and start leading—whether you're a veteran catechist or a first-time volunteer. The contemporary wraparound design enables you to see what your participants see and offers additional discussion points to prepare you for their responses and keep the conversation going.



***Journey of Faith for Adults, Catechumenate Leader Guide (827167)***

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LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

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FOR ADULTS

ENLIGHTENMENT AND MYSTAGOGY

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The *Enlightenment* lessons cover God's mercy and forgiveness, an introduction to the scrutinies, and the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. There is also a group Lenten retreat. The *Mystagogy* material leads the new members of the Church into full participation with their Church and parish communities as they continue their faith formation now that they are fully initiated into the Church and share the joy and enthusiasm they have for the faith with others.

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## Q1: Welcome to the RCIA!

**Catechism:** 1229–1249

### Objectives

- Identify the RCIA as a time to ask questions about the Catholic faith.
- Differentiate between the four periods of the RCIA process.
- Describe the origins of the RCIA.
- Engage in thoughtful spiritual reflection.

### Leader Meditation

*Psalm 139:1–16*

Think about your own faith journey. Consider the many times God has protected and guided you. Now, consider the ones this same God is guiding and entrusting to your care. Imagine the trust God has in you. You have been given the opportunity to be their companion and guide on their faith journey. Pray for wisdom and courage. Rely on the Lord's help.

### Leader Preparation

- Read the lesson handout, this lesson plan, the Scripture passage, and *Catechism* sections.
- Read the front sections of this Leader Guide. The USCCB website may also help you explain the RCIA and *Catechism* further.
- Gather copies of the *New American Bible* and *Catechism* for each participant as well as any required materials listed earlier in this guide under "Materials and Supplies." Enlist creative ways to supply prayer journals and other unique items (see "Integrating the Parish Community").
- Be familiar with the vocabulary terms for this lesson: RCIA, catechist, catechumenate, godparent, sponsor, sacraments of initiation, mystagogy, scrutinies, catechism. Definitions can be found in this guide's glossary.

### Welcome

As participants arrive, welcome each individual, repeating back each name. Direct participants to the supplies, nametags, refreshments, and restrooms. Take time for group introductions. After giving initial instructions and announcements, take questions and respond briefly. Begin promptly.

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 139:1–16*

If any inquirer is unfamiliar with the Bible, briefly review its organization and how to look up readings before you begin. Light the candle and explain that it is a sign and a reminder of the Lord's presence.

Ask for a volunteer to read aloud. Afterward, allow a moment of silence, and then welcome reactions to the words. Share a few words of encouragement and affirmation. Let the participants know that God is leading them and has been with them from the beginning. Before you go into the discussion of the lesson, ask participants to **think about all the things that happened to bring them here to the RCIA.**

God...reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life.

CCC 153





# Journey of Faith



## In Short:

- The RCIA is a time to ask faith questions.
- The RCIA has four periods.
- The RCIA is rooted in early Christian history.



## Welcome to the RCIA

So today you start the RCIA. Maybe you're here on your own because you feel called to the Catholic Church. Maybe your whole family is going through the RCIA process. Maybe your parents want you to receive the sacraments of Eucharist or confirmation. All of these are good reasons. Or maybe you're having a hard time seeing how any of this is good for you right now. That's OK, too.

- Think about a time when you heard about a great new movie. Maybe friends told you or you heard through social media that this was the must-see movie of the year. You trust the reviews and make plans to go see it. But once the movie starts, you realize it takes a while for that great story to happen. You have to sit through every scene in order to see the really good parts. Great events often take time. Sometimes we have to be patient before we get to the good part!

Jesus knows how much we want to enjoy life, so he offers an authentic path to lasting happiness for people of every age and culture. Making it down that path takes time.

Lasting happiness is what the RCIA is all about, so it's worth planning to attend. Through the RCIA, you will come to understand the way of Jesus

Christ and have a chance to ask any question you have about religion, such as:

- Does God really exist? Why do I exist?
- Who is Jesus? Is he the only way to salvation?
- What is the Catholic Church and why should I join it?

## Take Your Time!

Choosing courses in high school or college are decisions that are best made slowly. Making lasting friendships takes even more time. Spending time with friends means sharing experiences, dreams, fears, and heartbreaks. You begin a kind of journey with friends where you continue to grow, understand, and trust each other. It's the same with Jesus.

Catholics believe that our faith is not so much a set of beliefs (although we certainly have them!) but more a relationship that we start, develop, and continue to grow in with our Lord.

## Thoughtful Reflection Is Good!

Feelings can be powerful and wonderful, but you wouldn't want a friendship that comes *only* from a sudden rush of feeling. Friendships are stronger when they evolve from well-considered, *free* choices from everyone involved. These are the relationships that are solid and lasting.

- How do you normally make really big decisions?
- How did you decide to start the RCIA?



INQUIRY Q1

TEENS

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CCC 1229–1233, 1247–1249

## Welcome to the RCIA

- For today's lesson, start with the activity at the end of the participant handout (see "Activity" section of this lesson plan for instructions). This will help the group get to know each other and enable participants to open up and participate in a low-pressure way as you get started.

- Give participants a short overview of what will happen in their RCIA classes. You'll explain each period in more detail later, so keep your overview informal and focused on what participants can expect each time they meet.
- Encourage participants to keep a spiritual or prayer journal during their time in the RCIA. Emphasize that it can be used not only for reflection questions in class but for any thoughts or questions about faith they have on their own.

- Introduce participants to the *Catechism*. Explain how to use it and emphasize it doesn't need to be read cover to cover.
- Ask participants to share what brought them to the RCIA. *Share what brought you to the RCIA as a leader, too.*

# Journey of Faith



## In Short:



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- The RCIA is rooted in early Christian history.

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- Does God really exist? Why do I exist?
- Who is Jesus? Is he the only way to salvation?
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## Take Your Time!

Choosing courses in high school or college are decisions that are best made slowly. Making lasting friendships takes even more time. Spending time with friends means sharing experiences, dreams, fears, and heartbreaks. You begin a kind of journey with friends where you continue to grow, understand, and trust each other. It's the same with Jesus.

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Feelings can be powerful and wonderful, but you wouldn't want a friendship that comes *only* from a sudden rush of feeling. Friendships are stronger when they evolve from well-considered, *free* choices from everyone involved. These are the relationships that are solid and lasting.

- How do you normally make really big decisions?
- How did you decide to start the RCIA?





Jesus doesn't just ask us to follow him into the faith blindly. He wants us to make the choice freely and with all the information we need to make a decision. We can see examples of this in Scripture:

*"Come, and you will see!"*

John 1:39

Jesus invites people to observe him closely over time to see if he accomplishes what he says he will. We will observe Jesus closely during these RCIA sessions.

*"Come after me."*

Matthew 4:19

These three words are the simplest definition of our faith. In fact, they are the first words Jesus spoke when he began his ministry. Notice he didn't say, "Understand me" or even, "Believe in me." He simply asked people to observe him closely and then freely choose on their own to follow in his footsteps.

## Why Do We Have an RCIA Program?

Jesus asked those first Christians to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Christians made disciples because they believed that following Jesus would make others happier and more at peace. We believe the Catholic understanding of Jesus' teachings is the fullest and most authentic understanding of Jesus. Your RCIA classes will be led by a **catechist**, someone who teaches the principles of the Christian religion to others.

*"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*

John 10:10

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."*

John 15:11

- Who are some Catholics you admire? What do you admire about them?
- What do you think about the early Christians' mission to make disciples?



## What Does the RCIA Mean?

The letters stand for **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. It is the learning program for people to become *initiated* or *enter* the Catholic Church. It also includes *rites*, or rituals, usually done at Sunday Mass (see lesson C1).

Its main purpose is to help those who are interested in becoming Catholic do so or to help those who want to receive **sacraments** like Communion or confirmation that they missed earlier in life but would like to receive now. (More on the sacraments in later lessons.)

## Is This a New Process?

This learning program began in the earliest years of the Church. Christians then knew it was hard to convert to Christianity because the Roman Empire persecuted Christians. The Church wanted to make sure that candidates really knew what they were getting into and that they were willing to stand up for their faith in a sometimes hostile pagan environment. In the mid-twentieth century, the Church decided to return to this process by offering solid Christian education in the same gradual manner that people enter any lasting and loving relationship.

## What Happens in the RCIA?

Most RCIA programs involve a series of weekly sessions with a team of teachers, sponsors, and fellow candidates.

Each session is a safe place for you to hear about our faith and to ask questions about Catholicism or faith in general. If the team leaders do not know the answer to a question, they will research it and get back to you with a response. All questions are welcomed and honored.

**Go Ahead and Ask:** Mary questions God when she's told she's going to be the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:34). God answers because Jesus could not be born without her free and informed consent. That is how much God respects and even expects your honest questions.



LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

# Journey of Faith



FOR TEENS

CATECHUMENATE

LEADER GUIDE



Based on Liguori's ever-popular and long-running adult-initiation program, *Journey of Faith for Teens* addresses relevant life issues, faith topics, and intellectual questions in a catechetical approach to Christian Initiation.

*Journey of Faith for Teens, Catechumenate* teaches teens about the traditions of their Catholic faith in a way that's relevant to where they are in their own lives. The lessons begin with the RCIA process and rites and continue to cover our salvation history, each of the seven sacraments, Church history, the dignity of life, social justice, and moral living.

This comprehensive *Leader Guide* gives you everything you need to walk into your RCIA class and start leading. Whether you're a veteran RCIA instructor or a first year volunteer, this *Leader Guide* has something to offer you. Engaging teens with their learning is vital to make the message stick, which is why we've combined collaborative activities with group discussions and private journaling to appeal to a variety of learners in a way that's flexible enough for you to modify to your unique needs. The contemporary wraparound design allows you to see exactly what your participants see, so you can spend more time teaching and growing in faith alongside your group.



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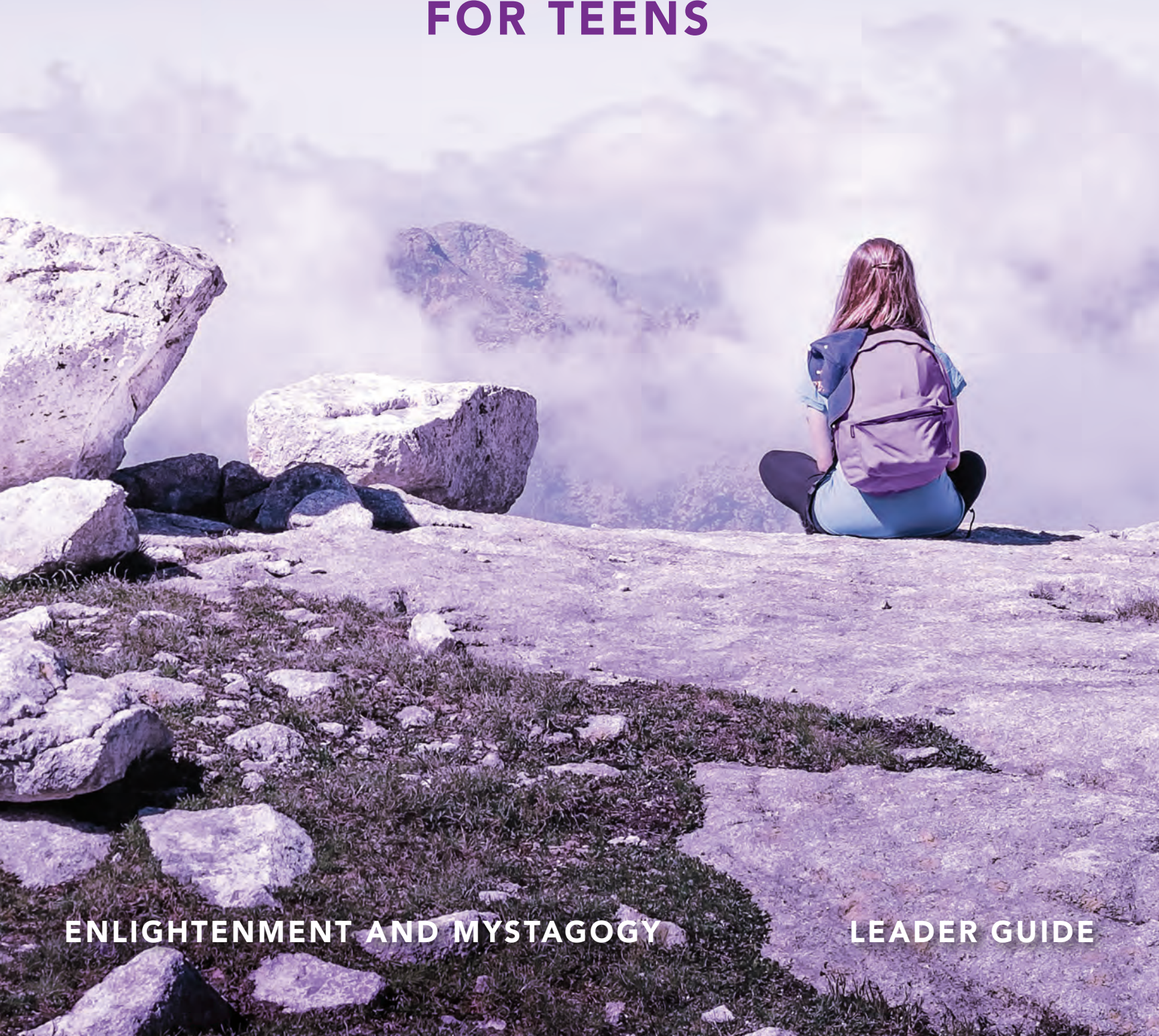
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LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

# Journey of Faith



FOR TEENS



ENLIGHTENMENT AND MYSTAGOGY

LEADER GUIDE



Based on Liguori's ever-popular and long-running adult-initiation program, *Journey of Faith for Teens* addresses relevant life issues, faith topics, and intellectual questions in a catechetical approach to Christian initiation.

*Journey of Faith for Teens, Enlightenment* guides teens through a period of self-reflection and preparation for the sacraments in a way that's relevant to where they are in their own lives. Teens will learn about God's mercy and forgiveness through an introduction to the scrutinies and the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Teens will also participate in a group Lenten retreat before becoming fully initiated into the Church.

In *Journey of Faith for Teens, Mystagogy*, teens, now full members of the Church, discover their mission to go out and evangelize. These lessons focus on how to become a witness for Christ, how to continue the faith-formation process, and how to share their enthusiasm for the faith.

This comprehensive *Leader Guide* gives you everything you need to walk into your RCIA class and start leading. Whether you're a veteran RCIA instructor or a first-year volunteer, this *Leader Guide* has something to offer you. Engaging teens with their learning is vital to make the message stick, which is why we've combined collaborative activities with group discussions and private journaling to appeal to a variety of learners in a way that's flexible enough for you to modify to your unique needs. The contemporary wraparound design enables you to see what your participants see, so you can spend more time teaching and growing in faith alongside your group.





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LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

# Journey of Faith

## FOR CHILDREN



INQUIRY

LEADER GUIDE



Based on the ever-popular and long-running adult Christian initiation program from Liguori Publications, *Journey of Faith for Children* provides a solid catechetical foundation. *Journey of Faith for Children* introduces children to the Catholic faith in a way that's easy for them to understand. The warm and engaging style of the Redemptorists speaks to children about faith topics in a way that will start them on a lifelong journey of knowing and loving Jesus.

The lessons in *Journey of Faith for Children, Inquiry* introduce the children to the Catholic faith and include the Trinity, Jesus as fully human and fully divine, an introduction to the Bible, prayer life, the Mass, Church leadership, Mary, and the saints. Each lesson features a cartoon and an ongoing story so the children can see their own faith journey mirrored in a fictional RCIA class.

The comprehensive *Leader Guide* gives you everything you need to walk into your RCIA class and start leading—whether you're a veteran RCIA instructor or a first-time volunteer. Additional discussion points prepare you for the responses of the children and keep the conversation going. The contemporary wraparound design enables you to see what the children see so you can spend more time teaching and growing in faith alongside your group.



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## Q1: Welcome to the RCIA

**Catechism:** 1229–49

### Objectives

- Describe the RCIA as a time to ask questions about the faith.
- List the four phases, or periods, of the RCIA.
- Identify the RCIA as rooted in early Christian history.

### Leader Meditation

*Psalm 139:1–16*

Think about your own faith journey. Consider the many times God has protected and guided you. Now, consider the ones this same God has entrusted to your care. Imagine the trust God has in you. You have been given the opportunity to be their companion and guide on their faith journey. Pray for wisdom and courage. Rely on the Lord's help.

### Leader Preparation

- Read the lesson handout, this lesson plan, the Scripture passage, and the *Catechism* sections.
- Read the front sections of this *Leader Guide*. Publications on [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org) may also help you explain the RCIA and the *Catechism* further.
- Gather copies of the *New American Bible* and the *Catechism* for each participant as well as any required materials. Enlist creative ways to supply prayer journals and other unique items.
- Be familiar with the vocabulary terms for this lesson: catechist, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, rite, initiation, catechumen, candidate, inquiry, catechumenate, godparent, sponsor, purification and enlightenment, sacraments of initiation, sacraments, baptism, Communion, confirmation, mystagogy. Definitions can be found in this guide's glossary.

### Welcome

Greet the children as they arrive. Check for supplies and immediate needs. Solicit questions or comments about the previous lesson and/or share new information and findings. Begin promptly.

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 139:1–16*

If any of the children in your group are unfamiliar with the Bible, briefly review its organization and how to look up readings before you begin (you will probably have to do this multiple times before the children get familiar with how to do it). Light the candle and explain that it is a sign and a reminder of the Lord's presence.


After reading the selection, ask the children what the Psalm made them think of as they were listening to it. Share a few words of encouragement and affirmation. Let the children know that God is leading them and has been with them from the beginning.

God...reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life.

CCC 26








# Journey of Faith

INQUIRY Q1



## Welcome to the RCIA

It was the first day of RCIA class. Tanya, Terrence, Tomás, and Lisa didn't know what to expect.

"Hello!" Mrs. and Mr. Evans, their teachers, greeted them by the door.


"Hi," everyone replied shyly.

"Let's all get to know each other," said Mrs. Evans, smiling. "Who wants to share why they're here?"

"My mom told me I had to," Tomás said, chuckling.

"I don't know," Tanya said, shrugging.

"It has to do with being Catholic," Lisa replied.

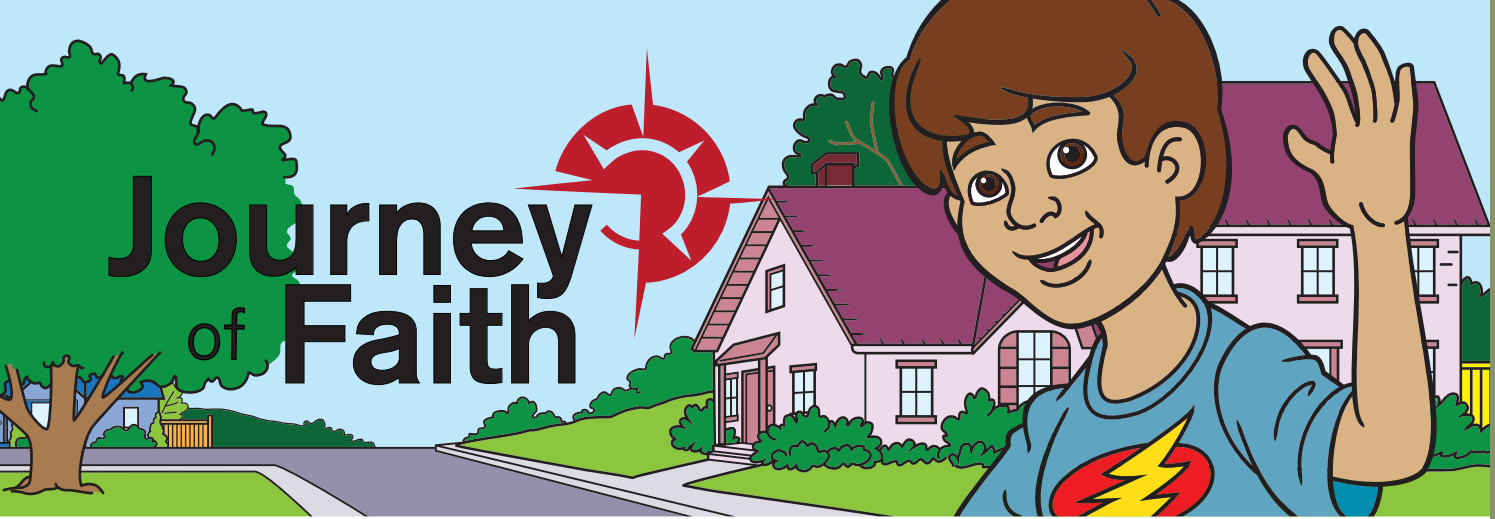


CCC 1229-49

CHILDREN

## Welcome to the RCIA

Read this section with your group or ask for a volunteer to do so who feels comfortable reading by himself or herself. Then ask your group if anyone feels like Tomás (they're in RCIA because their parents told them they had to), or like Tanya (they aren't really sure why they're here), or like Lisa (they know it has something to do with becoming Catholic).



## Welcome to the RCIA

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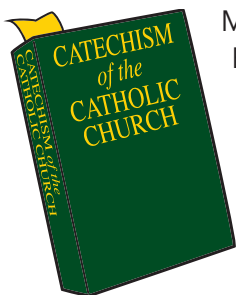




Mr. Evans nodded and said, "It does. By the end of class you'll all know exactly why you're here. And what RCIA has to do with being Catholic."



### Why are you in RCIA today?



Mr. Evans continued. "Mrs. Evans and I are your catechists. A **catechist** is someone who teaches you about religion using a book called a catechism.

We'll use a book called the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** since you're here to

learn about being Catholic." Mr.

Evans held up a huge book.

"We're not going to have to learn *all* that, are we?" Terrence asked. He looked shocked.

"No," Mr. Evans said, laughing. "That would be a lot! This class is just the beginning."

"Are these classes just for kids?" Tanya asked.

"Yes and no," said Mrs. Evans. "These classes are just for you. The process you're going through is for kids your age, teenagers, and adults. It's called the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, or RCIA for short."

Lisa frowned and said, "But we're not adults."

"Actually, you are to the Church. The Catholic Church says people are adults if they can think for themselves and tell right from wrong or good from bad. Then you can decide to be Catholic. It's a big decision. That's why we have these classes. They get you ready for the rite."

"What's a rite?" Tanya asked.

"A **rite** is a serious religious ceremony," Mrs. Evans said. "This rite is Christian. That means it's



connected to Jesus Christ. The early Church used something a lot like this to initiate new Christians, too. Does anyone know what initiation means?"

"**Initiation** means to start something or what you go through to become part of a group," Lisa answered.



"Good!" Mrs. Evans said. "Right now, you're all thinking about becoming Catholic. But you're all coming from different places. Some of you have been to church before. Some of you went to a different church.

"Some of you were baptized when you were babies. Some of you are getting baptized when you become Catholic. If you're going to be baptized, you're called a **catechumen**. If you've already been baptized as a Christian, you'll be called a **candidate**."

"But no matter what you're called," Mr. Evans added, "you're all still working together."



### Will you be a catechumen or a candidate?

"You'll all go through four stages. The first one is called **inquiry**. To inquire means to ask questions. In this stage you get to ask questions about God and being Catholic. But don't worry! You can still have questions after inquiry.

"The second stage is called **catechumenate**. You'll learn about most of the major Catholic beliefs. You'll also find someone to help you on your journey. That person is called a **godparent** if you haven't been baptized. If you have, the person is a **sponsor**. This person can be a family member or a friend, but the person has to be a confirmed Catholic."

"What does a sponsor or godparent do?" asked Tanya.

"They're like your personal guide. You can ask them questions or talk to them about being Catholic when you aren't in class. They also make sure you take what we learn in class and use it every day.

LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

# Journey of Faith



FOR CHILDREN



CATECHUMENATE

LEADER GUIDE



Based on the ever-popular and long-running adult Christian initiation program from Liguori Publications, *Journey of Faith for Children* provides a solid catechetical foundation. *Journey of Faith for Children* introduces children to the Catholic faith in a way that's easy for them to understand. The warm and engaging style of the Redemptorists speaks to children about faith topics in a way that will start them on a lifelong journey of knowing and loving Jesus.

*Journey of Faith for Children, Catechumenate* teaches children about the traditions of their Catholic faith in a way that's relevant to where they are in their own lives. The lessons begin with the RCIA process and rites and continue to cover our salvation history, each of the seven sacraments, Church history, the dignity of life, social justice, and moral living. Each lesson features a cartoon and an ongoing story so the children can see their own faith journey mirrored in the fictional RCIA class.

The comprehensive Leader Guide gives you everything you need to walk into your RCIA class and start leading—whether you're a veteran RCIA instructor or a first-time volunteer. Additional discussion points prepare you for the children's responses and keep the conversation going. The contemporary wraparound design enables you to see what the children see so you can spend more time teaching and growing in faith alongside your group.



***Journey of Faith for Children, Catechumenate Leader Guide (827181)***

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LIGUORI CHRISTIAN INITIATION PROGRAM

# Journey of Faith

FOR CHILDREN



ENLIGHTENMENT AND MYSTAGOGY

LEADER GUIDE



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***Journey of Faith for Children, Enlightenment and Mystagogy Leader Guide (827198)***

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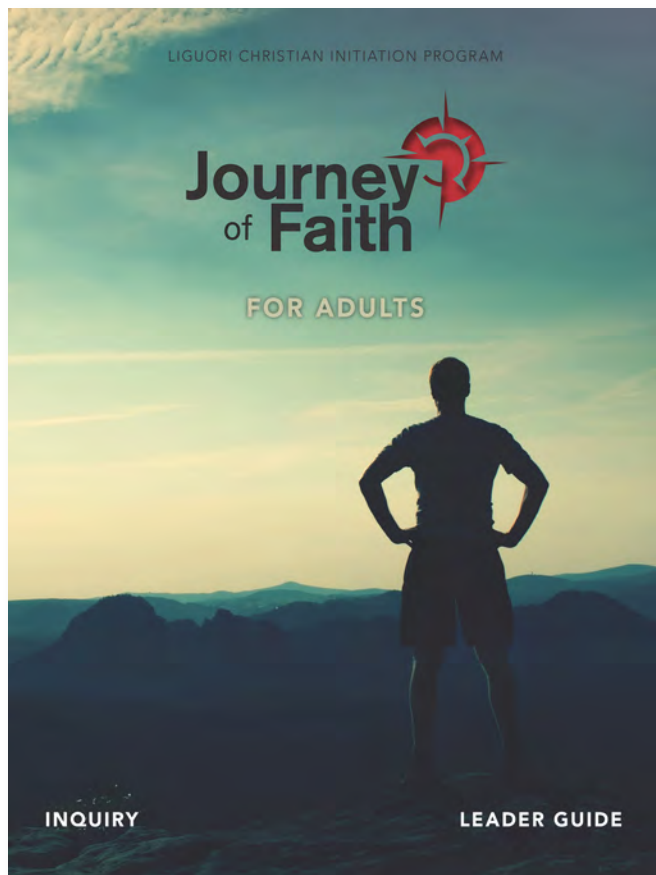
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With our up-to-date lessons and a pastoral style helpful in exploring life and spiritual questions, the comprehensive **Journey of Faith** program from Liguori Publications welcomes seekers of all ages: Adults, Teens, Children.

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Catechumenate Leader Guide 112-page spiral-bound	827167	827143	827181
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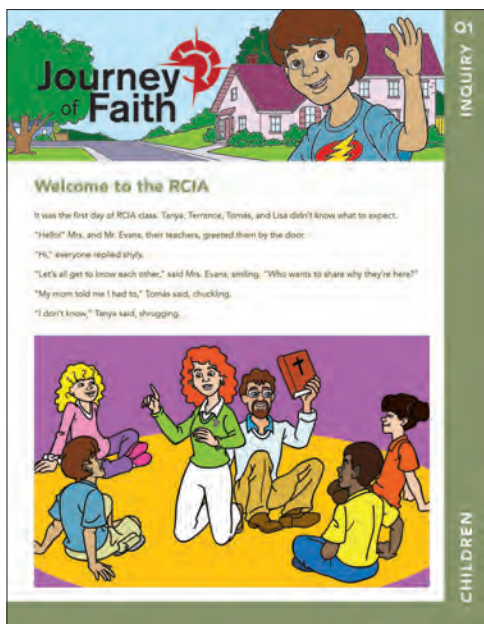




## Topics include:

Trinity  
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