

OVERVIEW

Growing in faith is a lifelong process. One of the first things to know about catechesis is that you and your young learners are on a journey together. Your experience as their catechist can also be one of growth in faith for you. This module begins by describing the lifelong faith journey and invites you to reflect on your own place on that journey. It is by being in touch with your own faith that you will best be able to share faith with your young learners.

Six- and seven-year-olds are at the beginning of their formal religious education. The goals of this module are to introduce you to their uniqueness and to explore age-appropriate methods and activities which can assist their growth in faith.

The video and processes of this companion booklet will help you to answer the following questions:

- ❖ Who are these six- and seven-year-olds?
- ❖ What do they need from us in order to grow in their relationship with God?
- ❖ How can we best introduce them to the story of their Catholic faith—its Scriptures and its Sacred Traditions?
- ❖ In what ways do hands-on activities help them learn about their faith?

- ❖ What forms of prayer are appropriate?
- ❖ How can we include children with special needs?

As a result of viewing the video, reading the articles, and completing the activities in the booklet, you will be able to:

- ❖ understand the special gifts and unique characteristics of six- and seven-year-olds during this early time of their faith development,
- ❖ develop appropriate and interesting activities that help children learn about their faith and grow in their relationship with God,
- ❖ begin developing ideas that will aid you in planning appropriate activities for your sessions.

You are encouraged to continue to grow in your knowledge and skills by reading related materials and by participating in workshops and conferences.

Although you may be alone as you view the video or complete the activities in this booklet, you are advised to meet regularly with a companion, other catechists, or your program director to share your new insights about how young children grow in faith.

Name of Program
Director, School
Principal, or
Companion:

Telephone:
