Stand if you.....
Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us* and persevere in running the race that lies before us.
The Lesson Flow

- Review Game
- Opening Prayer
- Videos / Discussion
- Workbook / Discussion
- Homework
Leader’s Guide
Overview

• Session 1: Understanding Youth Culture
• Session 2: The Way – “Keryg–what?” (Evangelization)
• Session 3: The Truth (Catechesis)
• Session 4: The Life (Life-long Discipleship)
• Session 5: The CHOSEN Program (Catechesis)
Youth Culture
Bumper Stick Philosophies

YOLO
If it doesn’t kill you it makes you stronger

Whatever...
I just feel like...

The ends justify the means

Who am I to judge?

God is dead

Live, laugh, love

GTL
Am I missing any?
Diagnosing our Cultural Malaise

Bored
Busy
Distracted
Disconnected
Relativism

“The spiritual poverty of our age.”
– Pope Francis

“The greatest problem of our time.”
– Pope Benedict XVI
Relativism

Has made us forget the truth about...

1 ...God.
Relativism

*Has made us forget the truth about…*

1 …God.
2 …the meaning of life.
Relativism

*Has made us forget the truth about…*

1 …God.

2 …the meaning of life.

3 …moral decision making. (Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism)
Has made us forget the truth about…

1 …God.

2 …the meaning of life.

3 …moral decision making. (Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism)

4 …how to debate important issues. (e.g. “gay marriage”)

Relativism
Relativism

*Has made us forget the truth about...*

1 …God.
2 …the meaning of life.
3 …moral decision making. (Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism)
4 …how to debate important issues. (e.g. “gay marriage”)
5 …the dignity and value of life itself!
“The greatest apologetic is beauty and the saints.”

– Benedict XVI
BEAUTY WILL SAVE THE WORLD
Hebrews 12:1
Cloud of Witnesses
CHosen

YOUR JOURNEY TOWARD CONFIRMATION
The Way – “Keryg-what?”
Leo and the Kerygma

Romans 8:15

Galatians 2:20

Matthew 14:25
Kerygma

Man is:

- Created with a purpose
- Broken
- Redeemed by God
- Called to conversion
- Invited into the life of the Church
The Catechumenal Model

“The model for all catechesis ” *(GDC 59)*

- Pre-catechumenate
- Catechumenate
- Purification and Enlightenment
- Mystagogy
Chosen and the Catechumenate

Kerygma

The Way
Pre-catechumenate

The Truth
Catechumenate

The Life
Purification & Enlightenment

Mystagogy
Chosen and the Catechumenate

- The Way
- The Truth
- The Life
“At every new phase of human history, the Church, constantly gripped by the desire to evangelize, has but one preoccupation: whom to send to proclaim the mystery of Jesus? In what way is this mystery to be proclaimed? How can one ensure that it will resound and reach all those who should hear it?” (EN 22)
VIDEO CLIP: What are you looking for?

Available on the Chosen promotional DVD or on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx7Ul-pgu2Y
National Study on Youth and Religion

- Religion has a significant presence in the lives of many US teens.
National Study on Youth and Religion

• Religion has a significant presence in the lives of many US teens.
• Parents are the most important influence & their faith is conventional.
National Study on Youth and Religion

- Religion has a significant presence in the lives of many US teens.
- Parents are the most important influence & their faith is conventional.
- Most teens do not actually understand what they claim to believe, and they certainly can’t articulate it.
National Study on Youth and Religion

• Religion has a significant presence in the lives of many US teens.
• Parents are the most important influence & their faith is conventional.
• Most teens do not actually understand what they claim to believe, and they certainly can’t articulate it.
• Catholic teens consistently scored lowest on most measures of “religiosity.”
National Study on Youth and Religion

What do teens believe?

- Angels – 42%
- Miracles – 45%
- Life after Death – 55%
- Evil spirits – 71%
- Reincarnation – 57%

- Astrology – 46%
- Psychics – 32%
Faith is a “Feel Good” Thing
Kerygma

Man is:

• Created with a purpose
• Broken
• Redeemed by God
• Called to conversion
• Invited into the life of the Church
The Truth – Catechesis
What is Catechesis?

“... the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ.”

– CT 5
The Process of Conversion

**PRIMARY EVANGELIZATION**

**The Way**
1. Pre-Evangelization
2. Initial Evangelization
3. Initial Conversion

**DISCIPLESHP**

**The Truth**
4. Initiatory Catechesis

**The Life**
5. Adherence
6. Ongoing Formation

**Mystagogy**
7. Missionary Initiative
What is Catechesis?

“The specific character of catechesis . . . the twofold objective of maturing the initial faith and of educating the true disciple of Christ”

-CT 19
What is Catechesis?

“…many pre-adolescents and adolescents who have been baptized and been given a systematic catechesis and the sacraments still remain hesitant for a long time about committing their whole lives to Jesus Christ…”

-CT 19
Not only teaching the faith …

“…but arousing it unceasingly with the help of grace, with opening the heart, with converting, and with preparing total adherence to Jesus Christ…”

- CT 19
“...intrinsically linked...for it is in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, that Christ Jesus works in fullness for the transformation of human beings.”

–CT 23
What does the Church call for?

- Union with Christ
- A lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit
- A sense of belonging to the Church

–CCC 1309
From the classroom …

… to an encounter.
VIDEO CLIP: Chosen Faith Formation Trailer

Available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgn4bc8_KDY

Also see the Confirmation Trailer on the promotional DVD and the Chosen Extended Trailer on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrgySsit-uY
RCIA Model

PRIMARY EVANGELIZATION

The Way
Pre-Catechumenate – Lessons 1–6

DISCIPLESHP

The Truth
Catechumenate – Lessons 7–17

The Life
Purification and Enlightenment – Lessons 18–24

Mystagogy
“Immersed in the Mysteries”
The *Chosen* Experience

Video + Workbook + Small Groups
Small Group Emphasis
Beyond the Classroom

- Retreat
- Penance Service

- Rite of Welcoming
- Rite of Enrollment
The Process of Conversion

PRIMARY EVANGELIZATION

The Way
1. Pre-Evangelization
2. Initial Evangelization
3. Initial Conversion

DISCIPLESHP

The Truth
4. Initiatory Catechesis

The Life
5. Adherence
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Mystagogy
7. Missionary Initiative
The Life – Discipleship
Over 1 million...
75% stop attending…
Confirmation ≠ Graduation
Keeping Our Kids Catholic

“A sense of belonging to the Church…”

–CCC 1309
The Goal of Conversation

To make lifelong disciples
Three Converging Journeys

1. **Personal interior journey** – A lived relationship with Christ resulting in intentional discipleship.

2. The **ecclesial journey** into the Church – Reception of the sacraments of initiation.

3. The **journey of active practice** – Receiving the sacraments, attending Mass, and participating in the life and mission of the Christian community.

*Forming Intentional Disciples, p. 54*
What is Discipleship?

Relational

Teen

Content (Scripture/Catechesis)

Mentoring (Apprenticeship)
Mentoring

- Teach
- Show
- Try
- Do
What is Discipleship?

**TEEN**

- **Content** (Scripture/Catechesis)
- **Engagement**
- **Accountability**

- **Intentionality**

**Relational**
The Process of Conversion

**PRIMARY EVANGELIZATION**

- **The Way**
  - 1. Pre-Evangelization
  - 2. Initial Evangelization
  - 3. Initial Conversion

**DISCIPLESHIP**

- **The Truth**
  - 4. Initiatory Catechesis

- **The Life**
  - 5. Adherence
  - 6. Ongoing Formation

- **Mystagogy**
  - 7. Missionary Initiative
“The Life” – Lessons 18–24

Preparing for Lifelong Discipleship
Mystagogy

Ongoing formation and missionary initiative, e.g. youth groups and parish ministry.
Connecting and Challenging
Engaging Parents and Sponsors

Guides are designed to foster discussions and evangelize parents and sponsors
Downloadable Resources

- Retreat
- Penance Service
- Examination of Conscience
- Commitment Form
- Rite of Welcoming
- Rite of Enrollment
- Pre–Confirmation Interview
The Process of Conversion

**PRIMARY EVANGELIZATION**

**The Way**
- 1. Pre-Evangelization
- 2. Initial Evangelization
- 3. Initial Conversion

**DISCIPLESHP**

**The Truth**
- 4. Initiatory Catechesis

**The Life**
- 5. Adherence
- 6. Ongoing Formation

**Mystagogy**
- 7. Missionary Initiative
The Process of Conversion

PRIMARY EVANGELIZATION

The Way
Lessons 1-6

DISCIPLESHIP

The Truth
Lessons 7-17

The Life
Lessons 18-24

Mystagogy
“Immersed in the Mysteries”
The Chosen Experience
The Lesson Flow

Review Game

Opening Prayer

Videos/ Discussion

Workbook/ Discussion

Homework
Leader’s Guide
“What’s your story, God?”
(A Look at Salvation History)
Welcome/Review Game

5 minutes

Review Game Video

See sample Review Game, along with a complete sample lesson at:
http://confirmationstudy.com/workbook-preview/
Step 2
Challenge Review
5 minutes
Opening Prayer

“Only the chaste man and the chaste woman are capable of true love.”
—Pope John Paul II

“Holy Purity is granted by God when it is asked for with humility.”
—St. Josemaria Escriva

“Lust indulged became habit, and habit unresisted became necessity.”
—St. Augustine

“Purity is the fruit of prayer.”
—Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

“Chastity is a difficult, long term matter; one must wait patiently for it to bear fruit. ... But at the same time, chastity is the sure way to happiness.”
—Pope John Paul II
A Confusing Story

Once upon a time, there was a toad. After being coaxed out of the comfort of his hobbit hole by Gandalf the wizard, Toad went on a long journey with a talking donkey to find his pride (pack of lions) and become their king.

You see, Toad thought he killed his dad, but it was actually Mufasa who did it! When he became king, a princess kissed him, and he became a wooden puppet, but in the end, the fairy godmother made him a real boy ... and he lived happily ever after.

“I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through Confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.”

~St. Patrick
Step 5

Watch It! / Small-Groups

50 minutes
Sample Video Lesson: Creation and the Fall

See a complete sample lesson at:
http://confirmationstudy.com/workbook-preview/
Step 5

Watch It!/Small-Groups

50 minutes
... when I did give my whole life to Jesus, I experienced all that I had been missing.

Sarah Swafford (Lesson 5)
Hero of the Week

St. Josephine Bakhita (Lesson 9)
Challenge of the Week

Make a cheerful sacrifice. Volunteer to do a sibling’s chores for a day, help a neighbor with yard work, make a meal for your family, or babysit for free. Write about what you did.

Create or find symbols of the Holy TRINITY. Explain the symbolism to someone in your family and write about it in the space below.

Choose a saint to research, and jot down three interesting facts in the space below about his or her life to share with your small group at the next class.
Taking It Home

For next week's “Review Game,” be sure to read over the following:

1. Watch It! questions (page 37)
2. Wrap-Up
3. “What's That Word?”
4. Memory Verse

Don't forget to do your Challenge of the Week (page 41)
Catechesis and Content

- Video
- Small Groups
- Workbook
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

—John 3:16

Heavenly Father, you are powerful, but you don’t force us to love you. Through the gifts of your grace and our **FREE WILL**, we can be heroes like the saints or experience the emptiness of sinful choices.

Help us, Lord, to always choose you. Thank you for giving us your son, Jesus, whom we receive in Holy Communion and who strengthens us to find the very best in ourselves. Amen.
The *Chosen* Experience
The *Chosen* Experience

- Classroom
- Retreat/Penance Service
- Parents/Sponsors
- Parish
- Community

Discipleship & Mission
CHosen
your journey toward confirmation