

RCIA  
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GOD THE FATHER AND CREATOR

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Welcome!! Prayer  
Intro at table, then me.

All on journey, all seekers. Our journeys have intersected.  
Jesus is walking with us all (note binder picture). We are all learning; we will all be changed.

Catholic Speak -

Some are here as catechumen, candidates, learners (Catholic). Some seek confirmation. Never pressure to join the Church.

Overview, then Calendar -

One week, one month at a time.

Attendance is important. Audio recordings available.

[www.stjohn-catholic.org](http://www.stjohn-catholic.org) Click Worship & Evangelization, then Become Catholic, then RCIA Podcasts are found listed lower righthand side.

Text: US Catholic Catechism for Adults USCCA

Bible: New Catholic Answer Bible NCAB

Tables. (Minimize phones) Team.

Don't be overwhelmed. Gentle. No pressure ever.

Registration form. What is a sponsor? Parish and co-sponsors.

Snack sign-up.

A-Team: If you OR your spouse has a previous marriage, see me.

(break)

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of life?

In this day & age, we don't take time to reflect. But when we encounter difficult times, it sure crosses our minds...

Why are we here? What is the meaning of life? Of our lives?

Throughout history, humankind has wondered about the purpose of being.

Do we still think about the meaning of life?

Too busy to wonder? What power would want to prevent us from reflecting on the meaning of life? (repeat)

Christians believe we exist, our purpose in life, is to be in relationship with God. God created us on his initiative, out of love.

Relationship with God: Foundational, fundamental, in all relationships is gratitude. And from that comes love.

We are created with a desire to know God. (See US CC A p. 3)

There is more than one way to come to know, to encounter God.

- Through creation. Genesis chapters 1-2 (OT 11-13)

Human is not random accident of nature.

Evolution. See text p. 60-61 and NCAB insert A-3.

Created with Gift of free will - to think, to choose, to act.  
not as master over slave.

God is not the magician to respond to our every request.

- Through the Human Person -

We encounter God through each other: God shines through us. We also find God within us. Come to know ourselves in God and God in us. Part of our lifelong journey.

- Through revelation - not the book in the Bible, but all of Scripture.  
"Self-disclosure of the Living God." (text p. 13)

Creation story (one of two): Genesis Ch 1-2 (OT 11-13) Note verse 1:26.  
Humans not random. See A-3 about evolution.

Gift of free will - to think, to choose, to act.

Not the master over slave.

Not the magician to respond to our every request.

AWARENESS of God. Pay attention. Look for God's presence. Encounter with God happens in everyday life as well as at Church.

[(optional) Job p. OT p.573 Intro tells us written between the 7th and 5th centuries B.C.

(optional) Job 38 (OT p.600)]

Wisdom 13:1-9 (OT p. 773)

God created us to be in relationship with Him.

- to walk with each one on their journey.
- to give meaning to the events of life
- to give strength and hope.

Our goal is to be in relationship with God. Not just to know of God, but to love God. Lifelong process, not an event.

Consider extra reading:

USCCB Chapter 1, p. 1 (today's lesson about God)

Chapter 2, p. 12 (for next week's lesson)

p. 57-61 about faith and science.

Challenge Questions: please write some response before next class.

1. Do you feel loved by God? When do you think about God's love?
2. Do you feel love for God? When do you have time to think about God?
3. Can you think of a time when you felt you had a true experience of God rather than just thoughts about God?
4. How do you build a relationship? (Given: A relationship goes two ways.) How are these ways reflected in your relationship with God?
5. What will it take to continue to build your relationship with God?
6. Where can you see God in everyday life?