

So What? Why Do We Have to Know This?

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1. Valid question: why DO we have to know this? Kids want to know, how will this help me in my everyday living?
2. Catechists: we need to be able to answer this question? This should be the first thing we identify when beginning our planning.
3. Begin with the end in mind. What's the BIG idea?
4. Follow a catechetical process: St. Ignatius – “enter through their door, but be sure to leave through your door.” Know where your door leads
 - a. Engage
 - b. Explore
 - c. Reflect
 - d. Respond (the “So, What?” step)
5. Examples:

PART ONE: THE CREED - Why do I have to know about...?

Revelation – *Because you won't have to look for the “secret” to life.*

Scripture and Tradition – *Because you'll be able to answer the question, “Sez who?”*

Trinity – *Because you'll realize that living in community is divine*

Incarnation – *Because you'll realize that God understands what you're going through.*

Sin, Salvation, and the Cross – *Because then you'll have nothing to fear.*

The Church, Mary, the Saints, and Eternity – *Because you'll recognize that you've got the network.*

PART TWO: WORSHIP AND LITURGY - Why do I have to know about...?

Worship and Liturgy – *Because then you'll know how to actually encounter God*

Mystery and Sacramentality – *Because you'll know how to speak God's language.*

Sacraments of Initiation – *Because you'll realize that you cannot save yourself...but you can be saved.*

Sacraments of Healing – *Because you'll learn that you can encounter God in your brokenness.*

Sacraments at the Service of Communion – *Because you'll recognize that “it's not about you!”*

PART THREE: MORALITY – Why do I have to know about...?

Human Dignity, Sin, and Mercy – *Because you'll see that you cannot separate love of God and love of neighbor.*

The Commandments, Beatitudes, and Virtues – *Because then you'll have a guide to happiness.*

Works of Mercy and Social Justice – *Because you'll have concrete ways to show love for others.*

Conscience and Moral Decision-Making – *Because you'll realize that you have to think and take responsibility!*




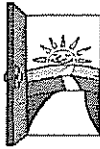
PART FOUR: PRAYER – Why do I have to know about...?

Prayer – *Because then you'll realize that you are not alone.*

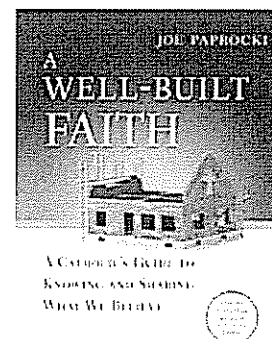
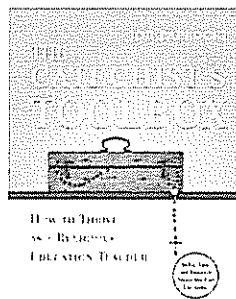
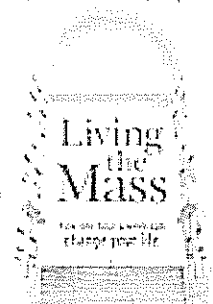
Forms of Prayer – *Because you'll see that you have lots of ways to connect with God.*

Our Father – *Because you'll realize that you have an intimate relationship with God.*

6. Junior High examples

TOPIC	ENGAGE 	EXPLORE 	REFLECT 	RESPOND 
Trinity	Family resemblance activity (image of God – Trinitarian) Contemporary Song about loneliness	Lesson on the Trinity as loving relationship.	Reflective prayer on loving relationships	What will you do this week to strengthen a loving community that you are a part of?
Worship and Liturgy	Candle wax activity (being re-shaped by Jesus) Contemporary Song about not changing	Lesson on the experience of conversion in the Sacraments of Initiation.	Reflective prayer on the experience of conversion.	What will you do this week to allow God to re-shape you?
The Commandments	I've Got a Secret activity (the Commandments are no secret) Contemporary Song about rules/laws	Lesson on the Commandments as freeing us to love God and neighbor.	Reflective prayer on love of God and neighbor.	What will you do this week to follow the guidance of the Commandments more closely?
Forms of Prayer	E.T. video clip (prayer is NOT "E.T. phone home!") Contemporary song about not being heard	Lesson on prayer (and forms of prayer) as response to God	Reflective prayer focusing on one of the forms of prayer	What will you do this week to respond regularly to God's goodness?

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