



Inquiry - Step 5

The Rite of Acceptance

Aim

To understand the Rite of Acceptance is the initial step marking the acceptance of the catechumenate into the parish community.

Resources needed

Leaders

- *Crossroads Inquiry 3 Notes*
- *RCIA book or Missal*
- *Break Open the Word*
- *Catholic Youth Bible*

For Young People

- *Crossroads Activity Book (pp7 and 8)*

Prayer Focus

Expressions of our belief:

Bible - (*God is with us*)

Candle - (*The light of Christ*)

Cross - (*God so loved the world*)

Cloth - (*Appropriate to the Liturgical season*)

Book - (*RCIA – detailing the Rite*)

Liturgical Link

The Rite of Acceptance is the first step in the formal process of being welcomed into the Church.

Overview

- Being a Christian what does that mean?
- What we believe and hope for
- Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance
- Liturgy of the Word, with Rite of Acceptance

Preparation by Catechists

- *Familiarity with content & resources, especially the Rite of Acceptance*
- *Liaison with the Priest regarding his involvement and the setting.*
- *Pray for the young people and leaders*

Scripture Passages

- John 1:35-42 Come and See
- Genesis 12:1-4a
- Psalm 33:4-5

Tenets of Faith (Faith Formation)

Three questions

Gathering

Setting

Create a welcoming environment by having everything in place before the young people arrive

- a sign in sheet
- name badges for each person to collect
- spares badges in case any extras turn up.

Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome the young people by name.
- Remind them that their parents will return for the Rite of Acceptance Liturgy at the end of the session
- Introduce any here for the first time.
- Provide the context for the gathering.
- Outline the process, the aim and outline of the gathering for today.

Review Previous Gathering

Check if there are any questions or comments arising from the conversations in previous gathering which need clarification.

Exploring

- ➔ Use **Crossroads** Inquiry Session 3 p14- **Preparing for the Rite of Acceptance** - material for 30-40 minutes

Remind the group of the story of Zacchaeus, focusing on God's acceptance of all people, being highlighted at the last get together. An important first step in the Rite of Christian Initiation is formally seeking to be accepted into the Church community.

Optional Activities for use, or to add if you have more time with the young people.

- ➔ **Activity – Understanding the Rite**

(use as the initial activities and leave the rehearsal of the questions for the Rite of Acceptance until the end.)

- **What does it mean to be a Christian**
Ask the young people to consider how they might complete this phrase **To be a Christian means....**
- Write the responses on a whiteboard, large sheet of paper or computer linked to a projector.
- Allow a minute or so, then invite further elaboration of the statements, affirming and where necessary teasing out to clarify the meaning by asking the group if they are unsure or confused about a statement.
- Share with the young people the three questions they will be asked during the Rite of Acceptance (See page 14).

- Check their understanding of the answers, especially the third one, and explain as necessary.

What we believe and hope for

See *Activity Book Questions in Crossroads Inquiry Session 3*

- Invite the young people to write down the response to the three questions in capital letters, then below each response to write in their own words what the question means for them personally.

Living as Christians

- Ask the group to look at the two RCIA texts 254 and 257, and to consider the question 'how do we do this in our everyday lives?'
- Invite young people to share their responses.
- Then allow a couple of minutes for the young people to write notes in the Activity Book or Journal.

Scripture Reflection



Read *Jesus calls Peter* [John 1:35-42] and reflect on the Gospel, following the notes in session 3 of ***Crossroads***



Explain to the young people that In the Gospel a change of name marks a new start, a change of destiny. The Rite of Acceptance is a new start; the first formal recognition of being part of the Christian family.

- Invite the young people to reflect for a few moments on how that feels, then ask them to write their feelings in their Activity Book or journal.

Prayer *an alternative*

Gather the group and invite them to pray.

Together slowly and gently, we offer this prayer.

Lord Jesus,

Just as you invited the your disciples to 'come and see'
so too have you called each of us on this journey of faith.

The disciples gave up everything to follow you.

The change we are called to make today is a change of heart,
one that puts you Lord at the centre of our life.

Help us each day to acknowledge that you are one we wish to follow.

Lord be with us each step of the way.

Amen.

Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance

Move to the area in which the Liturgy will take place. It is advisable to use a different space to the usual gatherings such as another area of the room / building, or to use the church.

Welcome the family members and if present the parishioners drawn from different ministries, representing the community.

Provide an overview of what will happen.

Explain to all present that the Service is a Liturgy of the Word, with the appropriate greeting and prayers taken from the Missal and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) (see 9-12 *Rite of Welcome and Acceptance*)

Outline of the Rite of Acceptance:

It is important that this Rite be celebrated with an actively participating but small congregation. [RCIA 250]

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Readings

- **First Reading:** Genesis 12:1-4a
- **Psalm:** Psalm 33:4-5
- **Gospel Acclamation:** We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
- **Gospel:** John 1: 35-42

Homily - a few words of affirmation by the priest

Rite of Acceptance [RCIA 257]

The priest will invite the candidates, parents and sponsors to come forward, then he will ask the following questions:

- What do you want to become? (*A Christian*)
- Why do you want to become a Christian? (*Because I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the one God*)
- What do you gain by believing in Christ? (*The promise of Eternal Life*)

Affirmation by the parents (or Sponsor if given the authority by the parent)

Signing of the candidates with the cross.

Presentation of those already baptised (as appropriate)

Prayers of Intercession

Closing Prayer and Blessing