

**Post Sacramental Formation; this can be developed in 12 one hour sessions for those who have completed the Sacraments of Initiation. The developmental level of the child should be taken into consideration when developing sessions.**

*Forming Intentional Disciples: the Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*

1. The majority of Catholics in the United States were *catechized* but not *evangelized*. They don't know how to be a **disciple**
2. Three journeys: personal with Christ, ecclesial (initiation), active practice (life of the community)
3. The First Threshold of conversions: Can I Trust You?
  - a. We will never evangelize what we do not love
  - b. Each generation is responsible for the evangelization of its own
  - c. Evangelization isn't about us; it is about Jesus Christ
  - d. "I am a Christian not because someone diagramed it for me; but because I have been deeply and loved unconditionally by Christians even if I did not love them"
4. The Second Threshold: Curiosity
  - a. We cannot teach Jesus only as a topic
  - b. One effective RCIA director noted: 'my job in the inquiry is to help people fall in love with Jesus; in the Catechumenate it is to help people fall in love with the Church.'
  - c. Those who don't believe in a personal God and the possibility of a personal relationship with that God will never be able to move beyond the threshold of curiosity.
  - d. Three stages of curiosity: awareness, engagement, exchange
    - i. Awareness: I can have a personal relationship with God
    - ii. Engagement: engage a Christian who has this relationship, study, listening
    - iii. Exchange: intense curiosity that leads to questioning, examination of faith and ideas regarding the Church
5. The Third Threshold: Openness
  - a. Nonjudgmental truthfulness – personal struggles with faith
  - b. Thought provoking questions

- c. Help them connect the dots = use their words as much as possible to show how God is working in their life
- d. Encourage them to ask God for a sign
- e. Ask them if you can pray for them to be open to God

6. Thresholds: Seeking and Intentional Discipleship

- a. While the inquiry period of RCIA is ideally suited to people in the thresholds of trust, curiosity, and openness, the seeker threshold is the perfect time to enter the formal catechumenate.
- b. Engaging in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy is good for this time
- c. Exploring different forms of prayer
- d. Disciples have to share their relationship with those who are open in order to move them to seeking
- e. A final decision has to be made for discipleship – whether to follow Jesus or not.
- f. This is not a passive act: it is a deliberate act of the will. i.e. story of Jenn

7. Break the silence

Four beginning steps:

- i. Break the Silence:
  - 1. Talk openly about the possibility of a relationship with God; yours
  - 2. Talk about following Jesus
- ii. Encounter Jesus in the mystery of the Church – the story of Jesus in the gospel
- iii. Expect conversion
- iv. Lay the spiritual foundation through organized, sustained prayer

8. To create multiple, overlapping opportunities for people to encounter Jesus in the midst of the Church

- i. Through a relationship with a disciple
- ii. Through scripture reading, study, *lectio divina*
- iii. Through the teaching of the Church: formation, catechesis, religious education

- iv. Through evangelizing, preaching, teaching
- v. Through well-done prayerful liturgy and music
- vi. Through the sacraments
- vii. Through a true inquiry process and evangelizing RCIA
- viii. Through retreats, devotions, good bookstores, library, architecture, media
- ix. Through Eucharistic adoration, spiritual and corporal works of mercy