

About This Section

PART FIVE • For the Catechist

The catechist is the person who will work closely with those preparing for the sacraments. Catechists themselves must be people of faith who echo the Spirit of Jesus in what they say as well as who they are.

This section includes:

- **Orientation Session with Catechists**
This session can be used immediately following the recruitment of catechists and prior to the beginning of the sacrament preparation program.
- **Catechist Training and Formation**
These ideas for the further training and formation of catechists can be implemented in a variety of settings throughout the year.
- **Catechist Retreat**
 - This retreat will place the formation and training of your catechists in the context of a spiritual retreat setting.
 - The retreat can be adapted and used with any group of adults in your parish or school.

- **Scripture Plays**

These plays can be used in place of the Scripture reading during the opening rituals or during the Scripture section of the child's session.

- **Opening Rituals from the Catechist Guide**

- Even though these rituals are in the catechist guide, you may want to have a copy of them to use if you are the presider for the opening ritual.
- These rituals can be copied in order to facilitate the celebration of the opening rituals with the entire group participating in the program.

Scripture Plays

The Scripture plays can be used as another way to tell the story found in the Bible. Children often read these stories from the Bible or hear them read. Their vivid imaginations can picture what the scene might have been like. Encourage the children to use their imagination and take part in these plays. Here are some tips for using the plays:



1 Be flexible and creative.

You can make these plays as simple or as involved as you choose. They can be adapted in many different ways depending on your group situation and the time you have. Reading a play gives several children an opportunity to tell a Bible story. Children can be assigned the various parts, and the play can be read in front of the group with minimal action and costumes. With a little planning, you can add costumes and simple actions and have the children perform the play. The play could be presented for parents or for other groups of children. As you read these plays, think of ways you can use them with the children.

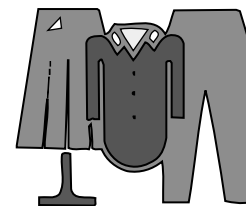
2 Enhance the scripts.

Simple scripts that are based on the Bible stories are given here. Children love to use their imagination to tell a story in their own words. Encourage the children to add some of their own dialogue to the play when it is called for.



3 Consider costumes.

Simple costumes can be used for these plays. Look around your home and you can find many things that can be used for costumes. Bathrobes and towels can easily be made into tunics. Old sheets and large pieces of material can be draped around children and fashioned into outfits and costumes. Large sheets of paper or paper bags can be decorated to make costumes that identify the characters. Having each child decorate a hat with the name of the character is another way to identify each character in the play.



4 Add props.

Children love to imagine and use make-believe things. Sometimes you can simply have the children imagine the props. Other times the props can be simple things that are easy to find, such as a tablecloth or a basket. Look around your room or your home for items you can use as props. Children can also draw things that represent the props that are needed in the plays.



5 Set the scene.

Most of the settings can be simply imagined. If time permits, you may have the children draw a background scene for the play on a large piece of mural paper. Children love to draw with colored chalk, and if your room has a chalkboard they could draw a background scene on the board. Often one child holding up a simple sign can tell the setting of the play.

