

Leader's Guide for
DOORWAY PEOPLE: PRAYER AND GOSPEL LIVING FOR CATECHISTS
Doorway People: Spirituality for Catechists

Catechists are doorway people.

We Welcome

1. What blessing would you place on the threshold of your door (home and class) for all comings and goings?
2. How do you greet and welcome others and provide a safe place, both physically and spiritually, for gathering?
3. Joseph Martos calls sacraments “doors to the sacred.” Are we able to think about doorways in our homes and classrooms as ways to enter the sacred?
4. What are difficult doorways through which your family or students must pass?

We Companion

1. Consider ways you walk with your students.
2. How can you assure your students that you are as concerned about them as persons as you are about what they learn?
3. Who has been the most important companion in your life? Why? Explain.
4. How can we assure our students that we want to be their companions in life and not just their teachers?

We Send

1. How do you send others into the world as good news?
2. What are your gestures of sending?
3. Reflect on the sendings in the stories of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

“Peace to this place. Preserve our comings and goings together as God walks with us.”

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For use with: *Doorway People: Spirituality for Catechists* on VHS (K1011) and DVD (D1011)

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Leader's Guide for
DOORWAY PEOPLE: PRAYER AND GOSPEL LIVING FOR CATECHISTS
Doorways to Holiness: Prayer and the Catechist

Prayer is essential for all Christians. Jesus tells us to “pray always” and to ask for anything in his name and God will grant it. This is especially true for catechists and others doing ministry in the Church. Prayer reminds us of who we are. It also challenges us to remember that God is always available to us if only we ask for help. God invites us to commune with God personally and regularly.

1. Do you think of prayer as essential to your life? How do you pray? Has one form of prayer—like the Mass, the rosary, meditation, centering, reflecting on Scripture—become especially important to you? What is it? Explain. With whom do you identify in the video? Why?
2. The video talks about *getting started at prayer*. What does this mean? How do you start praying? Have you ever thought about starting prayer by breathing quietly, imagining yourself breathing in God's love and breathing out God's love on all people?
3. What does the video mean when it speaks of *listening with the heart*? What does listening with the heart mean to you? Think about a time when someone listened to you with their heart. What was it like? Did it remind you of God listening with God's heart to all of us?
4. The video challenges us to *walk with compassion*. What does this mean in your life? Think of family, friends or even enemies who have listened to you with compassion. Tell the story of how being shown compassion affected you. Take a moment to be grateful for all those who show you compassion in your life today.
5. *Walking with all creation* challenges us to keep our minds and hearts open to the *big picture*, not to be trapped by our own concerns and worries, even if they are serious. Can you do this in your life? Is there someone you admire who, despite carrying very heavy burdens, continues to walk with all creation and serve others? Tell their story and explore what you might do in your life to live in a similar way.
6. Prayer Experience

Quiet Breathing (*Getting Started at Prayer*)

Play reflective music. Become aware of your breathing. Let the face of those you love come before you. With each breath, take in God's love and send it to your loved ones.

Read a Line From Scripture (*Listening With the Heart*)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1

Ask: What are where is your refuge of life? Who is your light?

Quiet reflection. Share.

Light Two Candles (*Walking With Compassion*)

Light one candle to your past. Name people in your life who are your guides in prayer.

Light the second candle to the future. Name your hopes for what you would like your prayer life to be.

In between past and future, invite people to pray for themselves, their families and communities.

Sending (*Walking With All Creation*)

Open and extend hands, palms upward.

Fill us, Gracious God, with new hope and a deep love for all the gifts of creation. Send us with renewed joy for the work we do. Amen.

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For use with:

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