

Designing Age Group Catechesis Programming

Use this process to create a new program or redesign an existing program based on the practices from the Directory for Catechesis & Guided by the Directory.

Design Process

1. **Audience:** *Who is your target audience?*
2. **Goals:** *What do you want to accomplish? Which faith maturing goal(s) are your focused on?*
3. **Needs:** *What are you addressing in the lives of your target audience? Consider the life tasks specific to their stage(s) of life; their interests, concerns, needs, and questions; their milestones and transitions in life; their cultural experiences, traditions, and practices; and their religious and spiritual characteristics and needs/hungers*
4. **Content:** *What are the essential topics or themes that need to be incorporated in programming that is responsive to the lives of your target audience and addresses your faith maturing goal(s)?*
5. **Personalized:** *How can you design catechesis that addresses the diverse styles of faith and practice – with active believers, believers, inactive believers, and inactive nonbelievers – with catechetical experiences, programs, and activities personalized to people’s faith journey?*
6. **Programming:** *Which catechetical formats can be utilized for this particular(s) and content (themes or topics)?*
7. **Scheduling:** *When will each program format be scheduled? What is the duration for each program?*
8. **Personnel:** *Who will lead and implement each program?*
9. **Resources:** *What resources are needed to implement each program?*

Generating Ideas

When you are generating ideas be sure to practice these simple rules. The key in generating ideas or strategies is to give yourself and the team the freedom to imagine the possibilities. Follow these simple rules:

- Generate as many ideas and strategies as possible.
- Assume you have the resources you need for any idea (money, staff, facility, etc.).
- Don’t place limits on your creativity.
- Remind people that there is no discussion and no critique of ideas.
- Feel free to add onto other’s ideas.

List the ideas of newsprint. After you have finished generating ideas, connect similar ideas into one integrated idea. Then create a final list of all the ideas you have generated.