

# We are Alive in Christ: A Creative Approach to Classroom Catechesis



A Presentation for Catechists by Nicole Clermont

# Prayer: The Chosen, Episode 3: “Jesus loves the little children”



## Reflection Questions:

- 1) Why is it important to pass on the faith to youth?
- 2) Who is the first person that led you in faith?
- 3) What gifts/strengths do you bring to your students as a catechist?

Come Holy Spirit. May this workshop bear fruit in our catechists teaching. May your spirit breathe new life into our classrooms. Continue to stir the hearts of the students we lead, so that they may come to know Christ in a deeply personal way. May we be Your instruments of faith, hope, and charity to those we serve. Continue to strengthen us and enrich us spiritually so we may nurture the lives of those entrusted to our care this year. May we continually act in accordance with Your will. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. Amen.

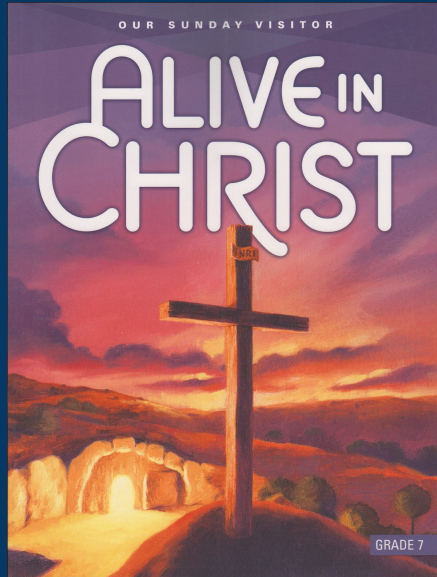
# What does it mean to be “Alive in Christ”?

**Most Essential Truth and Mystery of Faith:** Christ has died and Christ has risen. Source and summit of all love

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”  
(Colossians 2:13-14)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” (John 1:1-4)

“The Glory of God is Man fully alive” - St. Irenaeus



## Role as Catechists

- ★ Faith formation is more than a subject to be taught, it is an **invitation to a way of life**
- ★ **Goal:** Take learners from where they are and move them toward Jesus
- ★ “As a catechist, ask not what you are going to cover in a lesson, but, rather, what your learners are going to be able **to know and do as a result of the lesson**”.

## 4 Steps of the Catechetical Process

1. **Engaging** the life experiences of the participants
2. **Exploring** the concepts to be taught  
(Scripture/Tradition)
3. **Reflecting** and **Integrating** the concepts with the lived experience
4. **Responding** with a new way of living

#1

Engaging the **Life Experiences** of  
the **Students**

## Activity

Where have you  
seen/experienced  
Christ alive this week  
(in yourself/others)?

<https://padlet.com/nclermon/xexrlbh7yxp3cvsx>



#2

Exploring the concepts to be  
taught (**Scripture/Tradition**)



# Exploring the concepts to be taught (Scripture/Tradition)

## Trinitarian Catechetical Method

1. **Learning Objective “WHAT”?**
  - a. “What information/material do I want my students to learn/encounter in the course of the lesson?”
2. **Learning Activity “HOW?”**
  - a. “How will my students engage and achieve my desired learning objective?”
3. **Assessment “Did they?” “Did I?”**
  - a. “Did they (my students) understand what I was trying to teach?”
  - b. Did I (the catechist) do a good job creating the conditions for their learning?”

**#3**

**Reflecting and Integrating the  
concepts with the lived experience**

# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Principles

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:** Bring children into living contact with mystery of faith, quench and inflame desire for Christ by cultivating dispositions for prayer/contemplation, provide conditions of living in Christ, for him to whisper, shout, sing his love to children.

## Level 1: Ages 3-6 years old

- **Absorbent mind** → learn information indirectly through environment with language, incarnational learner, malleable mind, grasp gift of all existence through love, enjoy Good Shepherd, movement

## Level 2: Ages 6-12 years old

- **Deep desire for information (how/why)** → want to know the grand narrative and how they fit in reasoning mind develops, the ribbon of creation timeline, parables, context of scripture

## Level 3: Ages 9-12 years old

- **Cosmic reality** → evolution and object of worship, how they function in context, Study Abraham, Moses, Exodus, Noah, Flood, expanding mystery of Christ

#4

**Responding** with a new way of  
living

# Helping Youth Come Alive in Christ

Youth today are...

- 1) **Searching for the Truth** in a Moral Therapeutic Deism culture
- 2) **Advocating** in a time plugged into social media, information
- 3) **Trying to form meaningful relationships** in a time of loneliness, isolation, cellphones, breakdown of families, etc.

Our classroom can be a space of ...

- 1) Discussing and Proclaiming Truth
- 2) Empowering Missionary Disciples
- 3) Forming Meaningful Relationships

## Goals of Renewing the Vision

1. Empowering young people to live as disciples of Christ
2. Drawing them into responsible participation in the Catholic Church
3. Fostering personal and spiritual growth

Thank you!

“Go forth and set the world on  
fire.”

-St. Ignatius of Loyola