



Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin
Anglican Catechist Training School Syllabus
for Lay Catechist I



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Historically, the church's ministry of making disciples and grounding them in the basic beliefs of the Christian faith has been known as *catechesis*. Anglicans see the Holy Scriptures as the source and foundation for testing all that is taught in the Church. Rooted in the Bible, a classical catechism has always been based on three building blocks of the faith: The Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and The Ten Commandments. For two millennia, the core beliefs and practice of the Christian faith have been summarized in these foundational documents.

Catechesis plays a critical role in the ministry of the Church and is vital for the Church to fulfill Christ's mandate to make disciples. The task of reconciling the world to Christ is a call of the whole body of Christ, not just the ordained clergy. Partnering with ordained clergy, lay catechists serve as leaders and equippers in local congregations and throughout the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin in preparing "God's people for works of service, so the body of Christ may be built up" and brought to maturity (Ephesians 4:12-16), resulting in fruitful ministry.

The primary ministry of a catechist is to teach the essentials of the faith, which are rooted in Scripture and expressed in the ACNA Catechism, *To Be A Christian*, which is comprised, as mentioned above, of the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. Secondly, catechists are expected to develop skills and effective teaching practices that encourage genuine learning and formation. Since formation is essentially relational in nature, catechists need to be committed to growing spiritually and emotionally.

The first year of ACTS consists of three modules, which prepares the student for licensing as a Catechist in the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin. The three modules, or courses, are as follows:

Module 1: The Apostles' Creed (Offered in the fall for 12 sessions)

Module 2: The Lord's Prayer (Offered in winter for 6 sessions)

Module 3: The Ten Commandments (Offered in the spring for 6 sessions)

Each module incorporates three-dimensions:

1. Deepening of biblical and theological knowledge
2. Spiritual Formation
3. Ministry Practicum

Each dimension works with the others in forming and preparing the student for the ministry of a Catechist and lay leader. The course will consist of a combination of hands-on training and regular mentoring with one's clergy or other lay leader and independent study and class attendance. Each dimension is intended to develop four essential qualities that spiritual leaders need:

- 1) a deeper understanding of sound doctrine in the Christian faith (1 Tim. 4:16),
- 2) a spiritual formation that leads to maturity of the whole person (e.g., spiritual, emotional, character, etc.) (Eph. 4:11-15),
- 3) a growing lifestyle of abiding in Christ (John 15:5; 1 John 2:27),
- 4) and a growing faith, discernment and obedience to God's leading (Luke 17:5, 6; Rom. 1:5).

Module 1 Description: The Apostles' Creed

In this course, the first of the three modules of the ACTS program, students will explore and learn about the basic doctrines of Christianity as articulated in the Apostles' Creed. As our catechism states, "all authentic Christianity is apostolic Christianity," that is based on the teachings of the twelve Apostles as they received them from Jesus. By the second century, the teachings of the Apostles "had been organized into an outline of topics for instruction" (TBAC, p. 29), which became known as the Apostles' Creed and began to use as a declaration of faith made at Baptism.

In studying each tenet of the Apostles' Creed, students will study the nature of the Trinity, the humanity and divinity of Jesus, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Sacraments and more. At the end of this course, students will take an exam demonstrating their understanding of these doctrines.

Required Texts and Materials for Module 1: The Apostles' Creed:

McGrath, Alister. *Theology: The Basics*. 4th Edition Oxford: Wiley Blackwell. 2018

McKenzie, Thomas. *The Anglican Way: A Guidebook*. Nashville, TN: Colony Catherine, Inc. 2014.

The Didache (a free version is available online at: <https://reluctant-messenger.com/didache.htm>)

The Book of Common Prayer (ACNA, June 2019) (Available at anglicanchurch.net.)

To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism by Catechesis Task Force Anglican Church in North America (2014-06-30).

ACTS Spiritual Formation Toolkit (provided for the student).

Course Pack with various assigned readings will be posted online.

Each student should possess a blank journal to record reflections.

Estimated Time Requirements: For every hour of classroom instruction, plan on spending 3 hours of independent study outside of class.

Proposed Training and Assignment Schedule

JUNE/JULY
Application Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with your clergy to discuss ministry goals.• Discern calling to Lay Parish Catechist ministry.• Turn in application to diocesan office by 7/29/2022 (or by July 15 to receive an application fee waiver).
Meet & Greet: AUGUST <p>The 3 Dimensions of ACTS and How to use Classroom for all modules Online Zoom Meeting from 6:00-7:00 PM on August 11, 2021, at 6:30 PM</p>
During this short one-hour meeting, we will review how to get started and how to prepare for the first class.
The following pages contain the assignments for each month for Module 1.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Class Date	Topic	Reading, Viewing and Responding (in Preparation for this class)	Spiritual Formation & Practicum
Week 1 8/16/2022	Introduction to ACTS What is catechesis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Catechesis and Christian Discipleship” article. • “Guide for Catechists” in binder. • “The Way God Teaches” in binder. <p>The Anglican Way by McKenzie, chs. 1 & 2</p> <p>2019 BPC Collect for a Teacher of the Faith pp. 634 & 638 The Mission of the Church p. 651-#17</p> <p><u>Discussion Question</u>: Be ready to share the class on August 16, “What is a catechist? What is the ministry of a catechist?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend weekly Sunday services. • Contemplative prayer practice: Select 1 or 2 contemplative practices from the Toolkit to regularly practice this month. Write in a journal what you notice in your time and your experience with God.
Week 2 8/30/2022	The Gospel	<p>TBAC Part I: Beginning with Christ Questions 1-17, pp. 19-27</p> <p>2019 BPC Pp. 766-771 Skim The Ordinal for ordaining a presbyter, pp. 483-496 “Discipleship, for Super-Christians Only?” by Dallas Willard Skim through and become familiar with the ACNA’s vision paper “Toward an Anglican Catechumenate.” Found HERE!</p> <p>The Anglican Way by McKenzie, ch. 18</p> <p><u>Watch</u>: “What is the Gospel?” by N.T. Wright</p> <p><u>Respond on Google Classroom</u>: Answer the question, “How does discipleship happen? How can the understanding that we are primarily people shaped by our loves, not our minds, change the way we approach discipleship in our congregations?” Post online by 8/22/22. Then respond to at least two other students’ answers for the question by 8/26/22.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review this overview and resources for the 2019 BCP and Daily Office: https://anglicancompass.com/the-acnas-2019-book-of-common-prayer-bcp-a-rookie-anglican-guide/
Week 3 9/6/2022	Scripture, Tradition and Creeds	<p>TBAC Part I: Beginning with Christ Questions 18-24, pp.29-35</p> <p>2019 BPC “Fundamental Declaration of the Province” pp. 766-767, 768</p> <p>Theology: The Basics: Preface through Chapter 1: Faith</p> <p><u>Respond on Google Classroom</u>: “What does it mean to be ‘catholic’? How catholic are you? Post online by 9/12/22. Then respond to at least two other students’ answers for the question by 9/16/22.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray a version of the Daily Office three times per week. (See “Spiritual Formation Toolbox.”) During the Office, give space for God to speak to you. For example, during confession of sin, ask the Lord to highlight specific sins and wait for a response before confessing.

Class Date	Topic	Reading, Viewing and Responding (in Preparation for this class)	Spiritual Formation & Practicum
Week 4 9/20/2022	God the Father, Creator of all that seen and unseen	TBAC Part II: The Apostles' Creed: Article I Questions 36-47, pp. 35-38 Theology: The Basics: Ch. 2: God and Ch. 3: Creation, pp. 19-59 <u>Watch:</u> The Bible Project: "God" <u>Respond on Google Classroom:</u> Answer the question, "Even though God is not specifically male, why is it important that we affirm the fatherhood of God and that God is Creator?" Post online by 10/29/22. Then respond to at least two other students' answers for the question by 11/5/22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray a version of the Daily Office three times per week. (See "Spiritual Formation Toolbox.") During the Office, give space for God to speak to you. For example, during confession of sin, ask the Lord to highlight specific sins and wait for a response before confessing. Prayerfully complete your Spiritual Formation Reflection for the month and meet with your mentor. DUE by the next class.
Week 5 10/4/2022	God the Son The nature of the Son's divinity and humanity	TBAC Part II: The Apostles' Creed: Article II Questions 48-58, pp. 38-40 2019 BPC Article II, III, & IV, p. 772-3 Theology: The Basics: Ch. 4: "Jesus" pp. 61-81 Read the article by Stephen Freeman, "Don't Panic, It's Just the Mother of God." <u>Respond on Google Classroom:</u> Answer the following question on Google Classroom: What is Mary's contribution to Jesus' humanity? Since she plays a vital role in the incarnation, does she then play a role in redemption even though she, herself needs redemption?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray a version of the Daily Office three times per week. (See "Spiritual Formation Toolbox.") During the Office, give space for God to speak to you. For example, during confession of sin, ask the Lord to highlight specific sins and wait for a response before confessing.
Week 6 10/18/2022	Salvation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christ's suffering, death, resurrection and ascension Salvation Jesus' second coming The Liturgical Calendar	TBAC Part II: The Apostles' Creed: Article II Questions 59-75, pp. 40-44 Review pp. 19-17 Questions 105-113, pp. 52-53 Questions 76-83, pp. 44-46 2019 BPC Read 687-690, skim pp. 691-717 The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion Article II, III, & IV, p. 772-3 Theology: The Basics: Ch. 5: "Salvation" pp. 82-104 <u>Respond on Google Classroom:</u> Answer the question, "What are the implications of Jesus' crucifixion, death and burial for human beings and all of creation?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to pray one of the Daily Office options once a day for 3 days. Watch "The Story as told through the Christian Calendar" https://vimeo.com/79923336 Prayerfully complete your Spiritual Formation Reflection for the month and meet with your mentor. DUE 11/1/22.
Class Date	Topic	Reading, Viewing and Responding	Spiritual Formation

		(in Preparation for this class)	& Practicum
Week 7 11/1/2022	God the Holy Spirit	<p>TBAC Part II: The Apostles' Creed: Article III Questions 84-91, pp. 47-49</p> <p>2019 BPC Read the Confirmation Service on pp. 174-181. Think about how this service is related with the Holy Spirit?</p> <p>Theology: The Basics: Ch. 6: "Spirit" pp. 105-126</p> <p><u>Respond on Google Classroom:</u> What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in the life of the individual believer? Consider the gifts of the Holy Spirit and why the Holy Spirit gives them as well as how the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit work together in the life of a mature Christian.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to pray one of the Daily Office options once a day for 3 days. • Plan to participate in some kind of Thanksgiving outreach in your city (serve at a homeless shelter, deliver Thanksgiving baskets, etc.). This assignment does not have to be done on Thanksgiving Day. It could occur the week before or after Thanksgiving. • <u>Respond on Google Classroom:</u> WRITE a reflection on Google Classroom on your participation in the outreach.
Week 8 11/15/2022	The Holy Trinity	<p>TBAC Part II: The Apostles' Creed: Article I Questions 36-37, p. 35</p> <p>2019 BPC Collect for Trinity Sunday, p. 615 The Athanasian Creed, p.769-71 The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion Article I, p. 772</p> <p>Theology: The Basics: Ch. 7 "Trinity" pp. 127-149</p> <p><u>Respond on Google Classroom:</u> Answer the question on Google Classroom: Why does the doctrine of the Trinity matter? How does our understanding of God as Trinity strengthen our understanding of God as love?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray one of the Daily Office options once a day for 5 days. • Read "Advent? A Rookie Anglican Guide" • Watch Busted Halo "Advent in 2 Minutes" and "The Hidden Meaning of Advent" • Read the different options for celebrating Advent and pray and consider how you might reach out to others in your church community, neighborhood or people from your workplace or school. Plan an Advent celebration for the purpose of catechesis or evangelism and be prepared to share this plan during the class on December 6. • Prayerfully complete Spiritual Formation Reflection for the month and meet with your mentor. DUE next class.

Class Date	Topic	Reading, Viewing and Responding (in Preparation for this class)	Spiritual Formation & Practicum
Week 9 12/6/2022	<p>The Holy Catholic Church</p> <p>The Communion of Saints</p> <p>The forgiveness of sins</p> <p>The resurrection of the body</p> <p>The life everlasting</p>	<p>TBAC Part II: The Apostles' Creed: Article III Questions 92-99, pp.49-50</p> <p>Questions 100-104 pp.51</p> <p>Questions 105-113, 52-54</p> <p>Questions 114-118, pp. 54-55</p> <p>Questions 119-120, p. 55</p> <p>2019 BPC Pp. 123-138</p> <p>Theology: The Basics: Ch. 8: "The Church," Ch 10: "Heaven"</p> <p>The Anglican Way by McKenzie, chs. 24 & 25</p> <p>Respond on <u>Google Classroom</u>: "After reading McGrath chapter 8 and viewing videos, what does it mean when the Creed refers to the church as "one holy catholic and apostolic church? What does it mean that the Church is God's ultimate goal?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray one of the Daily Office options once a day for 5 days. • Contemplative prayer practice: Select 1 or 2 contemplative prayer practices from the Toolkit to regularly practice this month. Write in a journal what you notice in your time and your experience with God. • Prayerfully complete the Spiritual Formation Reflection for the month & meet with mentor. DUE the next class.
Week 10 12/20/2022	<p>What is a Sacrament?</p> <p>Baptism: Entry into the Divine Life</p> <p>Holy Eucharist Participation in the Divine Life</p>	<p>TBAC Questions 121-125, pp. 55-56</p> <p>Questions 126-130, pp 57-58</p> <p>Questions 131-136, pp 58-59</p> <p>2019 BPC Read (skim) the Baptism Service from the BCP 2019: pp. 160-196. Read 160, 174, & 193 closely.</p> <p>Theology: The Basics: Ch. 9: "Sacraments" pp. 170-190.</p> <p>The Anglican Way by McKenzie, chs. 19-23</p> <p>Respond on <u>Google Classroom</u>: "What is a sacrament? What is the function of sacraments? What do they do, and how do they help us to live out the Christian life as disciples of Jesus and subjects of his kingdom? Make sure to include in your discussion what occurs during baptism and Eucharist."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray one of the Daily Office options once a day for 5 days. • Keep a journal about what you are noticing as you practice the spiritual disciplines of praying the Daily Office and practicing awareness of God's presence in your daily life. You may also draw, write poetry or a song, or other creative expressions describing your experience. • Read The 12 Days of Christmas: The Ultimate Guide to Christmastide • Memorize the Apostles' Creed. Be prepared to recite it during the next class.

Class Date	Topic	Reading, Viewing and Responding (in Preparation for this class)	Spiritual Formation & Practicum
Week 11 1/3/2023	The Sacraments The 7 Sacraments of the Church	<p>TBAC 37-153, pp. 59-</p> <p>2019 BPC Read through one of the two rites for Holy Eucharist: The Anglican Standard Text, pp.115-122 OR The Renewed Ancient Text, pp.132-138. Is the prayer for confession different in these two rites? (pp. 112-113 & p. 130) Skim Rites of Healing, pp. 222-235 Skim Holy Matrimony, pp. 198-214 Skim Ministry to the Dying, pp. 236-242</p> <p><u>Respond on Google Classroom:</u> “Why do some people not consider the other five rites to be sacraments, and what rationale does the Anglican Church give for including them among the sacraments.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray one of the Daily Office options once a day for 5 days. • Prepare for taking Exam I • Reflect online about your spiritual formation experience in this course. Consider and include answers to the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + What ancient prayer practices did you try on and which have you adopted as a regular practice. How have these prayer practices changed your life? + Reflect on your experience of praying the Daily Office. + How would you describe your mentoring experience? How has it supported you spiritually and helped you to grow in your life of faith? + How has observing the church’s calendar shaped your loves and desires? What do you like about the church calendar? + How has keeping a journal impacted your spiritual development?
1/10/2023	Exam I Due this day!		

Grades?

You will **not** receive a grade for this course but will receive credit/no credit for assignments and for attendance. Work will not be accepted after 20 days overdue. In order to receive a Certificate of Completion for Module 1, you will need to earn a minimum of 100 out of 125 points for the 10 months of the course as well as attend all classes, not missing more than two. In addition, to receive the Catechist II License, you will need to pass all three parts of the Catechist Licensing Exam.

The following is a breakdown of assignment values:

Assignment	Points
Online Forum Question per month with response to other student responses.	3 points per question X 10 = 30 points
Spiritual Formation and Practicum Reflections	2 X 3 points each = 6 points
Memorizing the Apostles' Creed	4 Points
Attendance and Participation (Students may not miss more than 2 online classes.)	1 points each X 11 = 11 points
Mentoring (Minimum 1X month. No make ups.)	4 X 3 points for each signed reflection = 12 points
Course Evaluation	7 points
Total Point Possible	70 points

Students need to obtain a minimum of 60 points to complete ACTS Module 1 as well as pass the Catechist I Exam.

Rubric for Online responses (half points are also given)	
0	Incomplete
1	Answered the question by primarily providing a summary of learning. Student did not provide application nor respond to two other students' responses.
2	Answered the question with depth and did provide some application to one's life. Either the student <i>did not</i> thoughtfully respond to two other students' responses or she did not fully develop the response.
3	Answer is posted on time and reflects deep thinking and application. Answer not only summarizes understanding but exhibits ability to apply learning or draw out implications for other areas of life. Student thoughtfully responded to two other students' responses.

Something to Consider

This course invites you into a season of potential learning and growth. You are encouraged to experience and learn as much as you can during this year, prioritizing your time in order to complete reading and assignments with depth and thoughtfulness. In order for this course to be formational for your soul, don't just "jump through the hoops" but invest your heart and be open to the working of the Holy Spirit, the One who guides us into all truth, particularly truth about ourselves. Developing one's inner life takes time and contemplation. You are encouraged to be honest and transparent in your written responses, when contributing in class, and in your discussions with your mentor. ***Live this journey!*** You will most likely not be the same person when it is all over.

A Word About Confidentiality

Learning never happens in a vacuum, and thus when we are working through the content of this class issues will likely arise either related to how our understanding has been shaped by former traditions, or by issues in our souls related to past hurts. In either instance, we desire to create a context for our year together that is without judgment and where confidence is kept so that students can freely express reservations, dissonance, and concerns openly. To create this context please keep the following ground rules in minds:

- Keep your focus on what God is doing in you. No trying to fix others.
- Keep your sharing to a minimum, so others have an opportunity to share.
- Confidentiality is a basic requirement. What is shared in our group, stays in our group.
- If a problem arises with another classmate, go to that person first and discuss it. If the problem persists, then you may invite the instructors to help and pray.

Appendix A

Selective Bibliography for Catechesis

- Chan, Simon. *Liturgical Theology: The Church as a Worshipping Community*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic Press, 2006.
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- Vorgrimler, Herbert. *Sacramental Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press. 1992.
- Wald, Oletta. *The New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 2002.
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- . *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1994.
- . *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel is Good News and What Makes It So Good?* New York: Harper Collins, 2015.

Online Resources

The Bible Project:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject>

<https://thebibleproject.com>

“Recovering Catechism,” Dean Blevins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak-gMngErbg>

“On Catechesis,” J.I. Packer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hpl-dMH1BY>

“You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit,” James K.A. Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HChKd1aW-hI>

“The Bible and Tradition,” (3 videos) by Edith Humphry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdaPfnvIUfg&t=30s> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzthvRFT-sw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQhfzTD5Yi0>

The Bible Project “How to Read the Bible Series” (9 videos)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak06MSETeo4&list=PLH0Szn1yYNedn4FbBMMtOIGN-PLQ54IH>

Appendix B

Sample Online Forum Responses

Question: How are people immersed in the Gospel through liturgy?

A response that received a 3:

It would seem that we are immersed in the gospel through the liturgy by The Holy scriptures. As our ears become attune to hearing the gospel it then begins its work in our lives. Through this last month I have been reading or listening to Morning or Evening prayer; yes, its long and yes, there are a lot of psalms to read, but I keep coming back to it. The Word of God draws me to need it. I recently had a revelation about the church year. During our 102 class, there was a graph that showed how most of the church year is "ordinary" time, or green time, then I saw this quote which said, "find joy in the ordinary." I have never wanted to be ordinary and can become very bored with ordinary and doing the same things over and over. Being an evangelical, we were always pushed to not live ordinary lives. However, after the visual and learning of how the ordinary time can be a time of discipleship, learning, teaching and yes folding the laundry, I have felt more peace in my family and vocational life. The gospel is a healer, at least for me. Sunday morning worship - even though sitting here at my computer I know everything that will happen at church tomorrow, it's still my favorite day of the week. In *Grounded in the Gospel*, the liturgy touches humans at the levels of their heads, hearts and hands. We take in the truth by our hearts and minds, we experience the fellowship with the Father and Son and we practice the truth we have received. I believe the liturgy keeps calling us back to Jesus Christ and his grace towards us. I'm not just saying this as a new Anglican, there's a room full of us that are called back to it every day as well.

(Response specifically tells the reader how the Gospel is conveyed through the liturgy. Student also responded to 2 other students online as well.)

A response that received a 2:

The liturgy enables us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author & perfecter of our faith. It does this by providing powerful prayers that are aligned with the church year. It also allows us to make declarations of our faith using the Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed & Creed of Saint Athanasius. By participating in Morning & Evening Prayer, we experience being set apart for God's kingdom & having our mind renewed according to His truth. The structure of Sunday Morning Worship along with Morning & Evening Prayer allow us to walk in the light as He is in the light & confess our sins that we might be transformed into His image. And all of this takes place while we lift our voices in praise & worship with joyful singing!

(Response doesn't specifically tell the reader how the Gospel is communicated through the liturgy. Student *did* respond to two other students' responses.)

A response that received a 1:

The purpose of the Liturgy is to draw people closer to God through its many components. The Lectionary, Daily Office, and special services are all developed with the use of the scriptures, and this is shown through the way the Church year has been established, with its focus on specific events in the history of the church and recognition of those who have shown by their lives how to live effectively for God. The liturgy is designed to aid our connection with God and our ability to improve our conscious contact with Him.

(Does not answer the question, as to how people are immersed in the Gospel through the liturgy. No responses to other students' answers.)