



# Resources for Returning Catholics

## How to Share your Faith Sample Session

**Overview:** This sample session is designed to encourage Catholics to evangelize, to share their faith in a loving and meaningful way. “Thus it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole.” -Evangelii Nuntiandi

**Goals:** To help Catholics recognize their call to share the faith, and some principles and concrete methods to evangelize.

**Supplies:** Bible, Catechism, and any catechetical pamphlets or handouts. Highly recommended to have *“What the Church Teaches” Evangelization* and other title available from OSV.

### Session Format:

- I) Opening Prayer:
  - a. The opening prayer should include the participants. (Use an abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours, or another prayer form from the Catholic tradition can include the group)
  - b. The opening prayer when possible should be lead by someone else other than the session leader.
  
- II) Scripture Reading
  - a. Matthew 28:19-20  
“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the name of the Son, and the name of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.
  - b. Mark 16:15  
“He said to them, ‘Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature’”
  
- III) Catechesis
  - a. Evangelization
    - i. Definition:
      1. “to evangelize is first of all to bear witness, in a simple and direct way, to God revealed by Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to bear witness that in His Son God has loved the world - that in His Incarnate Word He has given being to all things and has called men to eternal life.” EV 26
      2. What it means” Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation.-USCCB *Go and Make Disciples*, p. 2).
    - ii. Testimony: Have someone share a time when they shared the faith in word or deed.
  - b. CCC
    - i. Para 905 “For lay people, “this evangelization . . . acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world.”
  - c. Church Documents
    - i. Rd Paragraph 21 of [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#), use the questions to as a large group discussion.
  
- IV) Small Faith Sharing (see attached)
  
- V) Discussion/Closing Prayer



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“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” –Matthew 28:19



*Read the following quotes about evangelization & answer the questions on your own or in a group. Please be prepared to share your answers with others.*

1) “it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole. The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. She is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love.” –Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* para 15

*What does it mean to first be evangelized?*

*Where do you need to grow in your relationship with Christ so that you can better share Him with others?*

2) Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation.

–USCCB *Go and Make Disciples*, p. 2

*What human situations do I encounter that I could bring the Good News of Jesus to?*

*Are there certain situations that would be difficult to share Christ with others? What do we do in those cases?*



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3) “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” –Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* para 41.

*What does it mean to be a witness? What responsibilities do I have to be a witness to Christ, as a parent, as a spouse, as an employee, as a citizen, as a parishioner?*

4) “Always be willing to give a reason for your hope to anyone who asks” 1 Peter 3:15

*How would I respond to someone who asked the reason for my hope?  
Do I trust in God enough to live a hope-filled life?*

5) “You are the light of the world; a city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so your light must shine before others” Matt 5:15

*At baptism we received the light of Christ, and we have been called to share it with others.  
How do you see your baptism connected to this call to evangelize?*

