

Real+True

GUIDE — OVERVIEW

The Catechism is not a textbook, a collection of ideas, or a set of rules. Rather, the Catechism is the faithful echo of a God who wishes to reveal himself to us and desires us to respond. Our mission is to hand down and pass along the gift of our faith by creating beautiful, captivating, and relevant content inspired by the Catechism of the Catholic Church. And we are making this content in multiple languages and accessible for free to people all over the world.

The content, structure, and methodology of Real + True takes inspiration and direction from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and sound, evangelizing catechesis. Catechesis is inextricably intertwined with evangelization, and its primary aim is to put people into intimacy and communion with Jesus Christ. (Catechesi Tradendae, 5)

The word “catechesis” comes from the Greek word that means “to echo”. This simple guide is designed to help you understand the structure of our content and better use it to echo the teachings of Jesus yourself. The structure takes inspiration from the catechetical methodology, the pedagogy of the Catechism, and the pedagogy of God.

THERE ARE FOUR PARTS TO THE CATECHISM. THE FOUR PARTS, OR PILLARS, ARE:

- The Profession of Faith
- The Celebration of the Christian Mystery
- Life in Christ
- Christian Prayer

Each pillar is divided into 12 units. In total, this series will include 48 units that will cover the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). Every month, starting in September of 2021, a new unit will be published, beginning with the first pillar, The Profession of Faith.

The twelve units for pillar one and the paragraphs of the catechism they cover are:

UNIT 01	CCC 1-25	Life and the Catechism
UNIT 02	CCC 26-49	Man's Capacity for God
UNIT 03	CCC 50-141	God Comes to Meet Man
UNIT 04	CCC 142-184	Man's Response to God
UNIT 05	CCC 185-231	I Believe in God
UNIT 06	CCC 232-421	The Father Almighty
UNIT 07	CCC 422-682	Jesus Christ
UNIT 08	CCC 683-747	The Holy Spirit
UNIT 09	CCC 748-945, 963-975	The Holy Catholic Church
UNIT 10	CCC 946-962	The Communion of Saints
UNIT 11	CCC 976-987	The Forgiveness of Sins
UNIT 12	CCC 988-1065	Resurrection of the Body & Life Everlasting

EACH UNIT THEN CONSISTS OF FOUR VIDEOS:

PROCLAMATION

EXPLANATION

CONNECTION

PODCAST

There are a few characteristics of the Catechism's approach and structure that are worth mentioning. The Catechism is trinitarian, meaning we view all of the faith through the lens of the Trinity. The Catechism is christocentric, meaning its focus or center is Jesus. The Catechism is kerygmatic, meaning it is animated by the saving message of Jesus Christ, the Good News. The Catechism has a missionary dimension, meaning it does not presume faith in those that would read it but seeks to evangelize through its presentation of the faith. And the Catechism is systematic, progressive, and organic, meaning the structure itself is a catechesis. The structure for each unit was developed using these characteristics and the Ecclesial Method, proposed by Msgr. Francis Kelley (author of *The Mystery We Proclaim*).

While each video is designed to be able to stand on its own, there is some benefit in watching them in order, and they do build on each other.

Proclamation Video

The first video is meant to rouse the spiritual curiosity that allows us to be prepared to hear the Gospel message. These videos explore the world and our human experience, and the hope is that these videos will be especially attractive to those who might be less interested in a video that directly addresses the doctrines of the faith.

Explanation Video

The second video breaks open the content of the passage of the Catechism being addressed in the unit. This video is much more straightforward and is guided by a discussion back and forth between two voices who are exploring the truths of the faith.

Connection Video

The third video is meant to be a real-life application of the passage from the Catechism. The tone of this video is often playful, and it is meant to connect with the audience on a more practical level that is relevant to their lives.

Podcast

The podcast accompanies each unit as further discussion and application of the passage from the Catechism. In it, the team talks openly about the approach and hopes for the unit, as well as how it is impacting us and our community personally. It's available in video and audio format. The podcast target audience includes catechists, evangelists, and missionary disciples who may use Real + True videos in their ministry — parish settings, schools, apostolates, families, and communities.

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GUIDE — UNIT 11

**JESUS GAVE THE APOSTLES AND THE CHURCH THE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS.
CCC 976-987**

Proclamation Video: Is there room for mercy in the justice system?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What about the situation with the thief and AJ Bohannon makes it difficult to recommend his course of action to everyone in his situation?
- What impact do you think forgiveness should have on the legal system?
- What makes it difficult to forgive someone that has wronged you?
- What impact do you think forgiveness has on people who have committed an offense?

Explanation Video: How can the Catholic Church forgive sins?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- Before this video, what was your concept of sin?
- If sin means missing the mark instead of just “doing something bad” how would that change the way we approach our own lives when we realize we’ve sinned?
- When the church offers us forgiveness, we are reconciled to the church and each other. How might this change our motivation to avoid sin?
- In what way do you believe sin hurts us and doesn’t just offend God or hurt other people?

Connection Video: How to forgive (and why it’s important)

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What makes it difficult to offer forgiveness to other people who have hurt you?
- How can we forgive someone and still set boundaries to keep us from getting hurt again?
- Why do you think it’s important to tell someone directly that you forgive them, and not just say “it’s okay”.
- How else might it change your life to believe in the forgiveness of sins? What should change in our relationships because we believe in the forgiveness of sins and are called to forgive others in the way we would want God to forgive us?

General Recommendations

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES:

These videos are great discussion starters with coworkers, family members, and friends. You can easily share one over social media or by text. Say a prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you and guide you on who to send a video to. Follow up later by asking what they thought of the video and if there were any thoughts or questions it stirred up. Practice spiritual accompaniment by using active listening and refraining from correcting or teaching.

PARISH SETTINGS, SCHOOLS, YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY:

These videos work great as a series for social media posts or email newsletters. Be sure to include a link for people to dive deeper into the rest of the content. In more formal catechetical settings, these videos are best used as supplemental discussion starters, or to recap a lesson. Try using these to open a lesson and dive right into reactions and discussion. For younger students, or those who are not active disciples, try the proclamation videos as a way into the content. For those who might be new or active disciples, try using the proclamation, explanation, and connection videos.

CATECHISTS:

The Catechism's structure is itself a teaching. And the method and content of these videos is a great way to discuss with catechists how to effectively accomplish an "evangelizing catechesis". By watching the unit videos together while reading the Catechism paragraphs, you can then discuss with your catechists what they noticed about how the content is presented. What was highlighted, and what was left out? What does this video have to do with Jesus and our relationship with him? How is this video trying to lead people into a deeper curiosity and openness to the Catechism's content? The podcast episode of each unit often dives into this "behind the scenes" approach and can be useful for catechists and catechist training.

We hope and pray that these videos will find people who are curious about what the Church teaches and about Jesus. We pray that the proclamation videos rouse a spiritual curiosity about the world and what it means to be human. We pray the explanation and connection videos would present the contents of our faith in a way that is relevant to their lives, perhaps in a way they've never heard before. We hope that many may find these videos to be useful conversation starters to journey with others who are spiritually curious or seeking truth.

We also hope and pray that Real + True helps others rediscover the "pulsating heart of the catechism," as Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa stated in his sermon on the catechism to the papal household, a heart that has a face and a name – Jesus Christ.

Visit realtrue.org for more videos and resources.