

Catechism Lesson Plan

Chapters 3 & 4: Called to Be Catholic

Based on Joe Paprocki, S.J.

Chapter 3: Our Catholic Identity – Living as People of Faith

Goal of the Lesson

Students will understand what it means to be **called by God**, to belong to the Catholic community, and to respond with faith and discipleship.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain what it means to be called to be Catholic.
2. Describe the importance of community, tradition, and faith.
3. Identify how God calls us through Scripture, the Church, and daily life.
4. Recognize how we respond through prayer, service, and moral choices.
5. Reflect on their personal call from God.

30-Minute Lesson Plan

1. Opening Prayer (2 minutes)

Lord God, You call each of us by name. Help us to hear Your voice, follow Your Son Jesus, and live as faithful members of Your Church. Amen.

2. Warm-Up Activity (4 minutes)

“Who Calls You?” – Students discuss: who calls them in life, how they recognize the voice, how it feels to be called. Transition to God’s call.

3. Key Teaching Points (10 minutes)

- God calls each of us personally.
- We belong to the Catholic community.
- Tradition and Scripture guide us.
- Respond through prayer, service, and moral choices.

4. Discussion Questions (5 minutes)

- (a) What does it mean that God calls you personally?
- (b) How does being part of the Catholic Church strengthen faith?
- (c) What is one way you can follow Jesus this week?

5. Short Activity (6 minutes) Choose one:

- *“My Call Statement”* – Students write: “I believe God is calling me to...”
- Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and discuss Samuel’s openness to God’s call.
- Community web: students connect with string to show unity in faith.

6. Closing Prayer (3 minutes)

Jesus, You call us to follow You with courage and love. Help us live as Your disciples every day. Amen.

Parable: The Shepherd’s Four Lanterns

A young shepherd named Mateo was given a task: **to lead the sheep safely home through a dark valley.**

Before he began, the elder shepherd handed him **four lanterns**, each with a different light.

The first lantern shone with a single bright flame. “This is the lantern of *unity*,” the elder said. “As long as you keep this flame steady, the sheep will not scatter.”

The second lantern glowed with a warm, pure light. “This is the lantern of *holiness*. It reminds you to walk with a clean heart, even when the path is difficult.”

The third lantern shined so widely that it lit up the whole valley. “This is the lantern of *catholicity* — its light is meant for everyone, even those outside the flock.”

The fourth lantern flickered like a passing torch. “This is the lantern of the *apostles*. It reminds you that you walk a path handed down to you, and you must guide others just as you have been guided.”

Mateo carried all four lanterns, and although the valley was dark and full of confusion, the sheep followed him safely home.

At the end, the elder shepherd said: “Remember, Mateo — the lanterns were never meant just for you. They were given to you so that you could lead others.”

Moral: We are called by God and given the light of the Church — **one, holy, catholic, and apostolic** — not to keep for ourselves, but to guide others safely to Christ.

Chapter 4: We Are Catholic – The Marks of the Church

Goal of the Lesson

Students will learn the meaning of the **Four Marks of the Church** and how they guide us in living our faith.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Define the Four Marks: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic.
2. Understand how each mark identifies the Church founded by Jesus.
3. Describe how the marks guide unity, holiness, universal love, and mission.
4. Recognize ways to reflect these marks personally.
5. Appreciate the Church as a global community proclaiming the Gospel.

30-Minute Lesson Plan

1. Opening Prayer (2 minutes)

Holy Spirit, guide Your Church and keep us united as one family. Help us grow in holiness, share Your love with all people, and follow the mission handed down from the Apostles. Amen.

2. Warm-Up Activity (4 minutes)

“What Makes a Team?” – Discuss how unity strengthens a team; transition to the Four Marks.

3. Key Teaching Points (12 minutes)

- **One** – United in faith: one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
- **Holy** – Called to holiness; guided by God’s grace and sacraments.
- **Catholic** – Universal and for all people, teaching fullness of truth.
- **Apostolic** – Continuing the mission of the Apostles through bishops, Pope, and laity.

4. Discussion Questions (5 minutes)

- (a) Which mark do you see most at your parish?

- (b) How can you grow in holiness?
- (c) Why is universality important?
- (d) How can you live the Apostolic mission personally?

5. Short Activity (5 minutes) Choose one:

- Four Marks mini-poster with symbols.
- Read Matthew 28:19-20 (“Go and make disciples...”) and discuss.
- Holiness action plan: three concrete steps for the week.

6. Closing Prayer (2 minutes)

Lord Jesus, You founded the Church to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Help us grow in unity, holiness, love for all people, and courage in mission. Amen.