Discussion Guide for Catechism

*Stage 2 Year 1*

Baptism of the Lord

CCC 238-240 God as Father

* Although many religions refer to God as “Father”, Jesus taught us to call Him “Abba”, what do you think he means by this?
* What are the qualifications of a Father, as God, without defects?
* Although God is properly called “Father”, what qualities of motherhood does God possess?
* Jesus revealed that God is the Father in an unheard sense: that eternally He proceeds from the Father as Son.

CCC 232-234

* At Baptism we are asked to profess our faith in the Divine Trinity. The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity.
* The Trinity is the source of all the other mysteries of the faith.
* In baptism, we are submerged into the life of the Divine Trinity, which gives us the pledge of eternal life.

Second Sunday of Ordinary time

CCC 200-202

* Although the Holy Trinity is the central mystery, we believe in One God.
* God as One is unique to the world at the time of Abraham. All other cultures had many gods.
* Idolatry is always evil and can be found in many forms (love of money, power, fame, lust or demons)
* Jesus quotes Deuteronomy (6:4-5) and affirms that God is the One Lord whom we must love with all our heart, soul and mind.
* To say that God is one means not only that there are no other gods, but that God in His nature is entirely simple.
* Jesus also gives us to understand that He is Lord. The distinction of persons in the Divine Trinity of Father Son and Holy Spirit does not introduce any division in the one true God.
* We give worship to God alone, although we can revere the saints we worship and adore God alone.

**Third Sunday of Ordinary time**

CCC 203, 205-209

* God reveals His name to us, which expresses His essence, identity and meaning.
* Words today often can change their meaning. Names in the Scriptures were given to men and women to describe their profound reality and destiny. To know the name is to know the truth about a person.
* That God has a name means He is not an anonymous force or simply a “higher power”
* What do the different names of God signify
* “I Am Who Am” is a mysterious name God gives Himself to Moses: what does it mean?
* Out of respect, reverence to the name and to the second commandment, the Scriptures replaced the name of God given to Moses with LORD.
* Jesus is LORD.

**Fourth Sunday of Ordinary time**

CCC 214-221

* What is truth? Can there be “your truth” or “my truth”?
* Sin distorts the truth, Satan is the “Father of lies”.
* Truth and love are one in God. They can only exist together.
* God is “He who is”; truth is “that which is”.
* Any action or thought that contradicts God’s will or word is false.
* “God is love”, God himself is an eternal exchange of love and wants us to share in it.
* To love implies living in the truth.

**Fifth Sunday of Ordinary time**

CCC 222-227; 2095-2100; 2144

* What does it mean for our life that God is One? (“Solo Dios basta” - St. Teresa of Avila)
* How do we serve God alone in our daily life?
* How do we put God first in our daily life? Adoration – Prayer – Sacrifice
* What is the sense of the sacred? (“feelings of fear and awe we will have if we live in His presence” cfr .St. John Henry Newman)
* What place does prayer have in my life?
* Prayer is the loving recognition of God’s presence
* Prayer can be in thanksgiving, supplication, asking forgiveness, or praise.

**Sixth Sunday of Ordinary time**

CCC 268-271

* Why, of all the attributes of God, is only His Omnipotence mentioned in the Creed?
* What does Omnipotence mean?
* How does God show His omnipotence?
* God overcame inn Christ our two greatest enemies: sin and death.
* Because of God’s oneness, all His attributes are identical.
* God’s omnipotence is the reason we can have absolute trust in Him.
* In God alone we can trust completely all else will falter

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time**

CCC 272-274

* Suffering is a test of our faith.
* Suffering is a mystery and so is never completely explained.
* What is St. Paul trying to teach us in 2 Cor. 12:10: *“it is when I am weak, then I a strong?”*
* Through suffering – when united to Christ and His passion - we can come to better penetrate this mystery.
* In suffering, God asks us: do you trust me?
* Saints are made through the crucible of suffering.
* How can we explain the mystery of suffering in the world?

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

CCC 540; 1438

* The mystery of Jesus in the desert and Lent
* Conversion and the mercy of God in Luke 15:11-24
* Conversion is an essential part of our “training” to be more like Jesus.
* We can review the seven deadly sins, to see which of them affects our life and in what way and take the measures to overcome them with God’s grace. (Pride, lust, greed, gluttony, envy, anger and sloth)
* What needs conversion in my life? What practices in Lent might help me in that need?