

# Five inquiry discernment questions

*Use these five questions to learn about the inquirer and to help you develop a specialized plan of formation for this person:*



Regarding my habits, knowledge, and attitudes about faith...

1. Where have I been?
2. Where am I now?
3. Where do I want to get to?
4. How am I going to get there?
5. How will I know I have arrived?

## First Gathering

Prayer and introductions (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

### Where have you been? (20 min)

- When did you first become aware of God?
- If you're baptized, describe that event.
- When have you felt really close to God?
- What was your family experience of faith?
- What have been your significant relationships?
- Have you ever gone to church? How often?
- What was it like?
- Describe your knowledge of Jesus or the Bible. Do you own a Bible?
- What has been your image of God or Jesus?
- What has happened in your life that has led you to this moment?

Tell the inquirer your parish's story (10 min)

- Handout your Sunday bulletin.
- Talk about your parish's patron saint.
- Describe what you like about your parish.
- Describe the pastor, parish staff, and leaders.
- Tell about some parish committees, the parish website, special projects, etc.
- Describe the liturgies, schedule, character.
- Offer to meet the inquirer at Sunday Mass.

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer

## Second Gathering

Gathering and prayer (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

### Where are you now? (20 min)

- What is your image of God now?
- How often are you aware of God in your life?
- How often do you pray and what is it like?
- Do you go to church now? How often?
- Do you ever talk about God with anyone?
- Describe what that is like.
- What are your significant relationships now?
- What is your relationship with God like now?

### Where do you want to get to? (20 min)

- What do you most hope for in your relationship with God?
- Is there someone (or was there someone) in your life you want to be like in your faith?
- Describe what it is about that person that makes you want to be like them.
- Describe what you hope to find in our parish.
- What attitudes or behaviors do you hope to change in yourself?
- What are your hopes for your family's faith?
- What area of knowledge or practice do you want to strengthen with regard to faith?

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer

## Third Gathering

Gathering and prayer (10 min)

Listen to the inquirer's story. Ask them:

### How are you going to get to where you want to go? (20 min)

- In what ways do you need to develop your faith practices to get where you want to go?
- In what ways do you need to develop your relationship with God?
- In what ways do you need to develop your relationship with the church?
- How do you need your family to support you?
- How do you need the faith community at this parish to support you?
- How will you determine if your plan will get you where you want to go?

### How will you know you've arrived? (20 min)

- How will you know if you've met your goal?
- How will your family know?
- How will others you interact with know?
- How will the people at this parish know?

Next steps and closing (10 min)

- Ask the inquirer to write a few pages this week responding to the questions above and to share that with you.
- Closing prayer



## Formation Plan Template

**STEP 1:** Determine the seeker's place on the ritual path

**STEP 2:** Assess the seeker's level of catechesis on the catechetical path

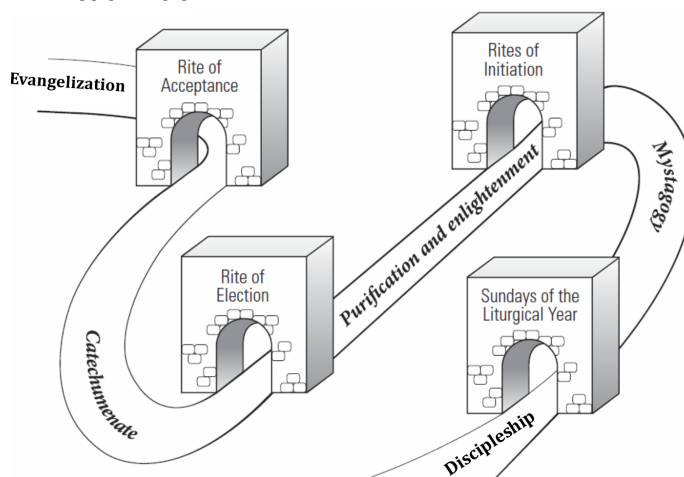
**STEP 3:** Ask the seeker the five inquiry questions; keep a record of their answers

**STEP 4:** Discern in which areas of discipleship the seeker needs more formation

**STEP 5:** Match the seeker's needs and level of formation with activities in your parish community and seeker's home

**SEEKER'S NAME:**

### Step 1: Ritual Path



### Step 2: Catechetical Path

1 Primary proclamation → 2 Initiatory catechesis → 3 Ongoing catechesis

### Step 3: Five Inquiry Questions


Where have you been? | Where are you now? | Where do you want to get to?  
How will you get there? | How will you know you have arrived?

### Steps 4 and 5: Training Areas of Discipleship

WORD	COMMUNITY	WORSHIP	WITNESS
Seeker's need:	Seeker's need:	Seeker's needs	Seeker's needs
Parish activity:	Parish activity:	Parish activity:	Parish activity:
Home activity:	Home activity:	Home activity:	Home activity:

# Six Keys to Making Lifelong Disciples



	Key principle of the RCIA (4-5)	How to put this into practice
<b>1</b>	"The initiation of catechumens is a <b>gradual</b> process..."	Believe that we are initiating <b>every day</b> of the year. Start by making every day a day for evangelization.
<b>2</b>	that takes place within the <b>community</b> of the faithful....	Use the <b>activities of your parish</b> as primary ways you form catechumens and candidates. Make your RCIA gatherings secondary to what your parish is already doing.
<b>3</b>	By joining the catechumens in reflecting on the value of the <b>paschal mystery</b> ...	Share your <b>personal experience</b> of the paschal mystery. Tell stories of your own dying and rising.
<b>4</b>	and by renewing their own <b>conversion</b> , the faithful provide an example that will help the catechumens to obey the Holy Spirit more generously....	Move from imparting knowledge to <b>entering into intimacy</b> with Jesus. Pay attention to what you see the Spirit doing in the lives of each catechumen and candidate.
<b>5</b>	The rite of initiation is suited to a spiritual journey of <b>adults</b> ...	Practice <b>adult learning principles</b> . With children, help their families teach them adult faith behaviors adapted for their maturity level. Don't short-change child catechumens with "RCIC."
<b>6</b>	that <b>varies</b> according to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the many forms of God's grace,</li> <li>the free cooperation of the individuals,</li> <li>the action of the Church,</li> <li>and the circumstances of time and place."</li> </ul>	Attend to the specific <b>needs of each person</b> . Account for differences between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unbaptized</li> <li>baptized uncatechized</li> <li>and baptized catechized.</li> </ul> Don't put people in the RCIA who don't belong in the RCIA.



Learn more about each of these six key principles in the free e-book  
***RCIA's Six Keys to Making Lifelong Disciples***  
 by Nick Wagner, cofounder of TeamRCIA.com.

Download your free copy at: [TeamRCIA.com/sixkeysbook](https://TeamRCIA.com/sixkeysbook)