

Lesson Plan for Lesson 4

Faith

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 4, “Faith,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles, one for each participant; newsprint; and markers.
- Make a copy of the handout “Creedal Statements” (Document #: TX003367) and cut apart the statements along the dotted lines.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class is beginning with a prayer written by one of the most influential spiritual writers of modern times, Thomas Merton. **Lead** the class in making the Sign of the Cross and praying together the “Prayer of Unknowing” from the Pray It! sidebar on page 51 in the handbook.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. Faith Is Our Response to God’s Love

1. **Lead** a discussion with the young people by asking them to define *faith* and to describe what it means to have faith. **Pose** the question, What characteristics are present when a person has faith? **Record** the participants’ answers on the board as they share them.
2. **Direct** the young people to read the chapter introduction and the section “Faith Is Our Response to God’s Love,” on pages 47–48 in the handbook. The content covers point 1 on the handout “Lesson 4 Summary” (Document #: TX003366).
3. (*Optional*) After the participants have finished the reading, direct them to the Reflect questions on page 48. Invite them to think silently about their answers to the questions or perhaps to journal about them.

B. Faith and the Catholic Church

1. **Direct** the young people to form groups of three or four, and **distribute** a sheet of newsprint and a marker to each group. **Direct** the members of each group to work together to create a list of things they all believe in and to record the list on the sheet of newsprint. The following focus questions may be helpful:
 - What do you set your heart on?
 - What would you stand up for in the face of opposition?



After several minutes, **invite** someone from each group to share the group’s list of beliefs with the rest of the class.

2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “Faith and the Catholic Church” and “The Characteristics of Faith,” on pages 48–51 in the handbook. The content covers points 2 through 6 on the handout “Lesson 4 Summary.”
3. **(Optional)** After the participants have finished the reading, **direct** them to the Reflect question on page 52. **Lead** a brief discussion on the question presented there.

C. Creeds Are Statements of Faith

Direct the young people to read the section “Creeds Are Statements of Faith,” on pages 52–53 in the handbook. The content covers points 7 and 8 on the handout “Lesson 4 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the participants to form groups of three or four. **Give** each group a sheet of newsprint, a marker, and one or two statement slips from the handout “Creedal Statements” (Document #: TX003367). **Explain** the task as follows:
 - At the top of the sheet of newsprint, write your assigned statement(s).
 - Discuss the statement(s) in your group and put the statement(s) into your own words.
 - Record your rewritten version(s) on the newsprint and add any symbols or images that help to convey the meaning(s) of the statement(s).
2. **Invite** each small group to share its work with the entire group and to post it where everyone can see it. The statements should be posted in the order they appear in the text.
3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:
 - Christian faith is the human person’s response to God’s loving invitation to believe in him. Faith means giving yourself completely—heart, mind, and will—to a loving relationship with God. Faith also means believing in, and being part of, the Church, which is the Body of Christ here on earth.
 - A creed is a brief summary of the things you believe in. As Catholics, we use creeds to affirm our belief in all that God has revealed.
 - God has given you the gift of faith, but only you can decide to accept that gift and act on it.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **direct** the young people to turn to page 452 in the handbook and **lead** them in praying the Nicene Creed together.

