

Being Catholic: The “CliffsNotes” View

Lesson 1 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore what it means to be Catholic.
- The participants will understand that beliefs of the Catholic faith are rooted in the revelation of Scripture and Tradition.
- The participants will identify and name some core Catholic beliefs, practices, and attitudes.

Content Summary

1. Being Catholic is a wonderful and powerful way to experience God in the world and is the fullest way to follow Jesus Christ.
2. The popular image of Catholicism formed by the media is filled with stereotypes and misinformation, and is a misleading source for truly understanding what it means to be Catholic.
3. The great number of Catholics in the world testifies to Catholicism’s universal appeal and to the power that the Catholic faith has in people’s lives.
4. Catholics have a distinct worldview. Even though Catholics hold many beliefs in common with other Christians, there are some significant differences between Catholic and Protestant beliefs, practices, and attitudes.
5. Some common threads surface when Catholics talk about what is important to them about the Catholic faith.
6. Catholic beliefs are rooted in the revelation of Scripture and Tradition.
7. The fullness of God’s revealed truth is called Sacred Tradition and is entrusted to the Apostles’ successors, the bishops of the Church.
8. Catholic practices, the ways in which Catholics worship and live moral and faith-filled lives, are based on Catholic beliefs, so they are also rooted in Scripture and Tradition.
9. Catholics see the world in a unique way because their attitudes reflect God’s Revelation in Scripture and Tradition.
10. Catholics recognize that God is present to, in, and through all creation—including the natural world, people, communities, and historical events.
11. The “Act of Faith” is an old and traditional prayer of the Catholic Church. People prayed it as a sign of commitment to the core truths of the faith.

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