

TEACHING SAFETY: EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN

Training Session for Catechists On How to Use This Program

Training Objective:

The purpose of this resource is to provide catechetical leaders with a detailed outline for training catechists to implement the *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program* in the classroom. While this resource provides a structured format for presenting the material, it is flexible enough for the catechetical leader to adapt its contents to the unique needs and special circumstances of their parish situation.

In order to implement the *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program* catechists will need to:

- learn about the program (both the Program Overview and the individual Class Lesson)
- be informed where to find the appropriate materials
- be taught to facilitate a lesson for their grade level

The process and method of such training is at the discretion of the catechetical leader.

Training Materials:

The materials used in this catechist training format are a combination of what is needed to do a complete classroom lesson using handouts from VIRTUS and ones created for the parish.

- ❑ Computer with access to internet, or DVD player and disk.
- ❑ Handouts for all Catechists
 - Overview of the Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program
 - Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide
 - Lesson Plan
 - Parish Catechist Responsibility Handout
 - Special Instructions for your Parish

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Catechetical Leader Presentation Script

A. Opening Prayer

Use the following prayer or insert your own.

Prayer for the Vulnerable

Gentle Mother of all Good Counsel,

Hear our prayers for those who are vulnerable and need your protection.

Guide their steps to persons and places that hold safe the love you have for your son, Jesus.

We ask for your guidance and counsel to make good decisions as we seek to protect all of God's Children.

Never let us forget the important mission we have to protect all those whose voices are silent and unheard.

Dearest Mother, you know that our voices are small, but Gods power working through us and your intercession is all we need.

Amen.

B. Diocese of Rockford updates the Christian Chastity and Safe Environment Program

Share with the catechists the following background information.

Bishop Malloy has approved a new program to replace the current *Christian Chastity and Safe Environment Program for Children* with the *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program*. The previous program has been in use since 2009 and the new program will be implemented beginning in the Fall of 2019.

There are many benefits to this new program, such as:

- There are easy-to-follow lessons with little preparation.
- There is only one lesson per year.
- There is a consistent format and timeframe for every grade level.
- There is the possibility of consolidating classes.
- There is an improved focus on safety.
- There are updated activities.

C. Important Considerations/Changes for this New Program

Explain how these changes will specifically affect your parish.

Add to the items below if there are certain parish changes that need to be considered.

1. Considerations for the New Program

There are two important points for planning and implementing this program in our parish:

- We must provide the *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program* to our religious education students **before December 1**.
 - All catechists teaching this class need to know how to use the lesson plans.

2. Changes for the New Program

In the *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program* there are:

- Lesson Plans that only address the safe environment topic.
 - Chastity is not part of this teaching safety program, but is covered throughout the year in the parish program.
- Formats for training every grade are divided into four units.
 - Pre K will continue to use the *Birthday Suit* book.
 - K-2, will use the new lesson plans.
 - 3-5 will use the new lesson plans.
 - 6-8 will use the new lesson plans.
- Lesson plans are on a three-year cycle.

D. Everything a Catechist needs to Know to Prepare and Teach the Lesson

Present an overview of the Catechist Responsibility Handout.

Create your own handout or use the template that is attached.

In order to become familiar with this program and all of our responsibilities, catechists will participate in a brief training session that will include:

1. Preparation before teaching *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program*
2. Lesson Day
 - Classroom Prep Work
 - Teaching the Lesson
 - Responsibilities Before Leaving

E. Q & A Session

After participating in the actual lesson invite catechists to offer their observations and address any questions that might come up.

Are there any questions about how we will implement this program in our parish?

Empowering God's Children Session Catechetical Leader Presentation Script For Catechist Responsibilities Handout

1. Preparation before you teach Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program

Distribute the Program Overview and one Lesson Plan you chose to review.

- A. It is important that you understand the overview of *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program*, so please read the Program Overview and the Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guidelines.
- B. Read your grade level Lesson Plan to become familiar with the Activities. Pre K will continue to use the *Birthday Suit* book and K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 will use the new lesson plans.
- C. View the Video for your appropriate grade level.
- D. Prepare any materials needed for teaching the lesson.
- E. Insert special parish instructions that you would like the catechists to know.

2. Lesson Day

Explain to the catechists how the video can be viewed (either in a group setting or individual classroom), for each grouping (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8). Share any other special directions.

- A. Classroom Preparation
 - Activity 1: Video
 - Be sure all equipment is working.
(PC, internet connection, and website - TV and DVD player)
 - Be sure the audio is working and turn up volume for all to hear.
 - Activity 2: Lesson to Reinforce Video Message
 - Set out the needed supplies to teach the lesson.
 - Direct Opted- out students accordingly.
 - Insert special parish instructions that you would like the catechists to know.
- B. Teaching the Lesson

Guide the catechists through an actual lesson.

 - View Video Activity 1.
 - Facilitate Activity 2.
 - Close with Prayer.
 - Insert special parish instructions that you would like the catechists to know.
- C. Before you Leave

Distribute the Training Record Sheet or the regular Attendance Sheet and explain the catechist's responsibilities in completing and returning either of these forms to the catechetical leader.

 - Take attendance and submit to the CRE or DRE at the end of class.
 - Collect supplies and return accordingly.
 - Insert special parish instructions that you would like the catechists to know.

(ENTER PARISH NAME)
Empowering God's Children Session
Catechist Responsibilities Handout

1. Preparation before you teach Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program

- A. It is important that you understand the overview of *Teaching Safety: Empowering God's Children Program*, so please read the Program Overview and the Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guidelines.
- B. Read your grade level Lesson Plan to become familiar with the Activities. Pre K will continue to use the *Birthday Suit* book and K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 will use the new lesson plans.
- C. View the Video for your appropriate grade level.
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 - Direct Opted- out students accordingly.
 - Special instructions for our parish.
- B. Teaching the Lesson
 - View Video Activity 1.
 - Facilitate Activity 2.
 - Close with Prayer.
 - Special instructions for our parish.
- C. Before You Leave
 - Take attendance and submit to the CRE or DRE at the end of class.
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