

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING AN RCIA TALK

Preparing an RCIA session is not merely gathering content. It is a spiritual, pastoral, and pedagogical task that leads adults toward encounter and conversion.

1. Begin with Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Before preparing content, pray.

- Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, clarity, and humility.
- Pray for the catechumens by name if possible.
- Ask to see their needs through God's eyes.

Only the Spirit can transform information into encounter.

2. Understand the Teaching Clearly by going through the ten questions in the notes.

Ask yourself:

- What exactly does the Church teach on this topic?
- What are the key doctrinal points?
- What must not be omitted?

Clarity prevents confusion and builds confidence.

3. Ask: Why Does This Teaching Matter?

Do not present doctrine as abstract theory.

Reflect on:

- Why is this truth important for salvation?
- How does it change a person's life?
- What happens if this truth is misunderstood or ignored?

Adults want meaning, not just information.

4. Root the Topic in the Word of God

Identify:

- Key biblical passages
- Connections between Scripture and Church doctrine

Scripture must illuminate the teaching, not be an afterthought.

5. Identify the Human Experience Involved

Ask:

- What life experiences does this topic touch?
- What struggles, wounds, or doubts are connected to it?
- What common misconceptions exist?

Faith connects most deeply when reality is acknowledged.

6. Reflect on Personal Relevance

Before teaching others, ask:

- How has this teaching affected my own life?
- Where have I struggled with it?
- What grace have I received through it?

Teach from the heart, not only from notes.

7. Consider the Audience's Context

Think about:

- Their background
- Cultural influences
- Likely objections or questions
- Sensitive areas that require compassion

Preparation includes pastoral sensitivity.

8. Prepare the talk Using the “Ten-Point” Structure given at the end of the notes.

Organize your talk clearly, including:

- Scripture foundation
- Key Church teaching
- Clear explanation (simple language)
- Examples
- Personal or real-life testimony
- Practical application

- Mission dimension

Structure helps adults follow and retain content.

Core Principle

Preparation is not about covering material — it is about leading adults toward encounter, growth, and lived discipleship.