

Suggestions for use

General Process for Using **Growing Faith**

1. Gather those who are going to take part for this session.
2. Make sure everyone knows everyone else. If there are newcomers or strangers, name tags are a great way to become familiar with each other.
3. As folks gather, even within the household or small group, play sacred music as a way of setting the stage and preparing the mind and heart.
4. It's always part of Christian hospitality to have food and refreshments to share. As your group gathers, members can help provide this on a rotating basis.
5. Once everyone is introduced and settled, begin with the gathering song for **Growing Faith**, "Lead Us to the Water" by Tom Kendzia. You may either listen to it or sing. It is found on the PowerPoint CD-ROM accompanying the [Facilitator's Guide](#) and may be played either on a CD player or your computer.
 - This opening prayer song is followed by a brief period of breaking open the word based on the Liturgy of the Word from the previous Sunday. Notes on how to do this are included in [other whole community catechesis resources](#). Keep this to a maximum of fifteen minutes.
6. Then simply follow the notes in the [Facilitator's Guide](#) (which are reproducible) and work your way through the **Growing Faith** booklet for that evening. Take your time and do not rush this process. Let everyone have a chance to share, wonder about things aloud, or express his or her beliefs. If you don't get all the way to the end, save it for next time!
7. Encourage people to write notes in their booklets, to personalize them and own them. You may wish to provide a means with which folks can easily store and retrieve the booklets for on-going use throughout their lives.
8. At the end, make sure everyone knows when the next gathering will be held.

Various groups with the parish

Here's a list of those in today's parish whose needs can be met by **Growing Faith**. Following this list are notes on how to address each group specifically, using the [Facilitator's Guide](#) to **Growing Faith**.

1. For [parents with children in catechesis](#)
Growing Faith is an ideal way for them to learn while their children are learning.
Growing Faith correlates to every major textbook series, and allows you to use your children's program as a springboard to the rest of the community.
Send home booklets that correspond to the children's units in the school or religious ed program to help parents and guardians share in the process.
For many [Hispanic parents](#), even if their children study in English, the Spanish booklets will be a rich resource.
2. For [catechumens and candidates, for returning Catholics, and for those who have never been confirmed](#)
Growing Faith offers the most systematic and comprehensive presentation of the faith available outside of the *Catechism* itself.
It will move and touch the catechumens, giving them the "feel" of our faith as well as the teachings.
3. For [parish councils and leadership groups and for parish ministry folks](#),
Growing Faith offers a systematic way to engage in brief educational moments within existing meetings at the parish with a method that is pleasant and enjoyable and will have the leaders asking for more!
4. For [catechist training](#)
Growing Faith provides excellent on-going formation, using clear, contemporary language in plain English or [Spanish](#), and laying out the core teachings of the Catholic Faith for all catechists.
5. For [youth ministry, and other needs for the youth](#),
Growing Faith is an engaging and comprehensive presentation complete with activities and points for discussion to help youth internalize and appreciate their faith.

They will collect these booklets
and read them again and again.

6. For [young adults](#) who are busy and otherwise engaged,
Growing Faith offers a great component system of booklets,
that easily fits into otherwise busy schedules.
This is a superb way to provide contemporary material
to people living in these modern times.
For those involved in [campus ministry](#),
Growing Faith offers a wonderful component tool
addressed specifically to those who are in such settings.
Use it to extend the reach of campus catechesis
and to invite and welcome students into your ministry.
Growing Faith is also the ideal teaching tool for
[Couples preparing for marriage,](#)
[or those preparing for the baptism of their child.](#)
This is a time of life when folks are ripe
for growth in their faith.
7. For [middle aged and senior adults](#),
Growing Faith offers a chance to renew faith:
both a deeper understanding of Catholic teaching,
and a heartfelt appreciation of God's presence.
This is a time of life when religion often becomes more vital
and when folks have more time for inquiring into their faith.
In [military settings](#) where ministry is challenged
by the coming and going of personnel and their families,
Growing Faith is the perfect tool to reach them
because it allows you to see each gathering as unique
and offer these families materials they can take with them.
8. For [small Christian communities](#),
Growing Faith is an outstanding resource
because it has built in conversations about the faith,
while also a systematic presentation of our teachings,
all in a beautiful format that will be treasured for years.
For [RENEW groups and post RENEW follow-up](#),
Growing Faith provides wonderful depth and breadth.
9. For [parishes using intergenerational catechesis gatherings](#),
Growing Faith is designed for such use
from the opening faith sharing
to the closing prayer.
The [Facilitator's Guide](#) which is published with the series
develops a large group gathering for each booklet
giving step by step teaching suggestions

and an already-prepared set of 12 PowerPoint slides.

10. For [personal use](#), **Growing Faith** offers a wonderful collection of easy-to-read reflections covering every dimension of our faith.

Everyone who reads through this series of booklets will be touched and their faith made more profound.

11. And for [households of faith](#)

especially those who wish to grow in their faith,

Growing Faith offers user-friendly booklets

where family members can write their own notes,

like keeping a personal faith journal.

Use them on Sunday evenings as a family discussion guide,

or invite neighbors or friends

to share them with you.

Give them as gifts to those you know are on the edge of their faith,

to help them deepen their understanding

and grow in their hearts.