



# IPC Children's Ministries Faith Formation

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis is a faith formation method for children ages 3-12 years where adults and children come together in a common religious experience to share our religious beliefs and faith practices using the Holy Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principals of Maria Montessori. This relational-based approach focuses on honoring childhood religious experience by using hands-on materials to connect head, heart, and hands to the contemplation and enjoyment of God.

What are some activities my child will be focusing on at each level of catechesis?

### Level 1 - Ages 3-years-old to 5K

- Begin the practice of an inner prayer life by quieting mind and body
- Practice caring for self, others, and our environment in the atrium
- Hear about God's love within in the parable of The Good Shepherd
- Hear the prophets messages about the one who was to come
- Explore the arrival of Jesus as a new baby
- Think about Jesus's parables and what they tell us about the Kingdom of God
- Think about the seasons of the church using the liturgical calendar
- Experience the joy of celebrating Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost as we recognize the seasons of the church and make connections to "big church worship service"
- Think about the geography of Israel and Jesus's time on earth
- Focus on questions such as, "Who are you God?" and "How much do you love us?"

### Level 2 - 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

- Continue hearing about God's great love for us in the parable of The True Vine
- Introduce Jesus's moral parables as we think about our response
- Think about sacred history as it has unfolded over time and is told in the Bible
- Begin to identify common themes across parable stories
- Work together in small groups to practice fellowship and hospitality
- Continue to hear the stories of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection
- Hear how the Bible was created
- Work on locating Scripture verses in the Bible, sharing them aloud, and contemplating their meaning
- Think more about the importance of Communion and Baptism in the church, connecting it to Jesus's words
- Focus on questions such as, "Who am I?" "How did this come to be?" "What is my job here?"

### Level 3 - 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

- Continue hearing about God's great love for us as we think about how to respond in our life and with others
- Hear additional moral parables and contemplate their meanings
- Explore ancient cultures within the context of the Old Testament stories
- Hear about the Jewish people and their relationship with God
- Prepare and lead "God's Gifts Worship service" in the Spring
- Explore how to live together in community within the church and out in the world
- Continue to contemplate questions such as, "Who am I?" "How did this come to be?" "What is my role?"



# IPC Children's Ministries Faith Formation Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

## Level 1 Catechists in Training (90 hours)

Beverley Krannich  
Catherine Mauldin  
Maegan McRoberts  
Rachel Phillips  
Stacy Pulliam

## Level 1 Catechists (90 hours)

Burgin Franks  
Catherine Pringle  
Jessica Grover  
Julia Williams

## Level 2 Catechists (100 hours) \*In Level 3 training course

Ashley Inscoc  
Catherine White  
Enid Athanas  
Jamie Hill  
Jan Posey  
Jean Shanks\*  
Jeanene Skillen\*  
Kate Mather  
Shannon Cooley

## Level 3 Catechists (120 hours)

Teri Borders  
Margaret Cobbs  
Anna James  
Lindsey Ring  
Leslie Robinson  
Kay Roller  
Sarah Warburton