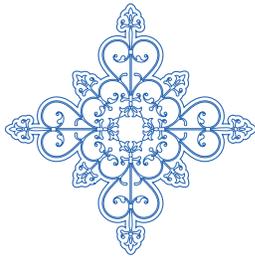
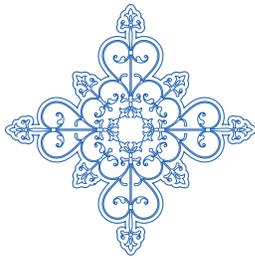
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*How to:
Religious Education
and the Flipped Classroom*



HOW TO: Religious Education and the Flipped Classroom



If you're in the field of education, you've probably heard the term *flipped classroom*. The flipped classroom philosophy involves taking the portions of learning that typically happen in a classroom (including lectures and readings) and having students complete them at home, ahead of time. Then, the elements that typically reinforce the teaching (and are usually assigned as homework) happen instead in the classroom, during class time. The flipped classroom model is typically being used in traditional classroom environments, but it can certainly be adapted as a catechetical pedagogy as well!

One of the benefits of the flipped classroom approach in a religious education program is that it allows time for processing some of the more complex concepts that students need more time to think through. And flipped classrooms provide opportunities for students to ask deeper questions about their faith, since students will have been introduced to the concepts before class time begins.

What Does a Flipped Classroom in Religious Education Look Like?

One of the best ways to try the flipped classroom model in the religious education classroom is with your Sadlier *We Believe Catholic Identity Edition* or Sadlier sacrament preparation student text. Using the text, have students complete the readings at home with parents or family members.

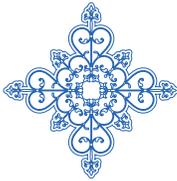
You'll want to provide benchmarks and supports to students and parents as they read and review the material at home. Be sure to explain the flipped approach so parents and students understand their responsibilities. Point out that this option is an excellent opportunity for intergenerational catechesis as well, giving parents the opportunity to discuss important faith matters with their children before they enter the classroom!

After reading and reviewing the content from their student texts at home, students should arrive at class prepared to reflect, discuss, and share the topics they read at home. Having a foretaste of the material helps students more effectively participate in reinforcement activities that you will offer in the classroom.

Try having students "break the ice" when they first come in by sitting in pairs and teaching their partner about what they learned at home. The icebreaker also helps students who may not have totally understood the material supplement their work at home. From there, use different activities, games or exercises that drive home the topic that students read about.

Tips & Things to Consider

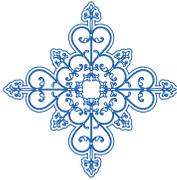
- Make sure you talk with your DRE or PCL before implementing a flipped classroom! Different parishes have different philosophies on giving homework in the Religious Education program.
- Communicate expectations clearly and frequently to parents before implementing. Send an email or a letter explaining what a flipped classroom is, why you're choosing to try this, and what is expected of them. Having everyone on the same page will help things to be as successful as possible.
- Choose wisely and deliberately the amount of work to send home. Send manageable amounts that can be understood without a lot of scaffolding or context.
- If possible, send home rich media that will engage the entire family. Experiences with video, audio, art, and other media will enhance learning.



A Flipped Sample Lesson

Before class . . .

- Assign a video to view with the family.
- Assign reading the chapter in the student text.
- Invite family to pray together.
- Ask students to be ready to recall what they've learned and shared in class.



During class . . .

- Begin with an icebreaker in which pairs share and teach.
- Dedicate time to a game, exercise, or project that reinforces content learned at home.
- End with reflection, prayer, and discussion.



