

Course II: Who is Jesus Christ?

Course II Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be.

Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age - USCCB

Course II Essential Questions:

1. Who is Jesus both through historical analysis and as told through Scripture and Tradition?
2. How can a person respond to the call of discipleship and work with Jesus in our world today?

Course II Important Concepts/Terms:

Body of Christ

Heresy

Call to Holiness

Hypostatic Union

Church Council

Incarnation

Communion of Saints

Logos

Conscience

Magisterium

Consubstantial

Mary Mother of God (Theotokos)

Conversion

Redemption

Creed

Sacred Scripture

Discipleship

Sacred Tradition

Doctrine

Salvation History

Faith, Religion

Trinity

Four Last Things

Secondary School Theology Standards

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Course II

Course II Archdiocese of Seattle Standards:

1. Explain how God reveals Himself to us through both Scripture and Tradition.
USCCB Framework: (I, A, 1-2) (CCC, nos. 50-73, 74-100, 103-108, 134-135)
2. Explain how faith is a gift from God that calls us to respond.
USCCB Framework: (I, B 1) (CCC, nos. 143-144, 153-165)
3. Understand that grace is an undeserved, freely given gift to nurture the gift of faith.
USCCB Framework: (I, B, a-c) (CCC, nos.143, 150-152)
4. Distinguish the terms faith and religion.
USCCB Framework: (I, B, 2, a-d)) (CCC, nos. 520, 546, 562, 654, 1533, 1248, 915, 1693, 1816, 1986, 2262, 2347, 2427, 2466, 2612, 908)
5. Explain how the Catholic Church reflects the fullness of God's revelation.
USCCB Framework: (I, B, 4, a, c) (CCC, nos. 748-870, 811-812, 813-816, 880-896)
6. Develop an operational definition of the mystical Body of Christ.
USCCB Framework: (I, B, 4, b) (CCC, nos. 748-870)
7. Explain how the Church is the manifestation of the mystical Body of Christ.
USCCB Framework: (I, B, 4, b) (CCC, nos. 748-870)
8. Articulate the Magisterium's sacred responsibility to the mystical Body of Christ.
USCCB Framework: (I, 4, d) (CCC, nos. 880-896)
9. Illustrate how the Incarnation is the encounter of God's self-revelation in the person of Jesus Christ.
USCCB Framework: (II, A), (IV, A, 1-4) (CCC, nos. 486, 496, 487, 501, 721-730)
10. Explain how Jesus Christ is truly God and truly human.
USCCB Framework: (II, A, 1, a-c) (CCC, nos. 486, 496, 484, 487, 501, 721-730, 732, 737-739, 747, 761-762)
11. Cite Scriptural references demonstrating how Jesus showed his humanity.
USCCB Framework: (III, A, 1, 2, 3) (CCC, nos. 470, 526, 512-534, 538)
12. Cite and interpret Scripture passages where Jesus is identified as Logos, as Word of God, and as intimately one with God from all eternity (John's Prologue).
USCCB Framework: (II, A, 1, a) (CCC, nos. 761-762)

13. Explain why the Church teaches the Trinity is the central mystery of our faith.
USCCB Framework: (II, B, 1, a) (CCC, nos. 234, 235-237)
14. Explain how the three Divine Persons are distinct from and in relationship with one another.
USCCB Framework: (II, B, 1, b-d, 2) (CCC, nos. 254, 255-256, 258, 267)
15. Describe the characteristics of each person of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
USCCB Framework: (II, C, 1-3) (CCC, nos. 238-242, 240, 232-233, 249, 1257, 1260-1261, 461, 422, 252, 430, 456-469, 484-487, 517, 651-658, 243-248, 687, 689-690, 727-730, 32, 731-741, 1830-1832)
16. Outline the historical development of the doctrine of the Trinity as stated in the Creeds.
USCCB Framework: (II, C, 4, a-b, C, 1-3) (CCC, nos. 245-248, 249-252)
17. Explain the unique role of Mary, the Mother of God, in the plan of Salvation History.
USCCB Framework: (II, C, 5, a-e) (CCC, nos. 484-487, 490-494, 966, 499-507)
18. List and describe heresies on the Incarnation during the period of the early Church.
USCCB Framework: (II, C, 4, b) (CCC, nos. 464-469)
19. Describe how Jesus invites us to participate in our redemption through Him, which gives us the grace to avoid sin.
USCCB Framework: (IV, B, 1-3) (CCC, nos. 1705, 1708-1709, 1741-1742, 1847-1848, 1716-1717)
20. Reflect on how we live our lives today prepares us for eternal life with God.
USCCB Framework: (IV, D, 1-2,) (CCC, nos. 948, 957, 960, 1474, 992, 996, 1007, 1010-1014, 2299, 677-679, 1021, 1038-1041, 1030-1032, 1023-1029, 1033-1037)
21. Explain how our relationship with Jesus Christ, forms us and deepens our call to holiness.
USCCB Framework: (IV, C, 3, a-e) (CCC, nos. 1716-1724, 546, 2083-2557, 544, 1033, 1373, 2447, 2831)
22. Cite and interpret references from Sacred Scripture describing Jesus in prayer and how he taught us to pray.
USCCB Framework: (IV, C,) (CCC, nos. 461-464, 1716-1724, 546, 2083-2557, 544, 1033, 1373, 2447, 2831, 2609, 2729-2737, 2742-2745, 2759ff, 2665-2669)
23. Demonstrate an understanding of how the grace of God frees us from sin and leads us to become a disciple of Christ.
USCCB Framework: (IV, B, C, 4) (CCC, nos. 861, 905)

Course II Guiding Questions:

How does the sacred story of Scripture reveal God's plan of salvation through Jesus?

What is the Incarnation and how does it inform our understanding of God?

How is the fullness of God's revelation expressed in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ?

What does the mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ reveal?

How is the Trinity a central mystery of our faith?

How does the relational aspect of the Trinity inform our own relationship with God and others? How do we respond to God's revelation, both personally and communally?

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

How is Mary an example to us for living our life?

Note:

Essential questions promote deep and enduring understanding. They cannot be answered in one sentence. Even though they are written simplistically, they are complex enough to be broken down into smaller, guiding questions.

Guiding questions are more detailed questions that support the essential questions of the course.

Challenge Questions

“This element is designed to give catechetical instruction for high-school age young people an apologetical component. Publishers and teachers or catechists are to strive to provide for a catechetical instruction and formation that is imbued with an apologetical approach. Challenges that appear under one particular theme can also apply to other themes in the framework, and such application is encouraged.” Introduction to The Bishops’ Framework

Answers to each of the following questions with references to the Catechism are found in the last section of each course in the Framework. It should be noted, however, that each question has also been addressed within the coursework of the standards.

- A. How do we know God really exists?
- B. There are some who see human suffering and conclude that God does not care about us. Why do we say that he loves us deeply?
- C. How can people say that God is good if suffering and evil are present in the world?
- D. Does God really want us to be happy?
- E. There are some who dismiss God’s Revelation and say that the beliefs and doctrines taught by the church have been made up by members of the church. How can we be sure that what the Catholic Church teaches has come from God?
- F. How do we as Catholics answer questions about the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in the life and prayer of the Church?