



Steps to Embrace Digital Tech for Catechesis

By Steve Botsford

If you're ready to take the next step in embracing digital tech for catechesis but not sure what to do, just follow these three steps and you'll be on your way!

Each one of the lesson movements below presents opportunities for using digital tech for catechesis. Most of the suggestions will require a computer or phone connected to the Internet and projected by a projector or shown on a TV screen.

STEP 1: Providing Opportunities to Encounter Christ

As catechists, we are called to provide opportunities for encountering Christ through prayer, Scripture, and sharing. Enhance the opening or closing parts of your lesson with digital tech by:

- embellishing prayer by projecting an image for children to look at while listening to or praying the prayer.
- preparing slides with information and projecting as a slideshow. The slides will attract visual attention to the message, engage students through different presentation styles, and help children to remember the message.
- finding or creating a video reflection that could support your opening or closing prayers.

A Note about Prayer and Activities

Perhaps it need not be mentioned, but the value of prayer and processing activities should not be overlooked. Due to time constraints and the priority of teaching content over spirituality and “fun,” many catechists skip prayer and activities to allow more time to address content. We should always allow time to invoke the presence of God in whatever way God chooses. Additionally, it is pedagogically correct to allow students to process content through the interaction and engagement with learning activities.

STEP 2: Accompanying One Another

When we present ourselves to others as credible witnesses of Christ's presence and love, we accompany them on their faith journeys. Those who accompany seek ongoing conversion through sharing and teaching the faith. To accompany and teach accompaniment using digital tech for catechesis during instruction, try:

- creating and sharing your faith story through pictures in a slideshow on the screen or TV.
- showing the eBook page you are referencing while teaching. If that is not possible, you may want to scan sections of pages and put them in a slide presentation to show while talking to students.
- supplementing faith sharing and teaching with one of many vetted Catholic videos available today. Look for videos that are short with a pointed message that aligns with your topic or theme.

STEP 3: Witnessing to the Good News

We are all called to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ, and there are many ways we can help our disciples to become effective witnesses. After accompanying our students through sharing and learning about the faith, try:

- allowing time for activities, as they offer the widest opportunity for reinforcing the lesson content and embracing digital tech for catechesis. Some publishers offer digital resources that complement the lesson, such as games, puzzles, quizzes, assessments and tests.
- offering a learning station with digital activities.