

# Guidelines for teaching early adolescents



- ♦ **Be attentive to the development issues and needs of early adolescents in planning your sessions:**
  - ⇒ **physical activity**
  - ⇒ **competence and achievement**
  - ⇒ **self-definition**
  - ⇒ **creative expression**
  - ⇒ **positive social interaction with adults and peers**
  - ⇒ **structure and clear limits**
  - ⇒ **meaningful participation**
- ♦ **Clarify the roots of early adolescent behavior before responding**



- **Be open to opportunities to assist growth in non-faith related areas when they arise**
- **Help motivate early adolescents by :**
  - ⇒ **developing ownership**
  - ⇒ **fostering collaboration**
  - ⇒ **building relationships**
- **Be organized**
- **Be well prepared. Assemble your “bag of tricks” from which you can select a variety of methods and options.**
- **Employ cooperative learning strategies**
- **Be attentive to time and environment**
- **Ask good questions. Lead with concrete experiences to more abstract reflections.**
- **Don’t put them in a stance of opposition...**

**Rather than asking if they agree or disagree with a Church teaching, present the teaching with clarity and ownership and then ask how or easy it is to live out the teaching.**