



## About *The Search Begins*

*The Search Begins* is a new seven-episode video series adapted from the Augustine Institute's award-winning series *The Search*, hosted by Chris Stefanick.

Modified for teens, *The Search Begins* invites middle and high school students to consider the deepest questions of the human heart and explore the meaning and purpose of life. The series considers death, sorrow, happiness, science, and faith. It features teen commentary and shorter segments to facilitate honest conversations between teens and their youth ministers, parents, teachers, and peers.

*The Search Begins* emphasizes why a teen should care to ask life's tough questions and, ultimately, seek an answer to this most important question: Who is Jesus Christ, and how do I respond to his invitation?

### **THE SEARCH BEGINS:**

Episode 1: What Do You Seek? (23 min)

Episode 2: Who Are You? (30 min)

Episode 3: Why a God? (32 min)

Episode 4: What's Our Story? (29 min)

Episode 5: Who Is Jesus? (27 min)

Episode 6: Am I Saved? (27 min)

Episode 7: Why a Church? (36 min)

### **THE SEARCH BEGINS: LEADERS VIDEOS WITH JIM BECKMAN**

Introduction to *The Search Begins* (8 min)

The Critical Role of Parents, Testimony, and a  
Commitment Prayer (Additional Resources)

The Stages of Conversion and Discipleship  
(Additional Resources)

The Art of Conversation with Teens (17 min)

The Art of Accompaniment (17 min)

The Art of Being Led by the Holy Spirit  
(Additional Resources)



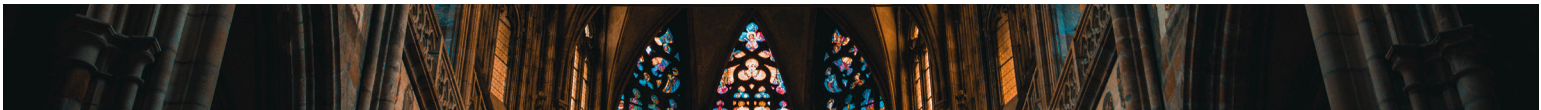
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**HOW TO USE *THE SEARCH BEGINS* IN YOUR PARISH**

- High school and middle school religious education and youth ministry
- Confirmation preparation
- Teen evangelization retreat
- Teen Advent and Lent small-group study
- Leader videos as youth catechist formation training

**Schedule**

The secret with *The Search Begins* is to allow ample time for small group discussion and conversation. The Leader Guide provides conversation starter questions after each segment within the episode and preps the leader with potential answers the teens will share.

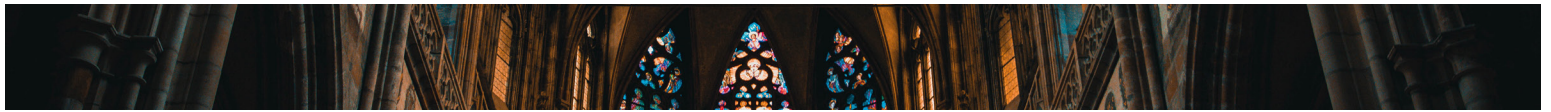
**MULTIPLE MEETINGS OPTION:**

*The Search Begins* can be facilitated over seven sessions. Here is a template for a 90-minute session:

LITURGICAL CALENDAR  
SUGGESTIONS

Confirmation preparation/retreats  
Advent, Lent  
Summer Camp for Teens  
August or September  
Fall Youth Ministry Launch

Time	Steps	Overview
5 minutes	Opening Prayer	Begin with Opening Prayer. Model how to pray for the teens.
20 minutes	Part 1 Video + Discussion	Play segment 1 and facilitate small group discussion.
20 minutes	Part 2 Video + Discussion	Play segment 2 and facilitate small group discussion.
20 minutes	Part 3 Video + Discussion	Play segment 3 and facilitate small group discussion.
5 minutes	Call to Action	Discuss and plan opportunities outside of class you can do as a group or assign as homework to allow the teens an experiential learning of the content.
15 minutes	Journal Time	Allow teens time to journal in class.
5 minutes	Closing Prayer	End with Closing Prayer.



## WEEKEND RETREAT TEMPLATE:

Friday: Evening

- Opening Session, Icebreakers, Games
- Play Episodes 1 & 2

Saturday: All Day

- Play Episode 3, 4, 5, & 6
- Offer Adoration, Confession, and a Prayer of Commitment after Episode 6

- Offer immersive activities from the Leader Guide: visit a cemetery, stargaze, visit a space museum, practice prayer, volunteer at a local hospital or nursing home

Sunday: Morning

- Play Episode 7
- Invite teen mentors to share testimonies
- Concluding prayer

# Evangelization and Parish Outreach

Invite older mentor teens to present witness testimonies prior to each session and invite them to serve as small group facilitators.

Host a Confession and adoration evening after episode six to invite teens to respond to Jesus about his invitation of love.

Create a question box and invite teens to anonymously submit their biggest questions about God, the Church, and faith throughout the series. Intentionally answer their questions at the beginning of each session.

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Invite parents and Confirmation sponsors to watch *The Search* alongside teens watching *The Search Begins*.

Godparents can lead their godchildren and friends in middle and high school.

Invite parents, volunteers, and youth catechists to watch *The Search Begins Leader's Videos* as youth catechist formation training.



Use ready-made promotional materials from **leaders.formed.org** to share *The Search Begins* in your community.

VISIT US AT:

**WATCH.FORMED.ORG/THE-SEARCH-BEGINS**

