

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible

Agenda

- A. Opening prayer *(5 min.)*
- B. Welcome/ Introductions *(5 min.)*
- C. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible “*Session One*” Introduction *(15 min.)*
- D. Introduction to the Bible *(15 min.)*
- E. Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church *(20 min.)*
- F. Overview of Class Material**
- G. View video *(30-35 min.)*
- H. Small group discussion *(30-40 min.)*
 - a. - Introductions to team
- I. Home Preparation *(5 min.)*
- J. Planned 2016 Study topics** *(3 min.)*
- K. Closing Prayer *(5 min.)*

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A. Opening Prayer – (*Psalm #25, p.589*)

B. Welcome

C. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible “*Session One*” Introduction

“To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek him, the greatest adventure.”

✦ Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible is the Starting point, p. v

✦ Session outline, p. vi

- Eight weekly class sessions
- View video (~ 35 min.)
- Small group discussion (~40-45 min.)
- Total ~ 90 minutes

✦ Materials, p. vi

✦ The Bible Timeline Chart/ timeline bookmark, p. vi-vii

✦ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), p. vii- ix

✦ Session Overview, p. 2

✦ Talk notes- to be used for notes while watching the video

D. Introduction to the Bible

 **The Bible:** Is believed to be inspired by God, it has an authority equaled to no other written source. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching.

 The **Bible** are books of “*Sacred scripture*”: which contain the truth of God’s Revelation and were composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit (*CCC #105*).

 Distribute/ review Map of the Catholic Bible handout

 The Bible contains both the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament.

 **Old Testament:** The 46 books of the Bible, which record the history of salvation from creation through the old alliance or covenant with Israel, in

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible

preparation for the appearance of Christ as Savior of the world (CCC #120–121).

There are 7 “deuterocanonical” (*Apocrypha*) books written in Greek that are included in the catholic Bible, but often omitted in Protestant Bibles (e.g. *1 and 2 Maccabees, Sirach, Wisdom (Wisdom of Solomon), Baruch, Tobit, Judith, and additions made to Daniel and Esther.*)



New Testament: The 27 books of the Bible written by the sacred authors in apostolic times, which have Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God—his life, teachings, Passion and glorification, and the beginnings of his Church—as their central theme.

The promises and mighty deeds of God in the old alliance or covenant, reported in the Old Testament, prefigure and are fulfilled in the New Covenant established by Jesus Christ, reported in the sacred writings of the New Testament (CCC #124, 128)

E. Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

✦ What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

The Catechism is divided in four parts:

- 1) The Profession of Faith (*Creed*)
- 2) The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (*Sacraments & Liturgy*)
- 3) Life in Christ (*Life in Christ*)
- 4) Christian Prayer (*Prayer*)

- ✦ The Catechism of the Catholic Church (or CCC) was promulgated (publicized) for the Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on 11 October 1992, the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.
- ✦ CCC is great resource of Understanding of what we believe.
- ✦ It's not a mere collection of doctrines.
- ✦ It provides the groundwork for understanding what we Catholics believe.
- ✦ It's the guidance of the Holy Spirit for us to understand what we believe.
- ✦ We must do everything in our power to grasp the meaning of what we believe.
- ✦ It provides the believing Catholic not only with information about what to believe.
- ✦ It also gives us an explanation of the meaning of what we believe.

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible

- ✦ This Catechism is no mere reference work that we may occasionally consult, like a standard dictionary or encyclopedia.
- ✦ This Catechism is no mere summary of religious ideas or ideals that provide a readable handbook on how Catholics think.
- ✦ Refer to the (*CCC #134- 141*).

There are five recommendations for the use of the Catechism:

- 1) **Know the Catechism:** by reading, meditating, teaching, discussing & group learning.
- 2) **Trust the Catechism:** Christ is offering the believing faithful spiritual nourishment in a world that is dying out of hunger for the truth.
- 3) **Share the Catechism:** Catechism of the Catholic Church is the masterpiece of sacred wisdom provides us with all the resources we need to meet the spiritual needs of us.
But we must be convinced that these needs are desperate, and that we have at hand the means of saving the soul of our society.
- 4) **Adapt the Catechism:** The Catechism is not simple reading. But neither is it sophisticated and out-of-touch with the vocabulary of the people. The Catechism contains all the essentials for Catholic faith, morality, and divine worship.
- 5) **Live the Catechism:** God uses holy people as channels of His grace to others. In the measure of our own union with Him. God uses humble people to give others the gift of humility. He uses chaste people as conduits of His grace of chastity; patient people to inspire patience; prayerful people to build other prayerful people.

F. Overview of Class Material

Refer to P. vii of “Student handbook”

1. Which Bible should I use?
2. How do I find a Scripture reference in my Bible?
3. What is a Bible?
4. What are the Old and New Testaments?
5. Why are the Catholic and Protestant Bibles different?

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible

6. What are the notes that appear in some Bibles?
7. Where can I find answers to my other questions about the Bible?

G. View Video

H. Small Group Discussion

Introduce of Small Group Facilitators

I. Home Preparation- looking ahead

Required Weekly Studies

- Familiar yourself with the *Bible timeline Chart*
- Answer questions on pages 7 & 8 using the timeline chart.
- Get a Bible...get away...color bible per timeline chart
- Get together with God

J. Planned 2016 Study Topics – Welcome!!

Jan 7 – Feb 25 (8 wks): *“Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible”*

Mar 3 – April 28 (8 wks): *“A Guide to Catholic Prayer”*

May 5 – Jun 2 (4 wks): *“The Mass”*

Sept 29 – Nov 17 (8 wks): *“Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother”*

K. Closing Prayer