

## Ideas for Adult Scripture Study 2018 – 2019

### Bishop Barron, Word on Fire Series

***The Mystery of God (Why He Matters)*** 7 Sessions 90 minutes each

A comprehensive look at what Christians mean by “God.” This study clarifies our understanding of God and the Trinity as “being itself.” Not one being among many. Bishop Barron specifically engages the claims of modern atheists and shows how Catholics can refute them.

***Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence*** 4 Sessions, 90 minutes each

Bishop Robert Barron offers inspiring insights into the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives. So many believers do not understand the mystery of the Eucharist, which Vatican II said is the “source and summit of the Christian life.” This fresh look at the Eucharist brings to light its reality as sacred meal, the sacrifice necessary for communion with God and the real presence of Christ. Bishop Barron offers inspiring insights into the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives and the centrality of the Eucharist as an important part of that presence.

***Conversion: Following the Call of Christ*** 6 Sessions, 90 minutes each

In this film and study program, Bishop Robert Barron illuminates six biblical stories of conversion, demonstrating how six ordinary people, just like you, were met by Jesus where they were and called to a better life through him. The common theme in each story is the turning of all one's attention and energy toward an ever deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Bishop Barron will discuss Bartimaeus, The Rich Young Man, Matthew, Jonah, The Woman at the Well, and The Journey of the Magi.

### Ascension Press

***Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism (Part One)*** 7 Sessions, 90 minutes each

Have you ever been unable to explain the “why” of Catholic beliefs? Have you ever wondered why the Old Testament sounds so different from the New Testament? In the Old Testament, God began building a plan and laying a foundation for the beautiful traditions of the Catholic Faith. That plan was fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament. *Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism Part One* is an apologetic approach to sharing the Catholic Faith using the Old Testament Tabernacle as a blueprint for God's plan. *Part One* focuses on the elements found in the outer sanctuary of the Tabernacle and how they connect to the liturgical calendar, the priesthood, purgatory, baptism, and more. *Part Two* (Coming Soon in 2018) focuses on the elements found in the inner sanctuary of the Tabernacle and how they connect to the Magisterium, the Eucharist, incense, Mary, and more.

***James: Pearls for Wise Living*** 11 Sessions, 90 minutes each

Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer cover James, one of the most practical books of the Bible. Like the book of Proverbs, it is a book of wisdom, a collection of teachings on issues faced by ordinary Christians in everyday life. These teachings speak loudly to all those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith. This study offers “pearls for wise living” by applying the wisdom of James to the present day. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances.

### Catholic Way Bible Study Lavinia Spirito, Presenter

***The Exile and The Return*** 23 Sessions, 2 hours each

For many the Exile to Babylon is unmitigated disaster. Yet throughout, God speaks to His People with words of reassurance and comfort. Further, on their return to Israel, the Jews rebuild on stronger foundations. See Daniel prophesy and Esther deliver her people, participate in the adventures of Tobit and Judith, stand by as Ezra and Nehemiah rebuild the nation, and finally witness the heroic struggle of the Maccabees. The lessons learned by these holy men and women apply to us now. The main lesson is: God is faithful and will never abandon those who trust in Him.

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### ***Romans and Galatians*** 23 Sessions, 2 hours each

Romans is Paul's masterpiece and is one of the most important books in the New Testament. It is a compendium of teaching on areas such as justification, salvation, atonement, as well as practical components of everyday Christian living. In Galatians Paul continues and expands his message given to the Romans. The answer to the question, "Are you saved?" becomes clearer as our understanding of justification and sanctification grow. Through this study we learn some basic truths of our faith and how to apply them to our lives.

### **Little Rock Scripture Study**

#### ***Hail Mary, Holy Bible*** 5 Sessions, 90 minutes each

Nothing enriches the contemplation of the mysteries of the rosary like encountering them at their source in Sacred Scripture. Five Scripture passages from the New Testament are explored for each set of the rosary's mysteries: the Joyful, the Sorrowful, the Luminous, and the Glorious.

#### ***Isaiah*** 13 Sessions, 90 minutes each

The study set includes the Study Guide by Clifford M. Yeary and Catherine Upchurch, and the New Collegeville Bible Commentary by Leslie J. Hoppe. In the Bible, the primary role of the prophet is to speak for God, to see and hear as God sees and hears, and then to pronounce words of correction and hope. In Isaiah, we encounter God's accusation against Israel; the holiness of God; hope for a messianic king; oracles against foreign nation; prophecies of restoration; and challenges for exiles returning to their homeland. The book of Isaiah is quoted in the New Testament more often than any other Old Testament writing other than the Psalms.

#### ***Good News in New Places*** 9 Sessions, 90 minutes each

The Study Set includes the Study Guide by Clifford M. Yeary and a commentary by Jerome Crowe. One of the most momentous events in Church history occurred in New Testament times, when the apostles and church leaders met in Jerusalem and admitted non-Jews into fellowship without insisting on circumcision of their men. Until that time faith in Jesus as Messiah and Savior was limited to a Jewish movement known as The Way. In this study, the biblical events and the leaping of seemingly insurmountable cultural divisions that made Christianity a religion in its own right are explored in depth. Follow the early disciples as they emerge from their stunning loss in the tragic death of their leader into spirit-filled witnesses to the glory of his resurrection. How can this message of a crucified and risen messiah to the Jews become a faith that will be embraced by non-Jews around the world?

### **Book Studies, Word Among Us (No DVDs, I can do a Presentation)**

#### ***Believe: Meeting Jesus in the Scriptures*** 8 Session, 90 minutes each

When people "chew" on the word of God through dynamic discussions of the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit reveals the person of Jesus. The sessions focus on episodes when Jesus changed people's lives. The questions that follow are designed to spark discussion and allow each person to consider how the story applies to his or her own life. Weekly spiritual exercises between sessions help participants meet Christ in both prayer and the sacraments. Also included are detailed "how-to" guides for both facilitators and participants.

#### ***Seven Last Words of Christ, Study of Christ's Passion*** 9 Sessions, 90 minutes each

Readers can study the seven short sentences uttered by Jesus as he endured his crucifixion and be drawn closer to Jesus' Passion so that the real meaning of Easter comes alive! The Emmaus Journey Bible Study series invites small faith-sharing groups to explore the Scriptures and allowing God's word to more deeply penetrate their hearts.

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***The Words of the Risen Christ, Study of Christ's Resurrection*** 9 Sessions, 90 minutes each

What did the risen Christ say to his followers when he appeared to them, and what do his words say to us, as followers of the risen Christ, today? In this Emmaus Journey Bible study, popular author Rich Cleveland delves into the significance of Jesus' resurrection appearances. His final words, such as "Go make disciples" and "Do you love me?" set the tone for each of the sessions, and are the launching pad to explore such themes as community, reconciliation, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the call to evangelization. Each session features the Scripture text, a commentary, a series of reflection questions, and a call to action. A perfect follow-up to Cleveland's popular study on Jesus' passion, *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, this study is designed for individuals or small faith-sharing groups.

### **Book Studies, Other (No DVDs, I can do a Presentation)**

***Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission, John Wood*** 8 Sessions, 90 minutes each

These are difficult times for the Catholic Church and the United States of America. There is only one solution to the problems we face... saints! Becoming a saint is a choice, and we must begin choosing the saint within each of us. The biggest crisis of our time is not economic, health care, or vocations, but is an identity crisis. We have forgotten our mission to become saints and forgotten our story as Catholics. We must rediscover that mission and hold each other accountable to accepting responsibility for that mission. Business as usual is not going to cut it. We need heroic Catholicism. Everything we need to accomplish our mission is in the Church... but the Catholic Church is a sleeping giant. It is time we wake the sleeping giant! This book is a five step guide to choosing the saint within you. The world

***Seven Secrets of Confession, Vinny Flynn*** 8 Sessions, 90 minutes each

Flynn, author of the best-seller, *7 Secrets of the Eucharist* (100,000 copies sold), presents a similar approach to the Sacrament of Confession in this new book that reveals 7 key secrets or hidden truths about the great spiritual beauty, power and depth of Confession. The understanding that many Catholics have of the Sacrament of Confession is so limited and narrow in its focus that it keeps them from discovering the real beauty and value of this Sacrament beauty and value that even a young child can understand if it is presented properly. For too many Catholics, Confession is just a means to an end: cleaning us up from sin so we can receive Communion. But, as Pope Francis tells us, Confession is much more than "going to the dry cleaner." Its "an encounter with Jesus, who waits for us as we are.

**I AM PLANNING FOR THE STUDY BELOW, AND CATHOLICISM 101 TOPICS THROUGH ON-LINE SYMBOLON, FOR SEPARATE PROGRAMS DURING 2018 -2019. THEY WILL PROBABLY BE "LUNCH & LEARN" ON SUNDAY AFTER 11AM MASS.**

***Ascension Press: Epic: A Journey Through Church History*** 20 Sessions, 90 minutes each

Presented by Steve Weidenkopf, this series takes you through the major people, places, and events that make up the history of the Catholic Church. See the glory of the Church founded by Christ and understand where you fit into this Epic story. As Catholics, we are heirs to a remarkable heritage. The history of our Faith is so much more than a list of facts and dates. It is a fascinating story of adventure, rebellion, tragedy, and triumph. A story 2,000 years in the making, one word best describes Catholic history – Epic! *A Journey through Church History* is a captivating and fast-paced look at the story of the Catholic Church. Beginning with the lives of the apostles all the way up to the present day, Epic takes the immense history of the Church and simplifies it into twelve, color-coded time periods. In the course of twenty sessions, participants learn about the major people, places, and events that comprise the captivating story of Christianity. This Study provides participants with an understanding of Church history that enables them to have a greater sense of meaning and identity as Catholics.

**I WOULD LOVE YOUR OPINIONS AND SELECTIONS! CONTACT ME AT [judyb@st-mm.com](mailto:judyb@st-mm.com) . PRAYERS, JUDY**