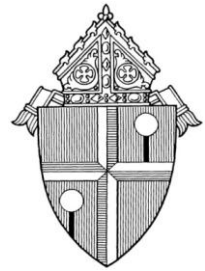


# Office of Religious Education

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## 107: Sacred Scripture

### FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

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#### Catechist Session I: Prepare for the Journey

Order booklets from RCL Benziger at <http://www.rclbenziger.com> or contact the Office of Religious Education.

Distribute *The Scriptures*

Pray together using prayer on page 8.

Explain: The Scriptures explores the central themes and the message of the Bible. It explains what the Bible is and why it is considered the holy book of the Christian community. It introduces some of the foundational stories of the Bible. The module concludes with a reflection on Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the fullness of God's saving action. It also describes the activity of the disciples as they began to spread Jesus' message beyond Palestine after his Resurrection.

Let's take a look at your booklet. Each of the four segments in this module is divided into two parts. For example, in the first segment, part 1 is covered on pages 11 - 13 and part 2 is covered on pages 14 - 18.

Here is an overview of all four segments:

#### 1. What Is the Bible?

Part 1: The Word of God

Part 2: The Formation of the Scriptures

#### 2. Why Is the Bible Holy?

Part 1: Canon and Context

Part 2: Biblical Inspiration

#### 3. What's In the Bible?

Part 1: Exodus and Exile

Part 2: The Story of God's People

#### 4. Jesus: The Alpha and the Omega

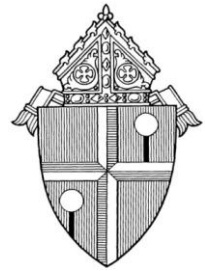
Part 1: Fulfillment of God's Promise

Part 2: Proclaiming the Good News

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As you work with this module you will need your own Bible close at hand. If you need to purchase a Bible, you will find advice on page 47 to guide you. If you need help looking up Bible passages, the guide on page 46 will assist you.

Activity and Discussion: Use pages 6 - 7. *This is an important step in getting to know each other before getting into deeper faith sharing.*

*After discussion, tell catechists that they will be given two weeks to view the CD and answer all the questions in the booklet.*

### Catechist Session II: Discussion

*Note: Remember that the CD that comes with the booklet can only be read on a computer. If your parish does not have a computer that can be connected to a project and external speakers, you will need to borrow **The Scriptures** DVD from the Office of Religious Education. The DVD format may be played on a TV/DVD combination.*

Greet catechists.

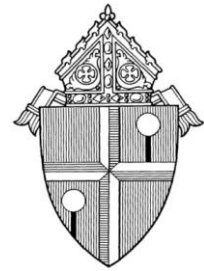
Play video. Stop at the end of each section and have catechists discuss their responses to the questions as a whole group.

Point out the Lectio Divina prayer form on pages 48 – 49 and encourage catechists to incorporate this discipline into their prayer lives.

End the session with the *Heritage of Faith* prayer on page 41.

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Page 1

## 107: Sacred Scripture

### ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Instructions:

View your ENTIRE booklet, guided by the compact disc located on the back page. The CD works only in a computer, not in a DVD player. Write your answers to all questions, paying particular attention to the following:

#### Segment 1: What is the Bible?

##### Part 1: The Word of God

Page 13

- Describe a Scripture reading proclaimed at liturgy that had a powerful effect on you.
- Draw an image that symbolizes the influence the Bible has had in your life. Along the outline of the image, write several words or phrases that describe the God you have come to know through Scriptures.
- The Bible provides an ethical code to live by. What part of God's law is written, as the Book of Proverbs says, on the "tablet of your heart" (Proverbs 7:3)?

##### Part 2: The Formation of the Scriptures

Page 15

- The process of the formation of Sacred Scriptures is described by the five elements named below. Under each of these headings, describe your understanding of the meaning of that element.

EVENT

ORAL TRADITION

WRITING

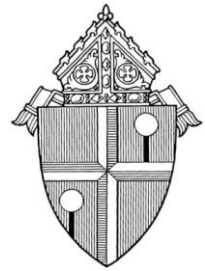
EDITING AND REDACTION

CANON

- In what ways did John Leal's work of constructing his family history help you to understand the significance of various literary forms in the Bible?
- Once has to consider the whole message of Sacred Scripture to understand its true meaning. What do each of the following different

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Page 2

- d. kinds of passages reveal to you about David? In what ways would the picture of David be incomplete if you looked at only one of these passages?

Reporting: Samuel 17:31-50 (David and Goliath)

Prophecy: Samuel 7:1-17 (God's covenant with David)

Hymn: Psalm 25 (Prayer to God for guidance attributed to David)

*How Did the Bible Come to Be?* Page 17 – 18

- a. What insights did you gain from this article about the formation of the Scriptures?  
b. What area in the formation of the Scriptures would you like to know more about?

## Segment 2. Why Is the Bible Holy?

Part 1: Canon and Context

Page 21

- a. When considering the context of a Scripture passage, remember that the formation of the Scriptures was a 2,000-year process. Compare and contrast some things you know about biblical times with today's world. Why is it important to understand these similarities and differences?

BIBLICAL TIMES

TODAY

- b. If you were speaking today like a biblical prophet, what critique would you make about aspects of today's culture that are consistent with your understanding of the word of God?

Part 2: Biblical Inspiration

Page 23

- a. Complete the chart to tell how the Habitat for Humanity project helps you to understand how the Bible was formed under God's inspiration.

THE BIBLE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

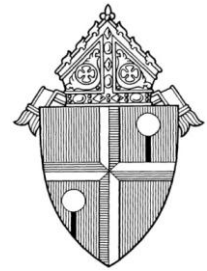
Inspired by God's vision

Responds to a human need

Communicates how to live God's vision

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Page 3

- b. What do you communicate by the way you use Sacred Scripture in prayer, your classroom, and in your home?

## Segment 3: What's In the Bible

### Part 1: Exodus and Exile

Page 29

- a. Why do you think scholars call the story of the Exodus from Egypt the master story of Sacred Scriptures?
- b. Name some recent newspaper headlines that describe people or groups who are still enslaved by their choices or the events of their lives. Then identify some other stories that show people who are trying to liberate others from these kinds of situations. Make two lists in the space below.

STORIES OF SLAVERY

STORIES OF FREEDOM

### Part 2: The Story of God's People

Page 31

- a. Describe the central message of the Sacred Scripture as if you were speaking to someone with little or no knowledge of the Bible.
- b. The Christian tradition uses the image of the crossing of the Red Sea to describe the significance of the death and Resurrection of Jesus. What is the relationship between these two events?

Page 32: *Looking Beyond* activity

- a. What did I learn?
- b. What will I change?

## Segment 4: Jesus: The Alpha and the Omega

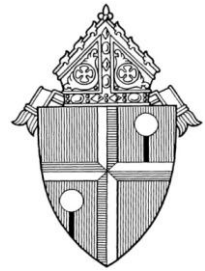
### Part 1: Fulfillment of God's Promise

Page 37

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Page 4

- a. In the Gospels, Jesus calls all people to conversion. It can be a dramatic event, but often is a gradual and ongoing turning toward God. Reflecting on your own life, describe three moments that have been moments of conversion for you.
- b. Jesus announced the reign of God. What is your understanding of this biblical concept? Express your thoughts in words or images.

Page 39

- a. Look up and read one or more of the following three passages from the New Testament depicting the preaching or writings of the early disciples of Jesus. Then comment on what each of them did to inspire others to conversion.
  - i. Acts 2:22-41 (Peter's Speech at Pentecost)
  - ii. Acts 17: 16 – 31 (Paul Preaches against Idols)
  - iii. Romans 8:28-39 (God's Indomitable Love in Christ)

Page 40 *Looking Beyond* activity

- a. What did I learn?
- b. What will I change?