

Journey Through Scripture

PAROUSIA

The

BIBLE

and the

MASS

LEADER GUIDE



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WELCOME TO JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Journey Through Scripture is the St. Paul Center's dynamic Bible study program designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of Scripture while deepening their understanding of the riches of our faith. Distinctively Catholic, Journey Through Scripture reads the Bible from the heart of the Church, considering both the Old and New Testaments and how they work together. It's grounded in history, yet it actively engages topics faced by today's Catholics. More than just an ordinary Bible study, it's biblical catechesis.

Parousia: The Bible and the Mass is the fifth study in the Journey Through Scripture series. In ten beautifully produced lessons, you will learn that liturgy is not a matter of a few select verses taken in isolation. It's a major theme that runs through the entire Bible, from Genesis to the Book of Revelation. During this study, we'll make stops along the way—in the Law, the Prophets, the Histories, and the Writings. We'll see how the New Testament is concealed in the Old—and how the Old is revealed in the New.

We'll discover that all of God's action, in creation and redemption, is ordered to communion with us in the Eucharist. The Mass is the explicit sign of his New Covenant with humankind.

Study Components

Parousia: The Bible and the Mass is designed for both group and individual study. It contains seven possible components, all of which can be ordered at JourneyThroughScripture.com.



- This Leader Guide
- *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass* Study Guide
- *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass* DVD set or video streaming

This study is based on four of Dr. Scott Hahn's books that have Eucharistic themes and are recommended reading for the study:

- *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*
- *Letter and Spirit: From Written Text to Living Word in the Liturgy*
- *Consuming the Word: The New Testament and the Eucharist in the Early Church*
- *The Fourth Cup: Unveiling the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross*

These books are available for purchase at JourneyThroughScripture.com.

HOW TO USE THIS LEADER GUIDE

This leader guide will serve as just that—your resource to guide the participants through the study, giving you step-by-step directives. This guide contains information intended only for the leader with cross-referenced pages to the study guide. The information that is not necessarily communicated to participants is under the heading  **LEADER NOTE**. The suggested text you can use for sharing information with participants is found under the heading  **LEADER SAYS**.

At the end of every lesson, you will see a “Going Deeper” section with suggested readings from Sacred Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and Dr. Hahn’s titles mentioned on the previous page to enrich your study. Also included is a “praxis” section, which is a practical application of the content in the lesson or an exercise to practice when attending Mass.

The Leader Guide includes additional pdf files to help you in the study. This includes an editable poster, bulletin announcement to promote the study, and also a Common Prayer handout for your participants.

TIPS FOR LEADING JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Pray: The first step when undertaking any Catholic Bible study is always prayer. Ask the Lord how He wants to use you for this study. Who does He want you to invite? He could be simply asking you to lead your family in the comfort of your living room or perhaps to lead a parish Bible study. Whatever the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do, pray and ask others to pray with you, for you, and for your participants.

Bible study setting: Determining the setting for your study is key. A parish study is ideal to grow in fellowship within your faith community. It is also conducive to a larger number of participants. Home studies, on the other hand, may present opportunities to welcome participants who would otherwise never attend a parish study, providing a more intimate setting. Whether the study takes place in a parish or at home, make it convenient, comfortable, and welcoming so that people will want to stay and participate.

Consider hosting a virtual study. Many participants may find it hard to physically attend a study. With today’s technology, participants can gather virtually. Inquire about streaming options at customerservice@stpaulcenter.com.

Marketing: To help spread the word about the study, this supplement also includes marketing materials. You will find editable posters as well as bulletin blurbs in the provided PDFs.

Purchasing Study guides: To inquire about parish discounts or orders of twenty study guides or more, email us at CustomerService@StPaulCenter.com. Consider shipping delivery options when placing your order. It helps to order study guides at least ten days before the beginning of your study to ensure you receive them on time.

Participants can also purchase their own study guide online. Go to JourneyThroughScripture.com.

Welcome

Preparation: Take some time before each lesson to prepare by reading through the notes so you're familiar with the lesson's content. If possible, preview the video lesson and go over the summary and review questions in advance.

Preparation doesn't just include *personal* preparation, though. It's also wise to check your equipment ahead of time to make sure everything is working smoothly before people arrive. For hosting virtual studies, this may mean making sure your internet connection is strong, and that you and your participants are familiar with how you will connect with each other when doing the study.

Small Groups: Breaking up into small groups for discussion following the video presentation is ideal for large Bible study groups. The review and discussion questions at the end of each lesson provide good material for such groups. If you are limited on time, focus on the discussion questions, as these provide the most food for thought for participants.

To facilitate the small group discussions, select extroverted individuals for each of the groups. However, you want them to be facilitators, not moderators—this means keeping the conversation on track and making sure that everyone who wants to contribute can do so.

Fellowship: For in-person studies, plan some social time in with each session and, if possible, include refreshments. Snacks do not need to be elaborate or expensive. There is something quasi-sacramental about eating together: it is a family activity and, gathered as the Church, that's what we are. This also affords participants an opportunity to get to know each other, which is a very valuable and, in some areas, difficult-to-achieve part of parish life.

Name Tags: Providing name tags is especially important for the first few sessions when people are getting to know each other.

Start on Time: This sets the tone for the study and honors those who arrive on time. Leaders are encouraged to linger after the session is over to give more introverted individuals a chance to ask questions.

Bible: Encourage participants to bring a Bible to the study. Journey Through Scripture uses the Revised Standard Version Second Catholic Edition for all Scripture references that are not directly from the Liturgy.

Sample Journey Through Scripture Session

Journey Through Scripture is intended to be a very flexible study. It can be an individual study for personal enrichment or a faith-building exercise with friends or fellow parishioners. Below is an example of how a typical session might run:

Amount of Time	Section
5 minutes	Opening Prayer
25–30 minutes	Video
10 minutes	Break
10–15 minutes	Review questions (omit if running short on time)
10–15 minutes	Discussion questions
5 minutes	Review of memory verse and “Going Deeper”
1 minute	Closing prayer

From here on, all leader information in this guide will be printed in green. All text that is printed in black is identical to what your participants see in their Study Guide (see Leader Guide–Study Guide page cross-referencing).

Lesson 1

BIBLICAL WORSHIP IS RITUAL AND SACRIFICE

LEADER RESOURCES

LEADER NOTE

Opening Prayer and Introduction

At the beginning of the first session, introduce yourself and then open in prayer. If you are not comfortable praying in your own words, you can use the prayer written below. Each lesson has an opening and closing prayer written out for your use.

LEADER SAYS

Opening Prayer

“Heavenly Father, we thank you for calling us here to study your Word and how you meant for this Word to be read and lived out in the Sacred Liturgy. As we commence this study, we ask for the assistance of your Holy Spirit to guide us on the way as we learn to read the Sacred Page in its intended context, the Mass. We ask this in your Son’s name as we pray: Our Father . . .”

Welcome

“Welcome to our first lesson of *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass*. This Journey Through Scripture study is unique in that Dr. Hahn will be leading us throughout and demonstrating for us the biblical roots of the Liturgy. What we will discover is that the Bible is a liturgical book! Beginning with Genesis and culminating in the Book of Revelation, we will discover how all of God’s action, in creation and redemption, is ordered to communion with us in the Eucharist. The Mass is the explicit sign of his New Covenant with humankind.

“This study is a part of Journey Through Scripture, a Catholic Bible study series from the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, an apostolate dedicated to teaching Catholics how to read Sacred Scripture from the heart of the Church. Though it’s focused on Catholic doctrine and teaching, everyone—Catholic or non-Catholic—is welcome. In fact, we encourage you to invite friends to come with you.”

Introduction to the Lesson Order

“Before we begin the video and start the study, I want to quickly go over the basic flow for the study and review what’s in your study guide so that you know what to expect as we go through it.

“We will always begin each lesson with an opening prayer to ask God to send us assistance from above to open our hearts and minds to take in the study. Here is a handout of common prayers

Lesson 1

that we will be reciting throughout the study (give Prayer handout).”

“In each lesson, you’ll first see a section titled, “The Saints and Eucharist.” These are quotes from saints who lived Eucharistic lives and are included here for your devotional enrichment. Right below, you will see the Scripture verses discussed in the lesson.

“Next is the lesson’s summary, organized by the major themes covered to assist you in retaining the content. Participants find this helpful as it keeps them focused on viewing the lesson and not on taking copious notes.

“Each one of the videos is about 15–20 minutes long. After the video is finished, we’ll break into groups and go over the review and discussion questions. You’ll also notice there is a suggested memory verse for each lesson, as well as a “Going Deeper” section. This is suggested additional reading to enrich your study experience. The “Praxis” section is a practical application of what is learned in the lesson. Then we will close with prayer. Feel free to linger after the study to continue fellowship.

Lesson Introduction

“We are about ready to begin our first session. And Dr. Hahn will begin with the question he would ask his high school friends: “Where is the Mass in the Bible?” This first lesson will set the stage for the rest of the study as we begin exploring liturgy and its significance throughout the entire Scriptures. Let’s begin.”

LEADER NOTE

Start video. When video is complete, refer to the next leader note.

Lesson 1

BIBLICAL WORSHIP IS RITUAL AND SACRIFICE



THE SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

“SINCE WE ARE members of Him, and are nourished by creation—and He Himself holds the creation, causing the sun to rise and rain to fall as he wishes—so He professed that the cup from creation was His very own blood. He affirmed the bread from creation to be His very body from which our bodies grow.”

– St. Irenaeus of Lyons (ca. 130–202)

Scripture Verses Discussed in Lesson 1

- Genesis 4:3–8
- Genesis 8:20–22
- Genesis 15:9–21
- Exodus 12:1–28

LESSON 1 SUMMARY *(Study Guide pg. 8)*

Where is the Mass in the Bible?

As a zealous Evangelical high schooler, Scott Hahn would challenge his Catholic classmates with this question: “Where in the New Testament do you find the sacrifice of the Mass?” Not having a clear understanding of Scripture, his classmates could not refute Scott’s question and some became convinced that their Catholic faith had no biblical foundations.

It would be years later that Scott would come to understand the true meaning of Christ’s words and actions in the Upper Room and on Calvary. He discovered that the Mass was everywhere in the Bible and that the Bible was all about the Mass.

Liturgy in the Old Testament

Biblical commentary by early Church Fathers guided Scott to better understand the unity of Scripture. “The New Testament is concealed in the Old and the Old Testament is revealed in the New” was the adage of St. Augustine.

In both the Old and New Testament, the Scriptures *presume*, *prescribe*, and *describe* the ritual life of God’s people. The Bible gives both the content and the context of the liturgy, even as the liturgy provides our context for understanding the Scriptures.

What is liturgy? Liturgy is public service or public work. It is the ritual public worship observed by the people of God both in the Old and in the New Testament.



In the Book of Genesis the cosmos is portrayed as a sanctuary for God’s presence, echoed later by the characteristics of Israel’s tabernacle and Temple. The culmination of creation is when God creates man, namely Adam and Eve. As lord over creation, Adam is given the duties of priest of the sanctuary of Eden, to “till [the garden] and keep it” (Gen 2:15). These two actions, *abad* and *shamar* in Hebrew, are his main vocation. But after the Fall, worship and sacrifice change. Adam’s son Cain, filled with envy, kills his own brother Abel in the context of a ritual sacrifice.

Indeed, in Genesis we see the patriarchs performing sacrifices, from Noah in an act of thanksgiving after the flood to Abraham sealing his covenant oaths. As head of their households, fathers perform priestly duties, offering sacrifice for themselves and on behalf of their families, and passing that duty on to their first-born sons. The patriarchs are priests, and liturgy is central to the religion they observe.

Liturgy is also at the heart of Israel's Exodus from Egypt. As part of their liberation from bondage, God's people observe the Passover ritual, which was instituted as a memorial meal to be observed by future generations. The law of Moses is itself liturgical, instructing Israel in the manner of worship, detailing even vestments and furnishings.

Even entering the Promised Land requires liturgical action from the tribes of Israel. The battle of Jericho is led not by military force but by priestly action, processing around the city blowing trumpets. Once they are settled and at rest from their enemies, God asks David's son, Solomon, to build Him a house, a temple in Jerusalem where sacrifice may be offered to Him daily.

When prophets begin to rage against the Temple priests, it is not because liturgy or the priesthood is the problem. The problem, as always, is the human heart. It is liturgy done badly and dishonestly, and this is the core of Israel's downfall.

Liturgy in the New Testament

The centrality of liturgy does not vanish with the coming of the Messiah. Jesus observes the rituals of Israel. He goes to synagogue, makes pilgrimages, visits the Temple, and pays the Temple tax. He does not abolish liturgy but instead establishes new and more powerful rites in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist celebrated in the Upper Room in the context of a Passover. It is a memorial meal where He is the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, offering His flesh and blood in atonement for sins.

So too, the early Church, learning from her Lord, leads a rich liturgical life. The Acts of the Apostles and other New Testament books include accounts of the Apostles observing rituals: they baptize, break bread, anoint, and lay hands on people. They absolve sins and observe ritual meals. In the Letters to the Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians, St. Paul addresses proper etiquette for meals shared in the presence of God. The Letter to the Hebrews and the Book of Revelation are more focused on the liturgy, portraying the Christian Church as priestly, worshipping around an altar vested for service. All the Scriptures, the Old and New Testament, were written down for the sake of ritual worship.



LEADER NOTE

Take a short break at the end of the video and then begin the review and discussion questions. If your group is large, break them up into appropriately sized groups (6–10 people). Explain the purpose of the review questions (see below) and let them know how long you have set aside for this section.

Brief answers to the review questions are listed below so you can help along any group that may not be able to answer a particular question. If you are running short on time, skip the review questions and move on to the discussion questions.

LEADER SAYS

“The review questions on page 11 are exactly that: a review of the material from the video. If you were listening closely, Scott Hahn discussed the answer to each of these questions in the lesson segment. See if you can answer them in the lesson summary.”

REVIEW QUESTIONS *(Study Guide pg. 11)*

1. What is a liturgy?
Liturgy is public work or public service.
2. Give two examples of ritual sacrifice in the Old Testament.
Abel’s acceptable sacrifice, Noah’s sacrifice after the flood, Abraham’s ritual sealing God’s covenant oath, the sacrifice of the Passover lamb, the sacrifices offered in the Jerusalem Temple.
3. What ritual actions do we see the Apostles observing in Scripture?
Baptisms, breaking bread, anointing, laying hands, absolving sin.
4. What unique themes do we see in both the Letter to the Hebrews and the Book of Revelation?
These two writings portray the Church as priestly and its rituals as offerings. There are altars, priests, special vestments and furnishings for ritual, and also language of atonement.

 **LEADER NOTE**

Once your participants have completed the review questions, move on to the discussion questions. Tell them how long they have to answer these and then tell them the difference between the review and discussion questions.

 **LEADER SAYS**

“While there are specific answers to the review questions that come directly from the lesson materials in the video, the discussion questions are different. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions are meant to spur a conversation between the people in the group.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS *(Study Guide pg. 12)*

1. Is there anything in this lesson that you have just heard for the first time? Is there anything in this lesson that struck you?

2. Why is it important for Christians to understand the meaning of Old Testament ritual and sacrifice to fully understand the Mass?

3. If someone were to ask you where the Mass is in the Bible, how would you summarize what you've learned in this lesson?

LEADER NOTE

Memory Verse and “Going Deeper”

Before dismissing the participants, please point out the memory verse for this lesson on page 13, as well as the “Going Deeper” reading and praxis.

LEADER SAYS

Closing Prayer

“Our Father in heaven, we give you praise because from the beginning, you show us in the act of creation your intention to be in communion with humanity through worship. Continue to enkindle our hearts at every Mass. Glory be to the Father . . .”

This Lesson’s Memory Verse

“SO THOSE WHO received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they held steadfastly to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.”

– Acts 2:41–42

GOING DEEPER

Supplemental Reading

- *Letter and Spirit*, chapters 1–2
- *The Fourth Cup*, chapter 2

Praxis

The next time you attend Mass, listen closely for liturgical and sacrificial language. If you find it helpful, take a pad and pen to write them down.



Lesson 2

COVENANT AND COMMUNION

LEADER RESOURCES

LEADER SAYS

Opening Prayer

“Loving Father, we thank you for once again allowing us to come together to break open your word. We pray that it enkindles our hearts and illumines our minds to see your plan for communion with us through your New and eternal covenant. We call on the assistance of the Holy Spirit to be our guide as we pray: Come Holy Spirit . . .” (refer to “Common Prayers” handout.)

LEADER SAYS

Lesson Introduction

“Last time, if you recall, we began the study by looking at liturgy and how it is woven throughout Scripture, both in the Old and the New Testament. Feel free to review the lesson summary on page 16 for a more detailed refresher. In this session, we’ll focus on the meaning of covenant and its relationship to liturgy. We will see how Christ fulfills all the covenants in the Old Testament by establishing a New and everlasting Covenant in a liturgical setting for the sake of communion.

LEADER NOTE

Start video.