



Relationship with GOD

More than Just SUNDAY

Why read the Bible?

The Bible is the revealed Word of God. The main point of Sacred Scripture is that God loves each person in a profound and unconditional way. The “proof” of God’s love is shown through Christ Jesus. In other words, God created us to be united with Him in a relationship of love. Even though Adam and Eve, our first parents, separated themselves from God through their free choice to reject Him, Jesus gave His life for us on the Cross and rose from the dead so that our sins may be forgiven and we are brought back into union with God. Let’s take a closer look.

God and Creation

The Bible is a collection of books from various time periods by various human authors who were inspired by God to write what He revealed to them. In the Bible God reveals to us that He is a communion of Persons: God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In the book of Genesis, we understand that God created us in an act of total love. He created us to be in relationship with Him, to be united with Him through sanctifying grace. (Gen. 1:26-27)

Sanctifying grace is a participation in God’s life; God dwelling within our soul.

Original Sin

In an act of disobedience, Adam and Eve turned away from God, separating themselves from Him through the loss of His grace. (Genesis 3:1-7) We inherit the transmission of original sin from our first parents and therefore are born without sanctifying grace. We are in need of redemption in order to be reunited with the Blessed Trinity. For all eternity God knew how we would disobey Him and He had a plan to reunite us with Himself. The Father promised Adam and Eve a Savior. (Genesis 3:15)

The Old Testament relates how God’s plan gradually unfolds. God chose specific persons to be the leaders in the process of gathering a community, the formation of a Chosen People so that they would receive and accept this Savior.

Abraham

The first of these leaders was Abraham. God called Abraham to leave his father’s house and to take his family and travel to the land that He would show him. (Genesis 12:1-3) Abraham believed God and so took his family, walking twelve hundred miles until he reached the

Promised Land of Canaan. God made three promises or covenants with Abraham that would be fulfilled later through Moses, David and finally in Jesus. The Covenant fulfilled through Jesus was that through Him “all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” It was through the line of Abraham that God would keep His promise and send the Savior to unite all of His children in the family of God, the Catholic Church.

Moses

The Chosen People settled in Egypt because of famines and were there for 400 years. Eventually, the Israelites became slaves and cried out to God for deliverance. After 10 plagues, the Pharaoh finally allowed Moses to lead the people out of Egypt and return to the Promised Land of Israel. (Exodus 7-12) While in the desert, God gave Moses the Ten Words – laws of love to help the people live an ordered life, seeking to protect them from harm and to remain close to Him, the one true God. (Exodus 20:1-17)

David

After many years, David, the shepherd boy who knew the Lord and would write Psalms as songs of praise to Him, was made king. It was King David’s desire to build a temple in Jerusalem for the Ark of