

Resources for *Engaging with Sacred Scripture* in Catholic Schools

I. The Chosen: Scripture Reflections & Discussion Questions

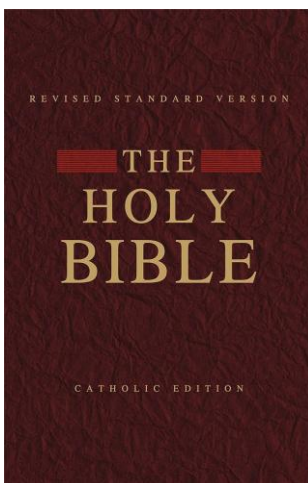
Each session includes the length of time for watching each part of an Episode, a summary, Scripture reflections and discussion questions. These resources were developed for 8th grade through high school and adults. The results of piloting these resources over two years, in the way that worked best with the students and the time that was available, was that the young people began to take a much greater interest in the Scripture readings. Feel free to use the resources as you think will work the best. The resources are found here: diolc.org/catechesis/the-chosen-scripture-reflections/

Note: For many of the sessions, there is an 8-10 min YouTube clips of the main part that works well with students younger than 8th grade. On the webpage, a star (*) signifies that part or all of the episode is appropriate for younger children.

II. Praying with Scripture (*Lectio Divina*) using a simple prayer worksheet

Lectio Divina, which is Latin for Divine Reading, is a way of praying with Scripture in which we encounter the Person of Christ. In praying with a Bible passage, we have a privileged meeting place with Jesus. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 2708) To download the “Praying with Scripture Prayer worksheet with simple instructions”, visit diolc.org/catechesis/catechist-training-resources-for-teaching/praying-with-scripture/

In praying with a Scripture passage, the progression that takes place is not a technique but a way that incorporates the natural development of a relationship between two friends. This way of praying with the Word of God is also not a method of human invention but derives from the way that God has touched and drawn human hearts into relationship with Himself down through the ages. It happens automatically as we sincerely spend time with the Word of God. An awareness and understanding of the progression can help our participation in it. For a short article about *Praying with Scripture: Deepening Our Relationship with Jesus*, and the “Praying with Scripture prayer worksheet” visit diolc.org/catechesis/catechist-training-resources-for-teaching/praying-with-scripture/.



A simple variation is to read a Scripture passage three times (one time silently) and have students write down what stood out for them and why. Start with passages with people.

III. **Starting with the Gospel of Luke, read through a Gospel, one passage at a time** (or one Chapter at a time) and discuss the following:

- What are Jesus' thoughts in the passage?
- Identify a character trait(s) and
- His goodness
- His point of view
- His way of dealing with people
- His way of dealing with events.

IV. ***The Story of All Stories: A Story Bible for Young Catholics* by Emily Stimpson Chapman published by Word on Fire**

Enter into the most important tale of all: the true story of God's love for you. Experience the wonder and excitement of salvation history through Emily Stimpson Chapman's compelling storytelling. Each chapter is accompanied by the voices of the Church—saints, popes, and Church Fathers—which highlight how every Bible story is a thread in the great tapestry of God's redemption. Available from *Word on Fire* for \$40. *The Story of All Stories* is for ages 7-13. Visit bookstore.wordonfire.org/the-story-of-all-stories

V. ***Encounter: The Bible Timelines for Middle School* by Ascension Press**
***Venture: The Bible Timeline for High School* Online Course**

Encounter is a Catholic Bible study designed specifically for grades 6 to 8. Using the color-coded *Bible Timeline* Learning System, each session of *Encounter* reveals the story of our faith and God's plan for our lives. This captivating program guides students toward a powerful encounter with God. As your students are drawn into this story, they will come to a new and profound understanding of who God is. Most importantly, they will come to know God as a loving Father who desires a meaningful and lasting encounter with them. Authored and led by Mark Hart and includes other presenters.

There are 8 sessions in the Encounter Bible Timeline
ascensionpress.com/pages/program/encounter

Venture: Over 8 engaging sessions, high schoolers will learn how their faith will become an indispensable part of their lives through learning the story of salvation history—from Genesis to Revelation—with a focus on God's covenants and Biblical characters. Visit ascensionpress.com/products/venture

VI. Introduction and Reflection on Twelve Scripture Sayings of Jesus

Spend a few minutes with a saying. These sayings are referred to as maxims.

- Write down what this maxim means to you?
- What comes to mind as you read over the saying?
- How can this saying be helpful with guiding your actions?
- How does it speak into the choices you need to make about your closest relationships and the actions you will undertake today?
- Come to know the saying “by heart.”
- Another strategy: Each maxim can be pasted, carved, or written on little wooden boards, shaped like a stone tablet, so that students can hold them and reflect on them. Then, randomly chose a maxim from the box and suggest to a student — as you hand it to them — that, “Maybe God wants you to read this today.”

“Love your enemies . . .” Matthew 5:44 “

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” John 13:34 ““Do good to those who hate you.” Luke 6:27 “

“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret . . .” Matthew 6:6

“Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit . . .” 1 Corinthians 6:19

“You must be perfect, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:48

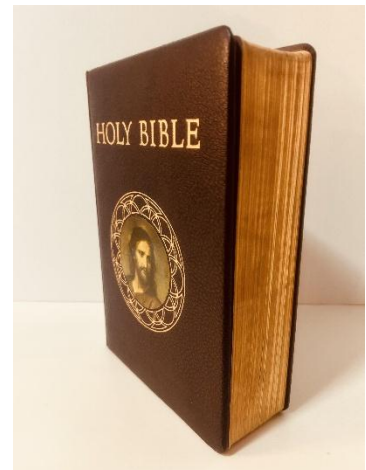
“Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ . . .” Matthew 5:37

“I do not say forgive seven times, but seventy times seven.” Matthew 18:22

“So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.” Matthew 7:12

“Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.” Matthew 5:42

“Pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44



VII. Reflection on the Parables of Jesus

These Parables should guide the way we act and treat others.

- Read and re-read the parable aloud and then ask the students to read it silently from their Bible.
- Define words that may not be understood.
- Discuss what is being said in the parable.
- In the Good Shepherd Parables, who is the Good Shepherd and what do you know about Him?
- What lesson is Jesus teaching you?

The Good Shepherd Parables

John 10:10-13

John 10: 14-18

John 10:1-5

John 10:7-11

Psalms 23

Matthew 18:12-14

Luke 15:3-7



Parables of Mercy:

The Centurion's Servant Mathew 8:5-10, 13

The Forgiving Father Luke 15:11-24

The Lost Coin Luke 15:8-10

Moral Parables:

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:30-37

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector Luke 18:9-14

The Insistent Friend Luke 11:5-8

The Debtors Matthew 18:23-35

The Sower Matthew 13:3-8

Kingdom of God Parables

Precious Pearl Matthew 13:45-46 Explain how a pearl is formed; an irritant gets inside an oyster shell, such as sand. What is an irritant in your life that became beautiful?

Hidden treasure Matthew 13:44-46

Yeast Matthew 13:33 and Luke 13:20-21

Mustard seed Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32 and Luke 13:18-19

Growing seed Mark 4:26-29