



# GENESIS TO JESUS+



JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

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.

There are several Journey Through Scripture studies. This leader guide is for the foundational study of the entire series, *Genesis to Jesus*, a twelve-part video series that surveys the principal covenants that God made with his people through figures such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. It also shows how each of these covenants points forward to—and is fulfilled by—Jesus Christ and his Church. In *Genesis to Jesus*, participants will see a panoramic vision of salvation history and our place in this story.

### Study Components

*Genesis to Jesus* is designed for both group and individual study. It contains five possible components, all of which can be ordered at [JourneyThroughScripture.com](http://JourneyThroughScripture.com).

- ❖ This Leader Guide
- ❖ *Genesis to Jesus* Participant Workbook
- ❖ *Genesis to Jesus* DVD set
- ❖ *A Father Who Keeps His Promises* by Dr. Scott Hahn

## How to Use This Leader Guide

This leader guide will serve as just that—your guide to helping participants for the duration of the study. The first thing to note is that this guide contains all the same material found in the participant workbook: review notes, lesson objectives, review and discussion questions, additional references, memory verses, and more.

In addition, it contains text intended only for you, the leader. In each of the lessons, this text is green and comes in two forms. Information that is not necessarily communicated to participants is under the heading “ **LEADER NOTE.**” Suggested text you can use for sharing information with participants is found under the heading “ **LEADER SAYS.**”

At the end of every lesson, there are readings listed to help you and the participants go deeper into the material. These readings come from Sacred Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and *A Father Who Keeps His Promises* by Scott Hahn. This book is available for purchase at [JourneyThroughScripture.com](http://JourneyThroughScripture.com).

## Tips for Leading Journey Through Scripture

The first step in leading this study is always to bathe your efforts in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to use you for the glory of God and to bless the study. Consider asking others to intercede for you and the participants of the study.

Catholic Bible study is a spiritual, intellectual, and ecclesial undertaking. And it involves real spiritual warfare. “For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph 6:12). Don’t be unarmed as you go into battle.

**Choose a Good Time and Location** - Ask yourself who you are targeting as study participants: stay-at-home moms, teens, a men’s group? Tailor your study to your audience by arranging a convenient time and place to draw together your intended demographic.

Be creative in your timing. For example, some Journey Through Scripture studies are offered at the same time as religious education classes for children. This arrangement allows for parents to attend a Bible study instead of simply waiting for their children’s class to finish.

Location is a key factor, so make it convenient and comfortable so that people will want to stay and participate. Make sure everyone can see and hear the video.

**Marketing** - To help spread the word about the study, you can download the editable poster at [journeythroughscripture.com](http://journeythroughscripture.com). Print as many as you like and ask permission to post them throughout the parish and/or insert them in the parish bulletin.

**Purchasing Workbooks** - Once you know how many workbooks you will need, you may order them online at [JourneyThroughScripture.com](http://JourneyThroughScripture.com). To inquire about parish or bulk discounts, email us at [jts@stpaulcenter.com](mailto:jts@stpaulcenter.com). Consider shipping delivery options when placing your order. It helps to order workbooks 10 days before the beginning of your study to ensure you receive them in time for your study.

**Preparation** - Take some time before each lesson to prepare by reading through the notes so you’re familiar with what’s coming. Read the answers to the review questions in this leader guide. 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.

**Small Groups** - Whether you employ small groups for discussion following the video presentation is completely up to you and your group. Journey Through Scripture allows for a great deal of flexibility in this regard. The review and discussion questions at the end of each lesson provide good material for such groups.

If you decide to break into small groups, try to assign some extroverted people to each of the groups. However, you don’t want them to act as moderators, but more like facilitators,

## TIPS FOR LEADING JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

keeping the conversation on track and making sure that everyone who wants to contribute can do so.

**Refreshments** - Plan in some social time with refreshments if you can. Snacks need to be neither elaborate nor 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 teaches the people who come late to arrive on time the following week and doesn't punish those who show up on time. The study group leader should wait around for a bit after the session is over. This will give people who may have been afraid to speak up in front of others a chance to ask a question.

**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. Below is a sample of how a typical session might look:

Amount of Time	Section
5–7 minutes	Announcements, prayer, and introduction of the lesson
25–30 minutes	Video
10 minutes	Break
10–15 minutes	Review questions (omit if running short on time)
10–15 minutes	Discussion questions
2 minutes	Review of memory verse and preparation for next lesson
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 workbook (see Leader Guide–Participant Workbook page cross-referencing).

# READING SCRIPTURE WITH THE CHURCH

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## 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, God of all creation, we thank you for calling us here to this Bible study. In your infinite mercy, you never cease to draw us closer to you, especially through your Word. So as we begin this study, send us your Holy Spirit, that he may enlighten our minds and enkindle our hearts as we break open your Word. We ask all of this in your Son’s name as we pray: Our Father . . .” (Prayer found on pg. 132)

#### **Welcome**

“Welcome to our first lesson of *Genesis to Jesus*. We are about to embark on a bird’s-eye journey through salvation history by examining how God made his plan for the world known in history, and how that plan affects us here and now. In this journey, we will survey God’s main covenants with his people in the Old Testament, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, and how these main figures point us to the fulfillment of these covenants in the person of Christ and his Church.

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



## LESSON 1

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 what’s in your workbook so that you know what to expect as we go through this series. First, you’ll see at the beginning of Lesson One that there is a description of this particular study. Starting in Lesson Two, you’ll see ‘Review of the Previous Lesson’ at the beginning of the lesson. It’s a good idea to read these review notes before we begin the current lesson to reinforce what we went over last time.

Next, you’ll see a little film projector icon with the title ‘What We’ll Cover in Lesson One.’ This tells us what we’ll see in the video lesson. For example, Lesson One begins with an overall introduction to the study and then moves into the main presentation.

Under the title ‘Themes Covered,’ you’ll see a quick list of the major points that will be covered in the lesson, followed by a list of Scripture references read in this lesson. These are listed in case you want to go back and read them later.

Each one of the videos is about 25–30 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 further reading to help you get the most out of this study. *Genesis to Jesus* is based on Dr. Scott Hahn’s book, *A Father Who Keeps His Promises: God’s Covenant Love in Scripture.*”

### **Setting the Stage**

“We are about ready to begin our first session. If you look at the bullet points under ‘What We’ll Cover in Lesson One,’ on page 6 of your Participant Workbook, you’ll notice that this session is about *why* and *how* Catholics should read Scripture. We’ll see how the Catholic Mass is the key to reading Scripture from the heart of the Church. So let’s begin.”

### **LEADER NOTE**

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





Lesson

1

# READING SCRIPTURE WITH THE CHURCH

## A Bible Study About the Bible *(Workbook pg. 5)*

Understanding the Bible requires an understanding of its “plot.” And the Bible’s plot is the story of salvation history. It is the story of human salvation unfolding in history according to God’s plan. You and I need to read the Bible from the heart of the Church if we are to make sense of the Scriptures and apply them to our lives as Catholics. This includes an understanding of why we should read them and how we should read them.

In *Genesis to Jesus* we’ll study the divine covenants that God made with humanity in the course of salvation history. We’ll focus on his Old Testament covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, and then we’ll see how each is fulfilled in the New Testament covenant that God makes with the world through Jesus Christ.



# What We'll Cover in Lesson 1 *(Workbook pg. 6)*

## Introduction

Matthew Leonard, host of the series

### Themes covered

- ❖ *Why* and *how* should Catholics study the Bible?
- ❖ The Mass as the key to understanding Scripture
- ❖ Scripture as the inspired Word of God
- ❖ Salvation history as a two-part story

### Scripture Verses Read in Lesson 1

- ❖ Luke 24:13–24
- ❖ Luke 24:31–35
- ❖ John 16:12–14
- ❖ 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- ❖ Galatians 4:4–5





**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.

**LEADER SAYS**

“The review questions on page 8 are exactly that: a review of the material from the video. If you were listening closely, Matthew Leonard discussed the answer to each of these questions in the lesson segment. See if you can answer them.”

## Review Questions *(Workbook pg. 8)*

1. The Last Supper account, the Emmaus road account, and the Catholic celebration of the Mass share several features in common. What are these common elements?

**Answer:** Jesus *took* bread, *blessed* it, *broke* it, and *gave* it to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, just as he had done at the Last Supper. In the Catholic Mass, we hear the words of Scripture proclaimed and explained in the Liturgy of the Word, and then we receive the Sacrament of the Word made flesh in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, just as Jesus explained the Scriptures to the two disciples and then broke bread with them (i.e. celebrated the Eucharist).

2. Explain the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Scriptures.

**Answer:** The relationship is twofold. First, the Spirit is the principle author of the Scriptures, which means that he worked in and through its human authors to communicate the words of God to the world. Second, the Spirit guides the teaching authority of the Church—the pope and the bishops of the world united to him—into a right understanding of Scripture.

3. What does it mean to say that Christianity is “a religion of the Word”? And why is it inaccurate to say that Christianity is “a religion of the Book”?

**Answer:** Religions such as Judaism and Islam are called “religions of the book” because they identify the Word of God with a sacred text. Christianity, however, holds that God’s Word is first and foremost a living person: Jesus Christ. Sacred Scripture is also revered as God’s Word, but in a secondary sense, because it bears witness to Christ the living Word. As Catholics, we believe that the Word of God comes to us both in Scripture and in Sacrament, especially in the Eucharist.

4. Explain the difference between *secular* history and *salvation* history.

**Answer:** Secular history is history told from a strictly human perspective. It tends to highlight human achievements, human interests, and human tragedies as most important. Salvation history, by contrast, is told from God’s perspective. It is concerned with spiritual realities—with divine actions in history, the divine purposes for history, and especially the divine plan for the world’s salvation.

**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 *(Workbook pg. 9)*

1. Can you think of anything in this lesson that you’ve never considered before, or even heard before? If so, how might this new information impact your relationship with God and others?

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2. Can you think of time in your life when you experienced a “burning heart”? Have you ever encountered Jesus in a personal way, perhaps like the disciples traveling to Emmaus? Feel free to share your thoughts with the group.

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## LESSON 1

 LEADER NOTE**Memory Verse and Follow-Up Reading**

Before dismissing the participants, please point out the memory verse for this lesson, as well as the follow-up reading for Lesson Two.

 LEADER SAYS

“The Bible tells us that if we want to protect ourselves from sin we should memorize and meditate on the Word of God. Psalm 119:9–11 says:

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have laid up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

In addition to our memory verse, take a look at the follow-up reading and preparation for Lesson Two.

**Closing Prayer**

“Father in heaven, we thank you for this opportunity to encounter you in your Word. May our hearts burn within us as we contemplate your words and deeds in salvation history, and may they lead us back to you. We pray this in your Son’s name as we commend this time to Mary, Seat of Wisdom: Hail Mary . . .”

**This Lesson’s Memory Verse** *(Workbook pg. 10)*

*“And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?’”*



LUKE 24:3–32

**Preparation for the Next Lesson**

- ❖ *A Father Who Keeps His Promises* by Dr. Scott Hahn, ch. 1
- ❖ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 112–114
- ❖ *Dei Verbum*, Vatican II Constitution on Divine Revelation  
[stpaulcenter.com/deiverbum](http://stpaulcenter.com/deiverbum)

