RUSHLIGHT PRESS

The Book by Book Kit

Printables for Book by Book: The Catholic Bible Study Companion for Beginners

Everything you need to use *Book by Book* is already in the book. These pages are a gift alongside it: things that are better on paper you can mark, pin up, cut out and hand round. Print only what you need, at 100% scale ("actual size"), on A4 paper.

WHAT IS INSIDE

Seventy-three Scripture cards. The verse to carry for every book of the Bible, eight to a page, to cut out.

The reading tracker. Every chapter of the Catholic Bible, 1,328 boxes, to fill in one by one.

The whole Bible in a year. Fifty-two weeks on one checklist.

The forty days of Lent. The Lent plan from the book as a checklist that fits every year.

A leader's guide. How to lead a group, and a one-page handout for each of the twelve meetings.

Four bookmarks. The books of the Old and New Testaments in order, how each section of the book works, and lectio divina with a prayer before reading.

The Story at a Glance. The timeline of the whole Bible as a poster.

Lectio divina pages. A journal page for praying with one passage.

Scripture is quoted from the Douay-Rheims Bible, Challoner revision, which is in the public domain. You may print and copy these pages for personal use and for use in your parish or group. Please do not sell them.

BOOK 1 OF 73

Genesis

†

Indeed the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.

Genesis 28:16

BOOK 2 OF 73

Exodus

†

The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.

Exodus 14:14

BOOK 3 OF 73

Leviticus

†

Be ye holy, because I the Lord your God am holy.

Leviticus 19:2

BOOK 4 OF 73

Numbers

†

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord shew his face to thee, and have mercy on thee. The Lord turn his countenance to thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

BOOK 5 OF 73

Deuteronomy

†

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5

BOOK 6 OF 73

Joshua

†

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

BOOK 7 OF 73

Judges

†

The Lord is with thee, O most valiant of men.

Judges 6:12

BOOK 8 OF 73

Ruth

†

Whithersoever thou shalt go, I will go: and where thou shalt dwell, I also will dwell. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.

Ruth 1:16

BOOK 9 OF 73

1 Samuel

†

Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.

1 Samuel 3:10

BOOK 10 OF 73

2 Samuel

†

The Lord is my rock, and my strength, and my saviour.

2 Samuel 22:2

BOOK 11 OF 73

1 Kings

†

Give therefore to thy servant an understanding heart, to judge thy people, and discern between good and evil.

1 Kings 3:9

BOOK 12 OF 73

2 Kings

†

Fear not: for there are more with us than with them.

2 Kings 6:16

BOOK 13 OF 73

1 Chronicles

†

Give ye glory to the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

BOOK 14 OF 73

2 Chronicles

†

But as we know not what to do, we can only turn our eyes to thee.

2 Chronicles 20:12

BOOK 15 OF 73

Ezra

†

The hand of our God is upon all them that seek him in goodness.

Ezra 8:22

BOOK 16 OF 73

Nehemiah

†

Be not sad: for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

BOOK 17 OF 73

Tobit

†

See thou never do to another what thou wouldst hate to have done to thee by another.

Tobit 4:15 (4:16 in the Douay-Rheims)

BOOK 18 OF 73

Judith

†

The prayer of the humble and the meek hath always pleased thee.

Judith 9:11 (9:16 in the Douay-Rheims)

BOOK 19 OF 73

Esther

†

Who knoweth whether thou art not therefore come to the kingdom, that thou mightest be ready in such a time as this?

Esther 4:14

BOOK 20 OF 73

1 Maccabees

†

Nevertheless as it shall be the will of God in heaven so be it done.

1 Maccabees 3:60

BOOK 21 OF 73

2 Maccabees

†

It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.

2 Maccabees 12:46

BOOK 22 OF 73

Job

†

For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and in the last day I shall rise out of the earth.

Job 19:25

BOOK 23 OF 73

Psalms

†

Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my paths.

Psalm 119:105 (118:105 in the Douay-Rheims)

BOOK 24 OF 73

Proverbs

†

Have confidence in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not upon thy own prudence.

Proverbs 3:5

BOOK 25 OF 73

Ecclesiastes

†

All things have their season, and in their times all things pass under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

BOOK 26 OF 73

Song of Songs

†

Put me as a seal upon thy heart, as a seal upon thy arm, for love is strong as death.

Song of Songs 8:6

BOOK 27 OF 73

Wisdom

†

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them.

Wisdom 3:1

BOOK 28 OF 73

Sirach

†

A faithful friend is a strong defence: and he that hath found him, hath found a treasure.

Sirach 6:14

BOOK 29 OF 73

Isaiah

†

Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, and called thee by thy name: thou art mine.

Isaiah 43:1

BOOK 30 OF 73

Jeremiah

†

Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore have I drawn thee, taking pity on thee.

Jeremiah 31:3

BOOK 31 OF 73

Lamentations

†

The mercies of the Lord that we are not consumed: because his commiserations have not failed. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22–23

BOOK 32 OF 73

Baruch

†

Afterwards he was seen upon earth, and conversed with men.

Baruch 3:38

BOOK 33 OF 73

Ezekiel

†

And I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

BOOK 34 OF 73

Daniel

†

All ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever.

Daniel 3:57

BOOK 35 OF 73

Hosea

†

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice: and the knowledge of God more than holocausts.

Hosea 6:6

BOOK 36 OF 73

Joel

†

And rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful.

Joel 2:13

BOOK 37 OF 73

Amos

†

But judgment shall be revealed as water, and justice as a mighty torrent.

Amos 5:24

BOOK 38 OF 73

Obadiah

†

For the day of the Lord is at hand upon all nations: as thou hast done, so shall it be done to thee.

Obadiah 15

BOOK 39 OF 73

Jonah

†

I cried out of my affliction to the Lord, and he heard me: I cried out of the belly of hell, and thou hast heard my voice.

Jonah 2:3

BOOK 40 OF 73

Micah

†

I will shew thee, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requireth of thee: Verily, to do judgment, and to love mercy, and to walk solicitous with thy God.

Micah 6:8

BOOK 41 OF 73

Nahum

†

The Lord is good and giveth strength in the day of trouble: and knoweth them that hope in him.

Nahum 1:7

BOOK 42 OF 73

Habakkuk

†

But I will rejoice in the Lord: and I will joy in God my Jesus.

Habakkuk 3:18

BOOK 43 OF 73

Zephaniah

†

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty, he will save: he will rejoice over thee with gladness, he will be silent in his love, he will be joyful over thee in praise.

Zephaniah 3:17

BOOK 44 OF 73

Haggai

†

Set your hearts to consider your ways.

Haggai 1:5

BOOK 45 OF 73

Zechariah

†

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion, shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King will come to thee, the just and saviour: he is poor, and riding upon an ass.

Zechariah 9:9

BOOK 46 OF 73

Malachi

†

But unto you that fear my name, the Sun of justice shall arise, and health in his wings.

Malachi 3:20 (4:2 in the Douay-Rheims)

BOOK 47 OF 73

Matthew

†

And behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.

Matthew 28:20

BOOK 48 OF 73

Mark

†

I do believe, Lord: help my unbelief.

Mark 9:24 (9:23 in the Douay-Rheims)

BOOK 49 OF 73

Luke

†

Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.

Luke 1:38

BOOK 50 OF 73

John

†

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

John 1:14

BOOK 51 OF 73

Acts

†

And they were persevering in the doctrine of the apostles, and in the communication of the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

BOOK 52 OF 73

Romans

†

If God be for us, who is against us?

Romans 8:31

BOOK 53 OF 73

1 Corinthians

†

And now there remain faith, hope, and charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity.

1 Corinthians 13:13

BOOK 54 OF 73

2 Corinthians

†

My grace is sufficient for thee; for power is made perfect in infirmity.

2 Corinthians 12:9

BOOK 55 OF 73

Galatians

†

And I live, now not I; but Christ liveth in me.

Galatians 2:20

BOOK 56 OF 73

Ephesians

†

One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Ephesians 4:5

BOOK 57 OF 73

Philippians

†

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

BOOK 58 OF 73

Colossians

†

But above all these things have charity, which is the bond of perfection.

Colossians 3:14

BOOK 59 OF 73

1 Thessalonians

†

Always rejoice. Pray without ceasing. In all things give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you all.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

BOOK 60 OF 73

2 Thessalonians

†

But you, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

BOOK 61 OF 73

1 Timothy

†

Fight the good fight of faith: lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:12

BOOK 62 OF 73

2 Timothy

†

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

BOOK 63 OF 73

Titus

†

For the grace of God our Saviour hath appeared to all men.

Titus 2:11

BOOK 64 OF 73

Philemon

†

I give thanks to my God, always making a remembrance of thee in my prayers.

Philemon 4

BOOK 65 OF 73

Hebrews

†

Jesus Christ, yesterday, and to-day; and the same for ever.

Hebrews 13:8

BOOK 66 OF 73

James

†

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:22

BOOK 67 OF 73

1 Peter

†

Casting all your care upon him, for he hath care of you.

1 Peter 5:7

BOOK 68 OF 73

2 Peter

†

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

BOOK 69 OF 73

1 John

†

God is charity: and he that abideth in charity, abideth in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:16

BOOK 70 OF 73

2 John

†

And this is charity, that we walk according to his commandments.

2 John 6

BOOK 71 OF 73

3 John

†

I have no greater grace than this, to hear that my children walk in truth.

3 John 4

BOOK 72 OF 73

Jude

†

Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto life everlasting.

Jude 21

BOOK 73 OF 73

Revelation

†

Behold, I make all things new.

Revelation 21:5

MY OWN VERSE

MY OWN VERSE

MY OWN VERSE

MY OWN VERSE

MY OWN VERSE

MY OWN VERSE

MY OWN VERSE

MY OWN VERSE

Every chapter of the Catholic Bible

Shade a box when you have read the chapter. 1,328 chapters in all: 1,068 in the Old Testament and 260 in the New. Chapter numbers follow the New American Bible.

Genesis



Exodus



Leviticus



Numbers



Deuteronomy



Joshua



Judges



Ruth



1 Samuel



2 Samuel



1 Kings



2 Kings



1 Chronicles



2 Chronicles



Ezra



Nehemiah



Tobit



Judith



Esther



1 Maccabees



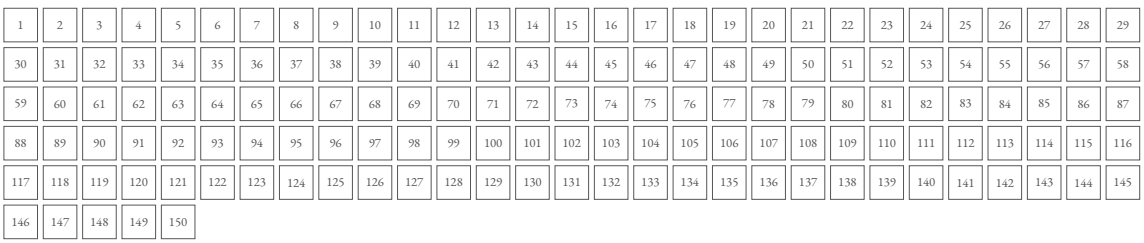
2 Maccabees



Job



Psalms



Proverbs



Ecclesiastes



Song of Songs



Wisdom



Sirach



Isaiah



Jeremiah



Lamentations



Baruch



Ezekiel



Daniel



Hosea



Joel



Amos



Obadiah



Jonah



Micah



Nahum



Habakkuk



Zephaniah



Haggai



Zechariah



Malachi



The New Testament

Matthew	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
Mark	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Luke	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
John	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
Acts	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
Romans	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
1 Corinthians	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
2 Corinthians	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
Galatians	1 2 3 4 5 6
Ephesians	1 2 3 4 5 6
Philippians	1 2 3 4
Colossians	1 2 3 4
1 Thessalonians	1 2 3 4 5
2 Thessalonians	1 2 3
1 Timothy	1 2 3 4 5 6
2 Timothy	1 2 3 4
Titus	1 2 3
Philemon	1
Hebrews	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
James	1 2 3 4 5
1 Peter	1 2 3 4 5
2 Peter	1 2 3
1 John	1 2 3 4 5
2 John	1
3 John	1
Jude	1
Revelation	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Fifty-two weeks

About twenty chapters of the Old Testament and five of the New each week: roughly four chapters a day for six days, with Sunday kept for Mass and for catching up. Start any week of the year.

Wk	*Old Testament*	*New Testament*	*Done*	*Wk*	*Old Testament*	*New Testament*	*Done*
1	Gen 1–21	Matt 1–5	☐	27	Job 38–Ps 16	1 Cor 1–2	☐
2	Gen 22–41	Matt 6–10	☐	28	Ps 17–36	1 Cor 3–7	☐
3	Gen 42–Exod 12	Matt 11–15	☐	29	Ps 37–57	1 Cor 8–12	☐
4	Exod 13–32	Matt 16–20	☐	30	Ps 58–77	1 Cor 13–16	☐
5	Exod 33–Lev 13	Matt 21–28	☐	31	Ps 78–98	2 Cor 1–6	☐
6	Lev 14–Num 6	Mark 1–2	☐	32	Ps 99–118	2 Cor 7–13	☐
7	Num 7–27	Mark 3–7	☐	33	Ps 119–139	Gal 1–6	☐
8	Num 28–Deut 11	Mark 8–12	☐	34	Ps 140–Prov 9	Eph 1–2	☐
9	Deut 12–34	Mark 13–16	☐	35	Prov 10–31	Eph 3–6	☐
10	Josh 1–18	Luke 1–6	☐	36	Eccl 1–Song 8	Phil 1–4	☐
11	Josh 19–Judg 15	Luke 7–11	☐	37	Wis 1–19	Col 1–1 Thess 5	☐
12	Judg 16–1 Sam 10	Luke 12–16	☐	38	Sir 1–21	2 Thess 1–3	☐
13	1 Sam 11–31	Luke 17–24	☐	39	Sir 22–42	1 Tim 1–6	☐
14	2 Sam 1–24	John 1–2	☐	40	Sir 43–Isa 12	2 Tim 1–4	☐
15	1 Kgs 1–17	John 3–7	☐	41	Isa 13–32	Titus 1–Phlm 1	☐
16	1 Kgs 18–2 Kgs 16	John 8–12	☐	42	Isa 33–53	Heb 1–6	☐
17	2 Kgs 17–1 Chr 11	John 13–17	☐	43	Isa 54–Jer 7	Heb 7–13	☐
18	1 Chr 12–29	John 18–21	☐	44	Jer 8–28	Jas 1–5	☐
19	2 Chr 1–23	Acts 1–6	☐	45	Jer 29–48	1 Pet 1–5	☐
20	2 Chr 24–Ezra 10	Acts 7–11	☐	46	Jer 49–Ezek 6	2 Pet 1–3	☐
21	Neh 1–Tob 5	Acts 12–16	☐	47	Ezek 7–26	1 John 1–5	☐
22	Tob 6–Jdt 12	Acts 17–21	☐	48	Ezek 27–48	2 John 1–Jude 1	☐
23	Jdt 13–1 Macc 6	Acts 22–28	☐	49	Dan 1–Hos 5	Rev 1–7	☐
24	1 Macc 7–2 Macc 11	Rom 1–3	☐	50	Hos 6–Amos 9	Rev 8–12	☐
25	2 Macc 12–Job 16	Rom 4–8	☐	51	Obad 1–Hab 3	Rev 13–17	☐
26	Job 17–37	Rom 9–16	☐	52	Zeph 1–Mal 3	Rev 18–22	☐

A reading for every day

Forty readings from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. On Sundays, listen to the readings at Mass. On Easter Sunday, read John 20:1–18.

Day	*When*	*Read*	*Theme*	*Done*
1	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–18	*Rend your hearts*	☐
2	Thursday	Psalm 51	*A clean heart*	☐
3	Friday	Isaiah 58:1–12	*The fast that God chooses*	☐
4	Saturday	Luke 15:11–32	*The merciful father*	☐
5	Week 1 · Mon	Genesis 1:1–2:3	*In the beginning*	☐
6	Week 1 · Tue	Genesis 3	*The fall, and a first promise*	☐
7	Week 1 · Wed	Genesis 8:1–9:17	*The flood and the rainbow*	☐
8	Week 1 · Thu	Genesis 12:1–9; 15:1–6	*Abraham believes*	☐
9	Week 1 · Fri	Genesis 22:1–19	*God will provide*	☐
10	Week 1 · Sat	Genesis 45:1–15	*Joseph forgives his brothers*	☐
11	Week 2 · Mon	Exodus 3:1–15	*The burning bush*	☐
12	Week 2 · Tue	Exodus 12:1–14	*The Passover*	☐
13	Week 2 · Wed	Exodus 14	*Through the sea*	☐
14	Week 2 · Thu	Exodus 16	*Bread from heaven*	☐
15	Week 2 · Fri	Exodus 20:1–17	*The Ten Commandments*	☐
16	Week 2 · Sat	Exodus 32:1–14	*The golden calf, and Moses prays*	☐
17	Week 3 · Mon	Deuteronomy 30:11–20	*Choose life*	☐
18	Week 3 · Tue	1 Samuel 3	*Speak, Lord*	☐
19	Week 3 · Wed	2 Samuel 7:1–17	*A house for ever*	☐
20	Week 3 · Thu	2 Samuel 11:1–12:13	*David's sin, Nathan's parable*	☐
21	Week 3 · Fri	1 Kings 19:1–18	*Elijah and the gentle whisper*	☐
22	Week 3 · Sat	Jonah 3–4	*Mercy for Nineveh*	☐
23	Week 4 · Mon	Hosea 11:1–9	*A father's love*	☐
24	Week 4 · Tue	Jeremiah 31:31–34	*A new covenant*	☐
25	Week 4 · Wed	Ezekiel 37:1–14	*Dry bones live*	☐
26	Week 4 · Thu	Isaiah 40:1–11	*Comfort my people*	☐
27	Week 4 · Fri	Isaiah 52:13–53:12	*The Suffering Servant*	☐
28	Week 4 · Sat	Psalm 22	*A cry from the cross*	☐
29	Week 5 · Mon	Mark 1:14–39	*The kingdom is at hand*	☐
30	Week 5 · Tue	John 4:5–42	*The woman at the well*	☐
31	Week 5 · Wed	John 9	*The man born blind*	☐
32	Week 5 · Thu	John 11:1–45	*Lazarus, come forth*	☐
33	Week 5 · Fri	Luke 19:1–10	*Zacchaeus*	☐
34	Week 5 · Sat	John 12:20–33	*The grain of wheat*	☐
35	Holy Monday	John 12:1–11	*Anointed at Bethany*	☐
36	Holy Tuesday	John 13:21–38	*One of you will betray me*	☐
37	Holy Wednesday	Matthew 26:14–25	*Thirty pieces of silver*	☐
38	Holy Thursday	John 13:1–15; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26	*The Last Supper*	☐
39	Good Friday	John 18–19	*The Passion*	☐
40	Holy Saturday	Romans 6:3–11	*Buried with him, to rise with him*	☐

Lent of	*Ash Wednesday*	*Easter Sunday*	*Sundays*	*Weekdays*
2027	February 10	March 28	Year B	Year I
2028	March 1	April 16	Year C	Year II
2029	February 14	April 1	Year A	Year I
2030	March 6	April 21	Year B	Year II
2031	February 26	April 13	Year C	Year I
2032	February 11	March 28	Year A	Year II
2033	March 2	April 17	Year B	Year I
2034	February 22	April 9	Year C	Year II
2035	February 7	March 25	Year A	Year I
2036	February 27	April 13	Year B	Year II

A LEADER'S GUIDE

Leading a Book by Book group

You do not need to be an expert to lead a group through *Book by Book*. Your work is to open in prayer, keep time, make room for every voice, and end on time. Twelve meetings take the group through the whole library, one chapter of the book each week; each meeting has its own handout on the pages that follow.

BEFORE EACH MEETING

Everyone reads the chapter's opening pages. Each member takes one or two of its books, reads the two pages on them in *Book by Book*, and reads at least one passage from *Read these first* in the Bible itself.

A PATTERN FOR ABOUT SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTES

Open in prayer (5 minutes). Pray *Come, Holy Spirit*, printed on each handout, and let one person read the chapter's *Before you begin* aloud.

Share the books (35 minutes). Each person takes two or three minutes to say what their book is about and which passage stayed with them.

Talk it over (25 minutes). Choose two or three of the questions on the handout. Leave room for silence; the best answers rarely come first.

Carry one verse home (10 minutes). Agree on one verse to carry for the week, and close with the Our Father.

A FEW HABITS OF GOOD GROUPS

- Start on time and end on time; people come back to groups that keep their promises.
- Ask, do not lecture. A good question and a patient silence do more than a good answer.
- When a question goes beyond the book, say so, note it, and look it up together before the next meeting.
- Read Scripture within the Church: the book's pages on how the Church reads each book are there to help.
- Pray for the members of your group by name during the week.

Opening the Library

READ BEFORE WE MEET

How to Use This Book (p. 6), the Introduction (p. 8) and *The Story at a Glance* (p. 12).

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

The Introduction calls the Bible a library of seventy-three books that tells one story. Look together at *The Story at a Glance* before you begin.

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Have you ever tried to read the Bible from the beginning? Where did you stop, and what stopped you?
- The Bible is a library. Which shelf do you know best, and which have you never opened?
- Which part of *The Story at a Glance* would you most like to understand by the end of these twelve weeks?
- The Church asks us to read the whole Bible in the light of Christ. What do you hope that will change in how you read the Old Testament?
- Which of the four ways to use this book suits you, and when in your week will you read?

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Pentateuch

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter One: The Pentateuch (pp. 14–25).

THE BOOKS

Genesis 16 · Exodus 18 · Leviticus 20 · Numbers 22 · Deuteronomy 24

Five books, one movement: from the first light of creation to a people standing at the Jordan with the promised land in view.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

When the last page of Deuteronomy turns, Moses is dead and the land lies across the river. Who will lead the people in, and will they keep the covenant once they arrive?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Joseph tells his brothers that God turned their evil into good (50:20). Where have you seen good grow out of something meant to hurt you? *(Genesis)*
- Israel grumbled in the desert with manna on the ground every morning (16). Which daily gift do you overlook most easily? *(Exodus)*
- Leviticus treats a meal, a harvest and a debt as places where holiness is lived. Which ordinary part of your week could become an act of worship? *(Leviticus)*
- Twelve spies saw the same land and brought back two different reports (13–14). When fear speaks loudest in you, what helps you hear the other report? *(Numbers)*
- Moses asks Israel to remember the whole road before it obeys (8:2). What part of your own road do you most need to remember? *(Deuteronomy)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Land and the Kings

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Two: The Land and the Kings (pp. 26–41).

THE BOOKS

Joshua 28 · Judges 30 · Ruth 32 · 1 Samuel 34 · 2 Samuel 36 · 1 Kings 38 · 2 Kings 40

Seven books, six centuries: from the walls of Jericho to the smoke rising over Jerusalem.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

By the last page of 2 Kings the Temple is ash, and David's heir eats at a foreign king's table. Who will tell the story again for the exiles, and how will the faithful live under empires?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Joshua set up twelve stones from the riverbed so that children would one day ask what they meant (4:6–7). What signs of God's help could you leave for those who follow you? *(Joshua)*
- Gideon was threshing wheat in hiding when the angel called him valiant (6:11–12). What might God see in you that you cannot yet see in yourself? *(Judges)*
- Ruth stayed when leaving would have been easier and no one would have blamed her (1:16). Who has stayed beside you through a hard season, and have you told them what it meant? *(Ruth)*
- Samuel needed Eli to tell him that the voice in the night was God's (3:8–9). Who has helped you recognize God's voice, and for whom could you do the same? *(1 Samuel)*
- Nathan told David a story before he told him the truth (12:1–7). When someone has corrected you well, how did they do it? *(2 Samuel)*
- Elijah, exhausted, asked to die, and God gave him bread and sleep before a new task (19:4–8). When you are spent, what rest do you need first? *(1 Kings)*
- Naaman nearly went home angry because the cure he was offered was too simple (5:11–14). Is there a simple step toward God you have been too proud to take? *(2 Kings)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

Living Under Empires

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Three: Living Under Empires (pp. 42–61).

THE BOOKS

1 Chronicles 44 · 2 Chronicles 46 · Ezra 48 · Nehemiah 50 · Tobit 52 · Judith 54 · Esther 56 · 1 Maccabees 58 · 2 Maccabees 60

Nine books from the long centuries after the fall: the story retold, the city rebuilt, and faith kept under foreign kings.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

By the end of this chapter the Temple has been built, burned, rebuilt and cleansed, and David's line no longer sits on a throne. With no king left to trust, how should a believer pray, suffer and live wisely?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- The Chronicler wrote for people who had lost almost everything, and he began by giving them back their family names (1–9). Whose names belong in the story of your faith? *(1 Chronicles)*
- Jehoshaphat sent singers ahead of his army before the battle had begun (20:21). Where could praise go first in your life, before the problem is solved? *(2 Chronicles)*
- When the foundations were laid, some shouted for joy and some wept for what was lost (3:12–13). Where are you holding both feelings at once right now? *(Ezra)*
- The people wept when they heard the law, and were told to feast instead (8:9–10). When God's word shows you a fault, what helps you hear the mercy in it as well? *(Nehemiah)*
- Tobit and Sarah prayed in despair on the same day, and one answer reached them both (3:16–17). Whose prayer might God be answering through you? *(Tobit)*
- The elders gave God five days; Judith told them that no one can bind God to a deadline (8:11–17). What deadline have you quietly set for God? *(Judith)*
- Mordecai suggested that Esther became queen for exactly this moment (4:14). What position, skill or friendship might you have been given for someone else's sake? *(Esther)*
- Under pressure, some went along with the king's orders and some quietly refused (1:43, 62–63). Where are you asked to fit in at the cost of your faith? *(1 Maccabees)*
- The mother told her youngest son to look at heaven and earth and remember who made them (7:28). When fear rises, where do you look to remember who God is? *(2 Maccabees)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Wisdom Books

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Four: The Wisdom Books (pp. 62–77).

THE BOOKS

Job 64 · Psalms 66 · Proverbs 68 · Ecclesiastes 70 · Song of Songs 72 · Wisdom 74 · Sirach 76

Seven books of prayer, poetry and hard questions: how to suffer, how to love, how to live wisely before God.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

Wisdom teaches how to live inside the covenant. What happens when a whole nation forgets it, and who will speak for God when kings will not listen?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Job's friends did best in the first seven days, when they sat with him and said nothing (2:13). Who needs your silent company more than your advice? *(Job)*
- Many psalms begin in complaint and end in praise without hiding the complaint; Psalm 13 does it in six verses. What would you say to God if you prayed as honestly as the psalmist? *(Psalms)*
- Proverbs keeps returning to the tongue, to words that wound and words that heal (12:18). Which of your words this week built someone up? *(Proverbs)*
- Qoheleth looked for lasting happiness in work, pleasure and possessions (2:1–11). Which of these do you most expect to satisfy you? *(Ecclesiastes)*
- The beloved searched the city at night until she found the one her soul loved (3:1–4). What are you searching for, and have you told God? *(Song of Songs)*
- The ungodly decide that life is short, so they may as well take what they can (2:1–9). When does that thought tempt you, and what answers it? *(Wisdom)*
- Sirach warns that some friends vanish in the day of trouble (6:8). Who has been a faithful friend to you, and to whom are you one? *(Sirach)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Major Prophets

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Five: The Major Prophets (pp. 78–91).

THE BOOKS

Isaiah 80 · Jeremiah 82 · Lamentations 84 · Baruch 86 · Ezekiel 88 · Daniel 90

Six books of warning and comfort, written across the darkest stretch of Israel's story: the Assyrian threat, the fall of Jerusalem, the exile.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

Twelve shorter books gather the voices of other prophets from the same centuries and after. What could a herdsman, a grieving husband and a runaway prophet add to Isaiah and Jeremiah?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Isaiah said, Here I am, send me, before he knew what he would be sent to do (6:8). What would it cost you to say the same today? *(Isaiah)*
- Jeremiah bought a field in a city about to fall, as a sign that life would return (32:6–15). What hopeful step could you take now, before the outcome is clear? *(Jeremiah)*
- Lamentations gives grief its words, letter by letter. What loss in your life have you never put into words before God? *(Lamentations)*
- Baruch's prayer begins with what is true of God before it names what is true of the people (1:15). What is true of God that you most need to remember today? *(Baruch)*
- God asked Ezekiel whether the dry bones could live, and Ezekiel answered that only God knew (37:3). What part of your life looks dry and finished, and have you given it to God? *(Ezekiel)*
- The three young men told the king that God could save them, and that even if he did not, they would not bow (3:17–18). What would you refuse to do even if no rescue came? *(Daniel)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

Love, Justice and Mercy

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Six: Love, Justice and Mercy (pp. 92–105).

THE BOOKS

Hosea 94 · Joel 96 · Amos 98 · Obadiah 100 · Jonah 102 · Micah 104

Six of the Twelve: a grieving husband, a herdsman, a runaway, and the prophet who gathered it all into one verse.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

Six voices remain, and they speak to darker years: an empire falling, a city in ruins, a Temple to rebuild. What hope did the last prophets hold out, and whom did they tell the people to wait for?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- God promised to lead his unfaithful people into the desert and speak to her heart (2:16). Where could you find a quiet place this week to let him? *(Hosea)*
- Joel called the whole community to fast together, bride and groom included (2:15–16). What would it mean to make your Lent a shared one this year? *(Joel)*
- Amos saw who was paying for his country's prosperity (2:6–7). Who pays, out of your sight, for the comforts you enjoy? *(Amos)*
- Edom's sin began with standing aside and watching (11). When have you watched someone suffer and told yourself it was none of your business? *(Obadiah)*
- Jonah was angry that God forgave his enemies (4:1–2). Whose forgiveness would be hardest for you to welcome? *(Jonah)*
- Micah sums up what God asks in three phrases: do justice, love mercy, walk humbly (6:8). Which of the three is hardest for you this week? *(Micah)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Last Prophets

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Seven: The Last Prophets (pp. 106–119). Then the Halfway Mark (p. 120).

THE BOOKS

Nahum 108 · Habakkuk 110 · Zephaniah 112 · Haggai 114 · Zechariah 116 · Malachi 118

Six short books, from the fall of Nineveh to the last voice before the long silence.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

Malachi, the last of them, ends with a promise that Elijah will come before the great day of the Lord. Who will he be, and whom will he announce?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Nahum calls the Lord a stronghold in the day of trouble (1:7). Where do you run first when trouble comes? *(Nahum)*
- Habakkuk complained to God and then climbed a watchtower to wait for the answer (2:1). What are you waiting on God for, and where do you go to listen? *(Habakkuk)*
- Zephaniah pictures God rejoicing over his people with song (3:17). How might your prayer change if you believed God delights in you? *(Zephaniah)*
- Haggai asked why God's house lay in ruins while his people's houses were finished (1:4). What have you finished first, while God waited? *(Haggai)*
- In one vision old people sit in Jerusalem's streets while children play there (8:4–5). What would a street at peace with God look like where you live? *(Zechariah)*
- Malachi's people had grown tired of God and asked what they gained by serving him (3:14). Where has your faith grown tired, and what would renew it? *(Malachi)*
- Which Old Testament book surprised you most, and which of these six promises are you most eager to see kept? *(The Halfway Mark)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Gospels and Acts

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Eight: The Gospels and Acts (pp. 122–133).

THE BOOKS

Matthew 124 · Mark 126 · Luke 128 · John 130 · Acts 132

Four portraits of one Lord, and the story of what his first followers did after he rose.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

Acts ends with Paul under guard in Rome, still preaching. What did he write to the churches he had founded?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Matthew begins with God with us and ends with I am with you all days. In what part of your week do you most need to believe that? *(Matthew)*
- The father in Mark 9 brought Jesus a faith mixed with doubt, and Jesus healed his son. What doubt could you bring to him honestly in prayer this week? *(Mark)*
- Mary gave her whole answer to God in one line. Over which decision in front of you could you pray, be it done to me according to thy word? *(Luke)*
- John wrote so that you may believe and have life in his name (20:31). Which of the I am sayings speaks to you most today, and why? *(John)*
- The first Christians held fast to teaching, communion, the breaking of bread and prayer. Which of these is strongest in your life now, and which needs care? *(Acts)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

Paul's Great Letters

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Nine: Paul's Great Letters (pp. 134–149).

THE BOOKS

Romans 136 · 1 Corinthians 138 · 2 Corinthians 140 · Galatians 142 · Ephesians 144 · Philippians 146 · Colossians 148

Seven letters to young churches, written in the heat of real problems, and most of them older than the Gospels.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

Paul also wrote to a young church he had to leave after a few weeks, to the pastors he trained, and to a friend about a runaway slave, and one more letter has long stood beside his. What do they add?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- Paul says that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God (8:38–39). What do you fear might separate you, and what would change if you believed him? *(Romans)*
- Paul says that charity is patient and kind and seeks not her own (13:4–5). Put your own name in place of charity. Which line is hardest to read honestly? *(1 Corinthians)*
- Paul learned to boast of the very weakness he had begged God to take away (12:8–9). Which weakness of yours might God want to use instead? *(2 Corinthians)*
- Paul names the fruit of the Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience and more (5:22–23). Which fruit would the people you live with most like to see grow in you? *(Galatians)*
- Paul asks that only good words come from our mouths, words that build up (4:29). Whom could your words build up this week? *(Ephesians)*
- Paul learned to be content in plenty and in want (4:11–12). Which of the two is harder for you, and why? *(Philippians)*
- Paul asks that whatever we do be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks (3:17). What ordinary task tomorrow could you offer that way? *(Colossians)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

Letters of Hope and Care

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Ten: Letters of Hope and Care (pp. 150–165).

THE BOOKS

1 Thessalonians 152 · 2 Thessalonians 154 · 1 Timothy 156 · 2 Timothy 158 · Titus 160 · Philemon 162 · Hebrews 164

Seven letters about the Lord's return, the care of a church, and a high priest who knows our weakness.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

Seven shorter letters remain, written to the whole Church, and then a book of visions that closes the Bible. What did James, Peter, John and Jude add, and how does the story end?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- The Thessalonians grieved for their dead, and Paul gave them hope (4:13–18). Whom do you miss, and what does this letter say to you about them? *(1 Thessalonians)*
- Some in Thessalonica dropped their daily work to wait for the end (3:11). How does hope in Christ's return change the way you do ordinary work? *(2 Thessalonians)*
- Paul called himself the chief of sinners, and still the one Christ chose to show his mercy (1:15–16). Where do you need to believe that mercy is meant for you too? *(1 Timothy)*
- Timothy's faith lived first in his grandmother and his mother (1:5). Who handed the faith on to you, and to whom are you handing it on? *(2 Timothy)*
- Paul says grace teaches us to live soberly, justly and godly (2:12). Which of those three words names your next step? *(Titus)*
- Paul offered to pay whatever Onesimus owed (18–19). Whose debt, of money or of hurt, could you quietly forgive or carry this week? *(Philemon)*
- Hebrews pictures the faithful of old as a cloud of witnesses around us as we run (12:1). Whose faith do you picture cheering you on? *(Hebrews)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Catholic Letters and Revelation

READ BEFORE WE MEET

Chapter Eleven: The Catholic Letters and Revelation (pp. 166–183). Then the Conclusion (p. 184).

THE BOOKS

James 168 · 1 Peter 170 · 2 Peter 172 · 1 John 174 · 2 John 176 · 3 John 178 · Jude 180 · Revelation 182

Seven short letters to the whole Church, and a book of visions that closes the Bible with a wedding and a city.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

GET YOUR BEARINGS

When Revelation closes, the whole library lies behind you. Where should a reader go next, and how do you keep reading for the rest of your life?

TALK IT OVER

Choose two or three.

- James says the tongue is a small fire that can set a forest alight (3:5–6). Which word of yours this week would you take back if you could? *(James)*
- Peter tells believers to be ready to give a reason for their hope (3:15). If a friend asked you tomorrow why you believe, what would you say? *(1 Peter)*
- Peter lists the virtues to add to faith, one upon another (1:5–7). Which one is the next to add in your own life? *(2 Peter)*
- John says that whoever claims to love God and hates his brother is a liar (4:20). Whom do you find hardest to love, and what small act could begin to change that? *(1 John)*
- The elder would rather speak face to face than write (12). Who in your life deserves a visit more than a message this week? *(2 John)*
- Gaius welcomed strangers who were working for the Gospel (5). Whom could you welcome, support or encourage in their work for the Church? *(3 John)*
- Jude asks his readers to have mercy on those who doubt (22). Who near you is struggling to believe, and how could you show them mercy? *(Jude)*
- Revelation ends with the prayer Come, Lord Jesus (22:20). What would change in your week if you prayed it each morning? *(Revelation)*
- The Conclusion offers five habits for reading the Bible for life. Which one will you begin this week? *(Conclusion)*

CARRY ONE VERSE HOME

Agree on one verse to carry from this week's books, write it here, and close with the Our Father.

The Old Testament

†

46 books

THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORY

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Tobit
Judith
Esther
1 Maccabees
2 Maccabees

WISDOM

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Wisdom
Sirach

THE PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Baruch
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The New Testament

†

27 books

GOSPELS AND ACTS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

LETTERS OF PAUL

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

HEBREWS AND THE CATHOLIC LETTERS

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

PROPHECY

Revelation

Seventy-three books in all.

Book by Book

†

How each section works

THE BOOK IN BRIEF
the whole book in a paragraph

HOW IT IS BUILT
its shape, by chapter

A TIP BEFORE YOU READ
one piece of advice

READ THESE FIRST
where to start

HOW THE CHURCH READS IT
the Catechism

WHERE YOU MEET IT
at Mass

POINTING TO CHRIST
the thread through it all

A VERSE TO CARRY
one line to remember

ONE QUESTION
to pray or talk over

Lectio Divina

†

Praying with Scripture

READ
a short passage, slowly

PONDER
a word or phrase that stays with you

PRAY
speak to God about it

REST
quietly, in his presence

BEFORE YOU READ

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

The Story at a Glance

Seventy-three books, one story. Here it is in a single view, with the books that tell each part.

Dates before about 900 BC are traditional or approximate, and many are debated.

BEFORE HISTORY

In the beginning

God creates a good world; the human family turns away; the flood; the tower of Babel.

Genesis 1–11

ABOUT 1800 BC

The patriarchs

Abraham is called and given the promise, which passes to Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Genesis 12–50

ABOUT 1250 BC

The Exodus

Moses leads Israel out of Egypt; the covenant at Sinai; forty years in the wilderness.

Exodus to Deuteronomy

ABOUT 1200 TO 1050 BC

The land and the judges

Joshua leads the tribes into Canaan; judges rescue them; Ruth chooses Israel's God.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

ABOUT 1050 TO 930 BC

The kingdom

Samuel anoints Saul and then David; God promises David a lasting throne; Solomon builds the Temple.

1–2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Psalms, Proverbs

ABOUT 930 TO 587 BC

Two kingdoms and the prophets

The kingdom divides; Assyria destroys Samaria in 722 BC; the prophets warn and plead; Babylon burns Jerusalem in 587 BC.

1–2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah

587 TO ABOUT 430 BC

Exile and return

Exile in Babylon; Cyrus lets the exiles go home in 538 BC; the Temple is rebuilt by 515 BC; Ezra and Nehemiah renew the covenant.

Ezekiel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

332 TO 63 BC

Under the Greeks

Alexander the Great; the Scriptures put into Greek; the Maccabees rise up, and the Temple is dedicated again in 164 BC.

1–2 Maccabees, Daniel, Sirach, Wisdom

ABOUT 6 BC TO AD 30

Jesus Christ

Jesus is born of Mary in Bethlehem, proclaims the kingdom of God, dies on the cross and rises on the third day.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

ABOUT AD 30 TO 62

The Church goes out

The Spirit comes at Pentecost; the Gospel spreads from Jerusalem to Rome; Paul founds churches and writes to them.

Acts, the letters of Paul

ABOUT AD 62 TO 100

The apostles' last words

Rome destroys the Temple in AD 70; the last letters are written; John sees a new heaven and a new earth.

Hebrews, the Catholic Letters, Revelation

LECTIO DIVINA

Praying with one passage

Date _____ Passage _____

READ · LECTIO

Read the passage slowly, twice. Which word or phrase stays with you?

PONDER · MEDITATIO

Turn it over. Why does it stay with you? What is God saying to you in it today?

PRAY · ORATIO

Speak to God about it, in your own words.

REST · CONTEMPLATIO

Rest quietly in his presence. Afterward, note anything you want to remember.