

A Sampling of Options for Small Groups

Renewal Programs

Awakening Faith (Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association): Six-week group process for outreach to inactive Catholics or for renewal. www.awakeningfaith.org

ChristLife: New Evangelization ministry for the parish. DVDs and faith-sharing sessions. www.christlife.org

Word on Fire: Fr. Robert Barron

Much of Fr. Barron's DVD content has been paired with written materials to be used by parishes or other small groups for faith formation. All programs are:

Designed to be lay-led with Leader's Kits providing essential resources

Multi-dimensional: Each lesson includes Fr. Barron's teaching on a DVD, written commentary, and Questions for Understanding and Application in the personal Study Guide. These questions are then discussed in small group, facilitated discussion.

Core Programs (branded CATHOLICISM) are comprehensive and broad, intended to form the participant in a fundamental area of the Faith, such as Church Teachings or Evangelization

Topical Programs are shorter programs with an in-depth focus on one, important part of the Faith, such as the Eucharist, sin and virtue, or holiness.

<http://www.wordonfire.org/study-programs/>

Longing for the Holy (Renew International): Based on the book *The Holy Longing* by Ron Rolheiser, OMI, this text has readings from various authors and discussion questions on contemporary spirituality. www.renewintl.org

Quest (Archdiocese of Hartford): Lectionary-based small group process. www.sccquest.org

The Joy of Believing A practical guide to the Catholic faith written by Archbishop William E Lori. Contains small group discussion questions after each chapter.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Joy-Believing-Practical-Catholic/dp/1593252714>

Scripture Study Programs

Catholic Scripture Study

Published by Catholic Scripture Study International, this series with Scott Hahn, Mark Shea, and others has video and print components. Organized according to books of the Bible, it reflects an academic approach. Each series runs for about 26 – 30 weeks. It does not use an entirely contextualist approach to interpretation, and relies more on lecture and question-and-answer formats than on participant discussion. With a great deal of theologizing beyond the Scriptures themselves, it may prove problematic for persons with little or no previous training in Catholic theology.

www.catholicscripturestudy.com.

The Great Adventure

Published by Ascension Press, this recent series with Jeff Cavins has video and print components, along with several “props” used as memory aids. It reflects a primarily academic approach, with the addition of reflection and life application questions. The main series runs for 24 weeks, and presents a thematic overview of the Bible and its links to salvation history. Later additions to the series explore specific books of the Bible. It utilizes a contextualist approach, but the length of the video portion may not allow for much participant interaction with the other materials. It could be appropriate for persons with various backgrounds in Scripture or Catholic theology.

<http://biblestudyforcatholics.com/>.

Little Rock Scripture Study

Published by the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, in partnership with Liturgical Press, this is one of the oldest and most comprehensive series available. With video and print components, individual segments run a variety of lengths and are arranged both thematically and by books of the Bible. It utilizes a contextualist approach. In addition to the study aspects, it includes prayer and discussion sections for each session that are

consistent with adult learning principles. Segments vary in duration of number of sessions. Persons with various training levels could use it. www.littlerockscripture.org.

Six Weeks with the Bible: Catholic Perspectives

Published by Loyola Press, this series consists of print materials by a variety of authors. Arranged both by themes and by books of the Bible, each segment of this series consists of 6 sessions. Using a contextualist approach and sound adult learning principles, this series integrates prayer, discussion and study, as well as reflection exercises between sessions. It is most appropriate for persons with little or no background in Scripture or theology. www.loyolapress.com.

Threshold Bible Study

Published by Twenty-Third Publications, this thematic series of print materials by Scripture scholar Stephen Binz is designed for both personal study and group reflection. Prayer and discussion starters are included for each session. The format is flexible, allowing for multiple sessions to be combined or for each to stand alone. It reflects a contextualist approach, and could be used by persons of varying degrees of theological background (but some knowledge is helpful). www.twentythirdpublications.com.