

Name _____

Sacred Scripture

Directed Reading Guide

Date _____

Introduction to Sacred Scripture

Directions: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

Pages 2–3 *A Hunger for God*

1. What kinds of experiences will help you recognize how necessary it is to have a more adult relationship with God?
2. The pursuit of God's _____ is the only real way forward to a path of _____ and fulfillment and curiously, some of the most difficult _____ to be fully adult will also help you to gain the _____ needed to enter into a _____ with God in a deeper and more _____ way.
3. While you can find _____ of God in the beauty, complexity, wildness, and vast expanse of the _____, or experience God in the best _____ we have with other people, the fullness of _____ is Jesus Christ, the Son of God made _____, in whom God has established his _____ forever.
4. True or False? The richest experience of knowing God comes from the full participation in the charitable life of the Church.
5. True or False? One of the most enriching aspects of the Church's experience of God comes from its reception of Divine Revelation in the Bible.

Page 4 *What Is the Bible?*

6. The _____ is God's communication, God's Word in _____ form. It is astounding that God, who is infinite, all-powerful, and _____, would make the effort to spend time _____ with us, his creation. There is nothing more _____ than the Bible because it speaks to _____ that matter most.

Pages 5–9 *Who Wrote the Bible? A Question of Inspiration*

7. The ancient _____ and the earliest Christians believed that certain writings clearly indicated _____ had guided the writers—the writings were understood to be _____. It was a team effort where various people willingly _____ with God's promptings while writing.
8. What are some reasons why the biblical authors wrote their works?
9. What are the most important books of the Bible for Christians? Why?
10. True or False? Since God was so intimately involved in the authoring of the books of the Bible, we can depend on the Scriptures to accurately inform us of messages and teachings that God wants us to hear and know.
11. What is the primary message of the Bible?

12. God's _____ only starts with individual authors writing the books of the Bible but then it had to be _____ as God's inspired word. Many other _____ were not accepted as inspired Scripture. For Catholics, deciding which books to include in the _____ meant recognizing that these inspired books set the stage for the coming of the _____.
13. Who determined which writings were suitable to include in the canon of Scripture?
14. True or False? The majority of Gnostic writings were faithful to the tradition handed down by Jesus and his eyewitnesses and shared with early Church members and were accepted into the New Testament canon.
15. How many books did the Church approve in the canon of Scripture?
16. True or False? The primary purpose for Catholics to study the Bible is to help them to understand what God is saying in the texts.
17. What are the most important things the Bible tells us about Sacred Scripture?
18. To say that the Bible is _____ means that all the religious _____ that God desires us to understand for the sake of _____ are dependable, without error, and thus _____. Some Christians, however, take a literal or _____ view of the Bible and hold that the _____ Bible is inerrant in historical, _____, and geographical detail because God is literally the _____.

Pages 9–21 *How Can We Read the Bible?*

19. True or False? Because the uniqueness of the Bible is God's inspired word, it must be read no differently than any other type of book.
20. Who has the task of interpreting God's Word, both in Sacred Scripture and in Sacred Tradition?
21. Many _____ denominations belong to a "church of the _____," meaning they do not assign equal weight to Scripture and _____. But Catholic teaching states that the same Spirit that inspired the biblical _____ to write continues to assist the Church to _____, teach, and proclaim God's Word to the _____.
22. Scripture can be distinguished between _____ senses: the literal and the _____. The literal sense of Scripture refers to _____ at the surface level. The spiritual sense of Scripture refers to not the words themselves, but rather _____.
23. The spiritual sense is further divided into the _____ sense, which reasons out _____ from the details of the biblical narratives, the _____ sense, which seeks instructions for _____, and the _____ sense, which focuses on _____ life.

24. Using these interpretive approaches can help us frame some key that we might ask about the narrative portions of Scripture. What are examples of these questions from the Parable of the Prodigal Son?
25. While ancient tradition says that _____ was the sole human author of the _____, today the Church accepts that several _____ were actually responsible for _____ it, while not denying the role of Moses in its _____.
26. True or False? Many of the Old Testament books have very complex histories, were written by several authors, are from vastly different time periods, and were often refashioned by later editors/authors to address entirely new problems and questions.
27. What is the historical–critical method?
28. What is the benefit of using the historical–critical method?
29. The story of _____ took the form we have today when the _____ were exiled in Babylon. Like Noah, these Jews were surrounded by a sea of utter _____. For the exiles, the Noah story's _____ was not to teach ancient history but to promise them that if they could be as _____ to God as Noah had been, then God would _____.
30. Because life in the _____ two to three thousand years ago was so different than it is today, the _____ encourages us to begin our Bible reading by _____ what the Scriptures meant to the _____ writers and readers. Only then can we hope to _____ how to best apply God's _____ to them in our _____ lives.
31. What do modern people who look at the ancient stories in the Bible often fail to recognize? Explain.
32. True or False? Religious truth, and truth itself, is not the same thing as “historical fact.”
33. Facts are good and _____ in their own place. But when we ask questions about _____ and what God wants from us, though, _____ may actually be more important. We need to consider what the _____, who were neither historians nor scientists, _____ when writing.
34. What types of resources do we need when we read and pray the Bible in order to avoid confusion? What do we ultimately need?
35. _____ refers to more than a passage's immediate conditions, or even how it is _____ by the book or letter that contains it. God is the _____ and singular author, inspiring all of its books and we can expect _____ and a principle of _____ between any particular passage and all other _____ in all the other books of the Bible on that _____.

36. What things do we need to know to arrive at a better understanding of any passage of Scripture?
37. Explain the ways that modern biblical commentaries aid our understanding of the Bible.
38. True or False? The entire collection of Catholic beliefs includes both the Sacred Scripture and Sacred Liturgy of the Church.
39. True or False? Both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition have the same source: the teachings of Christ which were preached after his Death and were preserved and interpreted by the Church's Magisterium.
40. True or False? The very early Church existed for at least fifty years before the first of the New Testament books was written.
41. True or False? The Gospel writers clearly did not put down everything Jesus did or taught.
42. True or False? None of the inspired biblical authors gave a clear and concise written definition of the Trinity anywhere in the New Testament. Rather it is found much more clearly expressed in Sacred Tradition.
43. Explain the Protestant understanding of Scripture.
44. Catholics find assurance in the _____ itself, which never requires all _____ to be contained in the Bible, and also points out that not everything _____ said or did was contained in the Bible. Both Scripture and Tradition sprang from the _____, who trusted the _____ to the whole Church.
45. The _____ continue to preach and teach to every _____ all that the Church believes, guided and protected by the _____. This is the very same Spirit-filled teaching _____ used by the early Church when it _____ and _____ the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.