



## BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

Have you ever opened the Bible and encountered Jesus in the pages of scripture? Is it only during the Mass you encounter the passages of scripture through the readings? This is not enough!

Open the Bible, prayerfully read a passage of your choice, meditate on it and new horizons will appear. It doesn't matter whether the passage has been read before or not, greater insight is given each time to encourage, affirm, console, and challenge our personal journey with Christ.

Our scripture session is a collective, organized attempt by a group of seekers like "YOU" to look at the text, its relationship to the historical period and events, the author, the type of literature and meaning. Since the Bible, itself, states it cannot stand alone, (Jn 20:30; 21:25; 2Thess 2:15; 2Jn 1:12; 3Jn 1:13-14) very often passages are related to the tradition and teachings of the Church over the past 2000 years. Consideration is also given to the impact of the Reformation and Catholic Counter Reformation on the Bible and Christian unity. The reflection helps in the understanding of the Bible as an inspired text, and encourages us to develop a genuine morality, and spirituality on our daily Christian journey.

There is a saying, "The journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step". Look at the bulletin for the days and times of our three scripture sessions, make a selection and take that step with us, today. The journey will be an untold blessing for you and your family.

### Biblical Reference

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105).

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2Tim 3:16-17).

### Teaching of the Catholic Church

Thanks to the assistance of the Holy Spirit, the understanding of both the realities and the words of the heritage of faith is able to grow in the life of the Church:

- "through the contemplation and study of believers who ponder these things in their hearts"; it is in particular "theological research [which] deepens knowledge of revealed truth".
- "from the intimate sense of spiritual realities which [believers] experience", the sacred Scriptures "grow with the one who reads them."
- "from the preaching of those who have received, along with their right of succession in the episcopate, the sure charism of truth" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 94).

Therefore, the study of the sacred page should be the very soul of sacred theology. The ministry of the Word, too – pastoral preaching, catechetics and all forms of Christian instruction, among which the liturgical homily should hold pride of place – is healthily nourished and thrives in holiness through the Word of Scripture (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 132)

"The Church has always venerated the divine Scripture as she venerated the Body of the Lord" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 141).