

Bible Studies for Young People

Message from Pope Benedict XVI and the importance of Sacred Scriptures

How can we live the love of God and our brothers without a living and intense contact with the Holy Scriptures? Vatican Council II asserts it is necessary that “easy access to Sacred Scripture should be provided for all the Christian faithful” (Dei Verbum, 22) so that persons, on meeting the truth, may grow in authentic love. This is a requisite that today is indispensable for evangelization...Ongoing efforts to give life to the Biblical movement among lay people should be encouraged, along with the formation of group animators, with particular attention being paid to the young. (XII Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 26, 2008)

Resources available in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at the Pastoral Center

Books

A Teenager's Introduction to the New Testament, by Jim Auer. Liguori: Liguori Publications, 1986. ISBN: 0-89243-257-8
<http://www.amazon.ca/Teenagers-Absolutely-Basic-Introduction-Testament/dp/0892432578>

A Family Guide to The Catholic Youth Bible, by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2000. ISBN: 0-88489-648-X
<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/088489648X>

Sword of the Spirit: A Beginners Guide to St. Paul, by Christopher Cuddy and Mark Hart. Mesa: Life Teen, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-9802362-2-4
Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2008 – June 2009, “The year of St Paul”. Life Teen wants to faithfully prepare you and your parish with our new paperback, *Sword of the Spirit: A Beginner's Guide to St. Paul*. Written in concise and practical language, it's ideal for both teens or adults. It offers the reader, a clear understanding of Catholic doctrine as outlined and exemplified through St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. Additionally, it offers overviews of each of St. Paul's epistles, a virtual tour of his missionary journeys, cross-references of Scripture and the Catechism, essential footnotes, suggested reference reading and thematic “advice” based upon the writings of the Church's greatest missionary.
http://www.lifeteen.com/default.aspx?PageID=STORE_VIEWPRODUCT& ProductID=339

A Still More Excellent Way: How St. Paul Points Us to Jesus, by Joseph Durepos. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2008.

A Still More Excellent Way is a wonderful resource for use during the Pauline Year and beyond. It provides readers with an inspiring introduction to the spiritual and moral wisdom of St. Paul through fifty-two brief selections from the apostle's writings. Each Scripture selection is accompanied by a story, reflection, or meditation that offers testimony to the unmistakably Christ-centered message of St. Paul. Paul evangelized in the first-century Roman world, but Durepos uses plenty of twenty-first-century pop-culture references to make the material highly relevant for today and throughout the Pauline Year.
<http://www.amazon.com/Still-More-Excellent-Way-Points/dp/0829427589>

The Bible from Scratch: Catholic Edition, by Simon Jenkins. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2006. ISBN: 0-88489-940-3

The Bible is the most famous book in the world, but with over 770,000 words, it can be hard to find your way around. This is where *The Bible from Scratch* comes in. It's a fun, witty guide to the Bible, giving a lightning tour using cartoons, maps, speech bubbles, family trees, and words where necessary. It gives information about every book from Acts to Zechariah. It provides many intriguing facts about the famous faces and the famous events of the Bible. Whether you are new to the good book or you simply need to understand Philipians in two minutes flat, *The Bible from Scratch* could be just what you are looking for. <http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=4326>

The Key to the Bible, by Gary Katz. Mesa: Full Life Associates, 1997. ISBN: 0-9657269-0-8

Youth Engaging Scripture, by Dennis Kurtz. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-88489-912-9

Our "YES! Youth Engaging Scripture" project is a peer-led Bible-sharing experience based on *lectio divina*, guaranteed to transform the lives of your high school youth and touch their hearts forever. Through reading, reflecting, and acting on the Scriptures, "YES!" brings teens together to share common experiences, to immerse themselves in the Bible, and to learn how God's word is relevant in their lives. Peer teen leaders and their adult mentors are trained through a "YES! Congress on the Bible," which is a one-day workshop hosted by your school, diocese, parish, or organization. Contact Dennis Kurtz at 800-533-8095 or at dkurtz@smp.org for more information or to schedule a workshop. <http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=yes>

A Catholic Guide to the Bible, by Father Oscar Lukefahr, C.M. Liguori: Liguori Publications, 1998. ISBN: 0-7648-0201-1

This revised and expanded edition of *A Catholic Guide to the Bible* is a guide to the basics of biblical scholarship. Offering historical backgrounds and information about the author and the literary style of the work, it provides a theological interpretation of selected passages based on the latest Scripture scholarship and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Drawing on more than 30 years experience as a priest and Catholic educator, Father Lukefahr helps ensure that the Bible will become a friend on your journey through life. <http://www.liguori.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=6758>

Becoming a New Testament Leader, by Dan McGill. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2002. ISBN: 0-88489-688-9

Becoming a New Testament Leader is **simple, practical, and effective**. Each book of the New Testament has from one to three reflections, each beginning with a focusing Scripture passage and followed by a simple presentation on a theme from that book of the Bible. Following the commentary is a page of **reflection questions** to help youth leaders apply the theme to their ministry with youth in a practical context. <http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=4304>

The Seeker's Guide to Reading the Bible: a Catholic View, by Steve Mueller. Chicago: Loyola Press, 1999. ISBN: 0-8294-1345-6

Do you want to know what the Bible is? How to read it? What Catholics believe about it? Steve Mueller addresses many of the problems and concerns that adult learners commonly face when they begin their journey of faith through Scripture. This guide is perfect for those who are new to Bible study as well as those who want to increase their knowledge of the Bible <http://www.amazon.com/Seekers-Guide-Reading-Bible-Catholic/dp/0829413456>

Essential Bible Dictionary, by Sheila O'Connell-Roussell. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-88489-872-5

The Saint Mary's Press® Essential Bible Dictionary offers concise definitions for the essential people, places, events, and themes of the Holy Scriptures. Words and spellings come from the New American Bible

and the New Revised Standard Version: Catholic Edition translations, the most commonly used translations for Catholic Bibles in the United States.

<http://www.smp.org/OnlineResources/EssentialBibleDictionary/>

Step by Step Through Scripture, by Mark Quinn and Mark Scott. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 1999. ISBN: 0-87793-692-7

<http://www.amazon.com/Through-Scripture-Reproducible-Worksheets-Testaments/dp/0877936927>

Biblical Literacy Made Easy: A Practical Guide for Catechists, Teachers, and Youth Ministers by Brian Singer-Towns. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-88489-956-3

This practical guide provides catechists, teachers, and youth ministers with the foundational background necessary to form biblically literate young people.

www.smp.org

Bringing Catholic Youth and the Bible Together, ed. Brian Singer-Town. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2000. ISBN: 978-0-88489-692-0

Sometimes the Bible can be overwhelming for teens. Here, nine biblical experts and veteran ministers help ministers and teachers bring Catholic youth and *The Catholic Youth Bible*® together. They provide background on how Catholics approach the Scriptures, practical ideas for developing biblical literacy and biblical spirituality, directions for using the ancient Catholic practice of *lectio divina* with today's teens, and activities for using the Bible with junior high and senior high youth.

<http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=4309>

Ready-to-go Scripture Skits...that teach serious stuff, by Michael Theisen. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-88489-896-2

Ready-to-Go Scripture Skits engages young people in an active form of learning that is hard to beat. It achieves MLP (maximum learning potential) through FLP (full laugh potential). And the skits are so off-the-wall that involving everybody in a group is easy. Each of ten sessions uses an intentional three-act process to help young people explore the Scriptures and apply them to their lives today: grabbing young people's attention through an outrageous and spontaneous Scripture skit, leading them to deeper insight through the historical context and meaning of the story's key elements, and helping them apply the story's meaning to their lives. The sessions are perfect for religious education classes, youth groups, campus ministry events, retreats, lock-ins, and intergenerational and family programs. *Ready-to-Go Scripture Skits* are just that: ready to go, using few props and lines that can be read in a moment's notice.

<http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=3438>

The Bible Chronicle, edited by Derek Williams. Guildford: Eagle, 1997. ISBN: 0-86347-183-8

This book covers the full history of the Bible, from 10,000 BC to AD 100. Chronicling the people and events of the time, it is written in a journalistic style.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Bible-Chronicle-Derek-Williams/dp/0863471838>