

CATHOLIC BIBLE INSTITUTE – THIRD YEAR 2010

Facilitation of Small Scripture Sharing Groups

GOAL: Learning *How to Facilitate Small Scripture Sharing Groups*

In the Spring you will plan, and in the Summer and/or Fall you will actually facilitate a small Scripture Sharing group, according to the following guidelines:

- **Who?** Teams of two (or at most three) students of the Catholic Bible Institute will be facilitators.
- **With Whom?** Recruit participants for your Scripture Sharing group from your parish, neighbors, friends, coworkers, etc. Try to get about 8-12 people together, not too many more or less.
- **Where?** You can meet in your own home, parish, workplace, or some other location; make sure you get permission from your pastor, employer, or property owner, as necessary.
- **When?** You can schedule your Scripture Sharing group almost any time, mornings, afternoons, or evenings; weekdays or weekends; in the Summer or Fall (you must *finish before* Nov. 13).
- **How Long?** You should plan for your group to have at least *six sessions* of about *90 minutes* each (or eight to ten sessions of about 60 minutes each).
- **What?** Choose what biblical book(s) or topic your group will study, in one of these ways:
 - **Lectionary-based:** Each week, focus on the three Lectionary readings for the following Sunday.
 - **Lectionary-related:** Pick a biblical book that is used at Mass during the current liturgical season; e.g. study the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter Season, or 1 John in the Christmas season, etc.
 - **Bible-based:** Choose any book of the Bible you wish (or a small group of closely related books, such as 1 & 2 Kings, or Ezra & Nehemiah, or Luke & Acts, or the three Johannine Epistles, etc.)
 - **Topically-based:** Pick a biblical or religious topic, which will determine what texts you study; e.g., you could focus on the parables of Jesus, or how the Apostles are portrayed in the NT, etc.
- **How?** Select some Scripture resources for your group, e.g., a small commentary or study guide; use the *Lectio Divina* approach or another good method for adult Scripture Sharing groups; make sure to integrate prayer, reading, reflection, study, quiet, and sharing into each session.

SPRING SEMESTER: Planning *Your Scripture Sharing Group for the Summer or Fall*

February 6, 2010 – Form Facilitation Teams

- *Choose one partner* (or at most two) with whom you wish to co-facilitate your small Scripture Sharing group during the Summer and/or Fall (if someone is not a current CBI student, please get clearance from the CBI Leadership Team).
- *Start planning* where (home? parish? other?) and when you want to conduct your Scripture Sharing.

March 6, 2010 – Submit a One-page Overview of your Plans

- *List the basic logistics:* leaders? location? dates/times? types of participants? what publicity?
- *Propose the content:* what biblical book or topic will you study?
- *Mention your resources:* which Scripture Sharing guides, commentaries, videos, tapes, handouts, or other resources will you as a facilitator use? what resources will all the participants in your group use?

April 10, 2010 – Refine Your Plans, and Arrange for Evaluation Visits

- *List your overall schedule*, and what biblical content you will cover in *each* or your group's sessions.
- *Submit a detailed description* (2-3 pages) of how you will conduct *one* of your sessions; mention the schedule, who will do what, what you plan for hospitality, environment, sacred space, prayer, etc.
- *Arrange for an Evaluation Visit* of one of your sessions by one of the CBI Team members or alumni.
- *Arrange to visit and observe* a session of one of the other Scripture Sharing groups.

May 8, 2010 - Submit final plans for your Summer/Fall Scripture Sharing Group

- Adapt and complete your plans, incorporating any feedback received from the CBI Leadership Team.

SUMMER/FALL: *Facilitating your Scripture Sharing Group*

- Facilitate a small Scripture Sharing group, according to the plans you and your co-facilitator(s) made.
- Arrange for at least one member of the CBI Leadership Team to visit one session of your Scripture Sharing group.
- Visit at least one other Scripture Sharing group of CBI participants, and write a brief evaluation of this other group (forms will be provided by the CBI Leadership Team).
- Write a more detailed summary/evaluation report (ca. 2 pages) for your own Scripture Sharing group: Did your Scripture Sharing group go as planned, or what was changed? What were the best aspects? What could you have done better? What are the most important things you learned from this process?

November 13, 2010 – Wrap-Up / Evaluation Session

- Each person submits a written summary/evaluation report for your own Scripture Sharing group.
- Each person submits a brief written evaluation of the other group you visited.
- Each group gives an oral presentation summarizing your experience facilitating your small group:
A) What went well? B) What could have been better? C) What did you learn from the experience?

NEW DATE:

December 2, 2010 (Thursday) – Graduation Day: Liturgy of the Word, Ceremony, and Reception
(service starts at 7:00 p.m., at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, San Bernardino)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- **Grades:** For those enrolled for LMU credit, grades for the third year will simply be Credit/No Credit.
All those who complete the above requirements, submit the written proposals, actually conduct their Scripture Sharing group, and submit the final evaluations will receive a grade of “Credit.”
- **Changes:** If there are any substantial changes in your plans, please contact the CBI team for approval.