

CATHOLIC BIBLE INSTITUTE – THIRD YEAR 2012-2013

Team Project: Facilitation of Small Scripture Sharing Groups

GOAL: Learning How to Facilitate Small Scripture Sharing Groups

In the Fall you will plan, and in the Winter/Spring 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 the facilitators.
- **With Whom?** Recruit participants for your Scripture Sharing group from your parish, school, friends, neighbors, 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 group almost any time, mornings, afternoons, or evenings; weekdays or weekends; in the Winter or Spring (you must *finish before* March 31, 2013).
- **How Long?** Plan for your Scripture Sharing group to have at least *six sessions* of *90 minutes* each (or nine sessions of 60 minutes each).
- **What?** Choose what biblical readings, book(s), or topic your group will focus on, 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 1 John after Christmas, the Gospel of John during Lent, Acts during the Easter season, etc.
 - **Bible-based:** Choose any book of the Bible you wish (or a small set 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.

FALL SEMESTER: Planning Your Scripture Sharing Group for the Winter or Spring

October 6, 2012 – Form Facilitation Teams

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

November 3, 2012 – Submit an Overview (*one full page*) of your Project Plans

- *Identify the facilitators:* give your full names, phone numbers, and emails.
- *List the basic logistics:* location? dates/times? types of participants? publicity planned?
- *Propose the content:* what biblical readings, book(s), 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?
- You will receive feedback on this proposal from Fr. Felix by email.

December 1, 2012 – Submit Complete Detailed Plans, and Arrange for Evaluation Visits

- *Adapt and complete your plans*, incorporating any feedback received from the CBI Leadership Team.
- *List your overall schedule*, and what biblical content you will cover in *each* of 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 Leadership Team members.
- *Arrange to visit and observe* a session of another Scripture Sharing group led by other CBI students.

WINTER/SPRING: Facilitating your Scripture Sharing Group

1. Implement your project, facilitating a small Scripture Sharing group according to the plans made by you and your co-facilitator(s) and approved by the CBI Leadership Team.
2. Make sure at least one CBI Leadership Team member *visits* one session of your Scripture Sharing group.
3. Visit at least one *other* Scripture Sharing group facilitated by other CBI participants, and write a brief evaluation of this other group (evaluation forms will be provided).
4. Write a more detailed summary/evaluation report (ca. 2-3 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?

April 6, 2013 (Saturday) – Wrap-Up / Evaluation Session (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

- *Each individual* submits a brief written evaluation of the other group you visited.
- *Each individual* submits a 2-3 page summary report evaluating your own Scripture Sharing group.
- *Each team* 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?

April 30, 2013 (Tuesday) – Graduation Day: Liturgy of the Word, Ceremony, and Reception

- service starts at 4:00 p.m., at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in San Bernardino

FINAL GRADES:

For those enrolled to receive continuing education credit through LMU Extension, the letter grades for the third year will be based on the following criteria:

- On-time attendance at all five Saturday sessions (four in Fall 2012, the fifth in April 2013).
- On-time submission of all written assignments, as described on this handout.
- Evidence of incorporating the instructor's feedback in revising your project plans.
- Successful completion with your teammates of the project implemented by your team.
- The evaluation forms completed by the CBI Leadership Team and other CBI participants.
- Evidence of having learned and applied the course material: not just knowledge of the structure and content of the Old and New Testaments, but also the availability of academic and pastoral scripture-sharing resources, the principles of "Catholic Biblical Interpretation," the *Lectio Divina* process, project planning skills, group facilitation skills, conflict resolution skills, and related topics.