



**DIOCESE OF RALEIGH**

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*Doorways* TO FORMATION IN THE FAITH

**INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE**

**Course Description**

This course provides the participant with a basic introduction to the Bible including its format and structure, an overview of the books and the genres of writing, and the critical tools for interpretation. It also explores Old and New Testament themes along with key documents of the Church. Integral to each session is prayer, course content, faith sharing, and large/small group discussion so that participants can apply the teachings to their life and ministry.

**Course Expectations**

Attendance at five of the six sessions is required to receive a Certificate of Completion.

Read assigned and related materials prior to class.

Participate in class discussions.

Maintain a Course Journal/Notebook.

Complete and return the Course Evaluation.

Safe Environment Training is up to date at the completion of the course.

**Course Materials**

**Required Texts**

**English**

Paprocki, Joe. The Bible Blueprint: A Catholic's Guide to Understanding and Embracing God's Word. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2005.  
<http://www.loyolapress.com>

\*Note: Participants should also have a copy of the New American Bible or access to  
<http://usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm>

**Spanish**

Paprocki, Joe. Los Planos de La Biblia: Una Guía Católica Para Entender Y Acoger La Palabra de Dios. Trans. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2009.  
<http://www.loyolapress.com>

\*Nota: Los participantes deben también tener una Biblia Católica o el acceso al  
<http://usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm>

## INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

### Course Structure and Highlights

#### **Session 1/Week 1:** Overview, Understanding the Bible

**Topics:**

The Bible as a library of Books  
Choosing a Bible  
Breaking down the Bible  
Bible Basics  
The Plan of Salvation (Genesis to Revelation)/Bible Timeline  
The meaning of Tradition - Oral and Written

**Reading Assignment:**

Paprocki, Chapters 1, 2 and 3

#### **Session 2/Week 2:** Journey into the Biblical World and a Brief Overview of the Pentateuch

**Topics:**

Divisions within the Old and New Testaments  
Translation - Languages and the Bible  
Time and Culture  
Footnotes and Cross-references  
Biblical Dictionaries, Concordances and Commentaries  
Overview of the Vatican document *Dei Verbum*

**Reading Assignments:**

Paprocki, Chapters 4 and 5

#### **Session 3/Week 3:** Surface and Symbolic Levels of Language and a Brief Overview of Prophets

**Topics:**

Truth and Fact  
The meaning of myth  
Fundamentalism  
Testimony and Witness

**Reading Assignment:**

Paprocki, Chapters 6 and 7

#### **Session 4/Week 4:** Biblical Interpretation and a Brief Overview of Wisdom Literature

**Topics:**

Genres of the Bible  
Forms of criticism:  
    historical, textual, form, source, and redaction  
Hermeneutics/Characteristics of Interpretation  
Actualization  
Inculturation

**Reading Assignment:**

Paprocki, Chapter 8

## **Session 5/Week 5: Brief Overview of the Gospels**

### **Topics:**

Gospel writers  
Synoptic Gospels  
Gospel Liturgical Cycle  
Individual salvation and interpretation  
Inerrancy of Scripture  
The Bible as sole authority

### **Reading Assignment:**

Paprocki, Chapter 9

## **Session 6/Week 6: Praying with the Bible, Resources and Overview of the Letters of St. Paul**

### **Topics:**

The Mass  
Lectio Divina  
Liturgy of the Hours  
Central Scriptural themes: Made in the Image of God, Covenant,  
Kingdom of God, Holiness, Freedom in Christ  
Scripture Study Resources

### **Reading Assignment:**

none

### **The Ministry of Reader**

Preparation  
Reverence  
Etiquette