

DIVINE REVELATION AND SACRED SCRIPTURE

Developed by Jean Sherwood, Transfiguration Catholic Church

OPENING PRAYER: Prayer to the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTIONS

WELCOME ACTIVITY: Revealing Ourselves

DEFINITIONS

- **Divine Revelation:** God making himself known to us and bringing about our participation in the life of the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **Divine Inspiration:** the special guidance that the Holy Spirit gave to the human writers of the Bible.
- **Sacred Scripture:** The Bible – “the speech of God” as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit”.
- **Sacred Tradition:** teachings and practices handed on orally from the time of Jesus and his Apostles.
- **Magisterium:** the bishops as the successors of the Apostles with the Pope as their head.
- **The Canon of Scripture:** the official list of books the Church considers its inspired writings
- **Exegesis:** the scholarly investigation of the meaning of a Scripture text.
- **Hermeneutics:** the science of interpreting what an author has written. In Christian theology, hermeneutics focuses specifically on constructing and discovering the appropriate rules for interpreting the Bible.
- **Biblical inerrancy:** (as formulated in the "Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy") is the doctrine that the Bible "is without error or fault in all its teaching"; or, at least, that "Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact".
- **Deuterocanonicals:** the 7 of the books of the Old Testament that are included in the Catholic Bible have been left out of the Protestant versions. These deletions occurred during the Protestant Reformation.
- **Kerygma:** the core teaching about Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Kyrios is a Greek word for Lord.)

LITERARY FORMS IN THE BIBLE

ORGANIZATION OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament: the story of God’s relationship with the people of Israel before the birth of Christ.

- **Pentateuch:** the five books of the Law (Torah) – Genesis through Deuteronomy
- **History:** the section that records the story of the people of Israel who, under various leaders (judges and kings) fought to establish and keep the Promised Land – Joshua through 2 Maccabees.
- **Wisdom:** this section collects the wisdom of the people of Israel over thousands of years of wandering the desert, living in the Promised Land, worshiping in the temple, and struggling through the Exile.

- **Prophets:** in this section, the prophets were calling the people of Israel back to their past fidelity to God, lest they face doom. They also held out hope for the future when the people of Israel faced dire consequences in Exile. This hope was the notion of a messiah and an everlasting kingdom.

New Testament: the story of God’s relationship with the People of God beginning with the life, death, Resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ and continuing with the early Church.

- **Gospels:** Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – this is the section where we walk with Jesus and contains the stories that are most sacred to our Christian faith and heritage.
- **Acts of the Apostles:** this section helps us relive the experience of the early Christian community.
- **Letters:** this section contains letters addressed to the communities of Christians and the leaders of these communities. They were designed to teach, admonish, encourage, correct and update the various churches.
- **Revelation:** this section uses many symbols and figurative language to describe the eternal struggle between good and evil. The uplifting conclusion of this book is that good has prevailed and always will prevail.

SCAVENGER HUNT THROUGH ISAIAH AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

SUMMARY

CLOSING PRAYER: The Breathe of God Within Us

RESOURCES

- **Dei Verbum** – Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on 11/18/1965
- **Opus Sanctorum Angelorum** – Vatican II and Divine Revelation: The Word of God, Summer Circular Letter – 2013, Pope Benedict XVI.
- **Fides et Ratio** – Faith and Reason, Encyclical Letter, Pope John Paul II
- **Catechism of the Catholic Church** – Divine Revelation and our Faith Response, (C 50-100, 142-184, USC Chs. 1 & 4)
- **Encountering Jesus in the New Testament**, Ave Maria Press, 2003
- **We Believe** – Grade 6 Edition, Sadlier Press, 2011
- **Introducing Catholics to the Bible** – Loyola Press
- **The Scripture Source Book** – Harcourt Religion Publishers