



*Alive* in the WORD

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## The Six Tasks of Catechesis

Little Rock Scripture Study employs methods that are appropriate for adult faith formation (outlined beautifully in *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, esp. sections 81-83) and develops content that is drawn from the richness of Catholic biblical scholarship.

Our aim is three-fold:

- To increase Catholic appreciation and understanding of the Bible (familiarity with Bible passages is a start but we help Catholics understand how to use the tools of biblical study to deepen their understanding of its message and how it can be applied today).
- To grow in community with other Christians (employing small group discussion and prayer, building trust within the groups, and grounding our relationships in Christ).
- To encounter Christ and grow in our love for him (knowing that God promises to meet us in the written word and in Jesus, the incarnate Word of God, we come with expectation of growing a loving relationship).

The **six tasks of catechesis** outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* includes interrelated types of formation and leads to a full expression of Christian faith in our parishes and in our individual lives. Little Rock Scripture Study (LRSS) addresses these areas in a variety of ways:

- **Knowledge of the faith.** Familiarity with the foundational documents and practices of our faith involves study of sacred Scripture. The Scriptures themselves give testimony to who God is and who we are. LRSS offers a wide range of solid Bible study tools, including The Little Rock Catholic Study Bible that includes longer articles, a timeline of biblical events, and thousands of pieces of information about our faith and the Bible itself appearing as inserts throughout every book of the Bible. Our standard Bible study courses explore books of the Bible as well as themes. These standard courses will be available in all new editions beginning in August of 2018 and include free access to online lectures for each session.

Especially recommended from LRSS:  
The Little Rock Catholic Study Bible  
The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and/or John  
The Acts of the Apostles  
Panorama of the Old Testament  
Panorama of the New Testament  
Introduction to the Bible

- **Liturgical education.** The liturgy of our church, especially the Sunday Mass, provides another opportunity to encounter Christ in both word and sacrament. The liturgy itself becomes a vehicle for formation as we listen to the words of the Bible not just in the readings and responses but also in the prayers themselves, and as we participate in action throughout the liturgy. Effective formation of lectors is very important, along with effective preaching, in bringing the Word of God to life in our midst. Lectors who participate in Bible study often bring a greater sense of understanding to the words they proclaim. Studying the Bible with the gospel liturgical cycle in mind is helpful as is emphasizing our liturgical seasons. Some of our standard offerings from LRSS are helpful in this regard, as well as some of our offerings from Alive in the Word, a series dedicated more specifically to biblical spirituality.

Especially recommended from LRSS:  
The Passion & Resurrection Narratives of Jesus (ideal for Lent/Easter)  
The Infancy Narratives of Jesus (ideal for Advent)  
The Eucharist in Scripture

Especially recommended from Alive in the Word:  
Lent: Season of Transformation  
Easter: Season of Life and Fire  
Advent: Season of Divine Encounter  
Christmas: Season of Wonder and Hope

- **Moral formation.** Catholic Christians draw from the model of Christ who gave his life for others and from a wealth of church teachings to help form our consciences and inform our decisions in the world. Those involved in Bible study often report that their growing familiarity with the great narrative of faith throughout the Old and New Testaments helps to shape their ability to make moral decisions.

Especially recommended from LRSS:  
The Sermon on the Mount  
Exodus  
Jeremiah  
Isaiah  
The Spirituality of Paul  
The Spirituality of the Gospels

- **Learning to pray.** Essentially, prayer is speaking with and listening to God. We learn to do this through rote prayer, conversational prayer with others, praying with Scripture, and in our liturgical life. One essential part of our methodology is studying Scripture always in the context of prayer – both in our individual preparation and in our small groups. Our Study Bible, the LRSS courses, and our *Alive in the Word* offerings all include various ways to pray with Scripture so that adults may learn to find new ways of praying and deepen their relationship with Jesus and others. In addition, there are a few specific studies that invite us to learn about prayer.

Especially recommended from LRSS:

Psalms Part One

Psalms Part Two

Scripture and the Rosary

Especially recommended from *Alive in the Word*:

All volumes focus on ways to pray with Scripture

- **Education for community life.** The Church describes herself in the words of St. Paul as the Body of Christ and in the words of the Old Testament and New Testament letters as the People of God. We are incorporated into this body of believers through baptism and we grow in faith in the context of the communities of faith to which we belong (family, parish, small faith communities, etc.). The Bible is filled with stories of the saving works of God in the lives of these communities, and encourages us to form bonds of faith as we give witness to the life of Christ in our world.

Especially recommended from LRSS:

The Acts of the Apostles

Romans & Galatians

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Letters from Prison

Especially recommended from *Alive in the Word*:

Hospitality: Welcoming the Stranger

Mercy: God's Nature, Our Challenge

From Home to Home: Finding Meaning in Mobility

- **Missionary discipleship and service.** We respond to the life of Christ within us by sharing our gifts, addressing the needs of those around us, sharing the Good News in word and in deed. Our faith has to express itself in order to grow and in response to all that God has done for us. Those involved in LRSS groups often report that their study has compelled them to serve others – they become involved in other parish ministries (liturgical, educational, service to the community, etc.) and often reach well beyond the parish community to serve the wider needs of their cities and towns.

Especially recommended from LRSS:

The Sermon on the Mount

The Acts of the Apostles

Especially recommended from Alive in the Word:

Mary: Favored by God

Moses: Called and Equipped

Barnabas: Man for Others

John the Baptist: Forerunner

Hope: An Anchor in Today's World

Paul: Pastoring God's People