

DISCOVER ASCENSION

ADULT AND TEEN FAITH FORMATION — 2015

NEW IN 2015:

- *Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed*
- *Unlocking The Mystery of the Bible*
- Evangelization.com: Faith Formation On Demand
- “Ascension Presents” Is Live!
- Continuum™:
A 2000-Year-Old Approach to Faith Formation Made New

FEATURED ARTICLES:

- **A ROAD MAP FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION**
by Bishop Paul Loverde
with commentary by Jeff Cavins
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- **PARISH SPOTLIGHT:**
St. Peter the Apostle, Boerne, TX
PG 30
- **KEEPING TEENS CATHOLIC**
by Jason Evert
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DISCOVER ASCENSION

Ascension Press is very much an evolving company. New initiatives and projects that have been in development for several years are finally coming to fruition. Actually, you are holding one of these in your hands—our new catalog, *Discover Ascension*.

For a number of years now, Ascension Press has been transitioning from a traditional publisher to a media-driven, faith formation company placing ever greater importance on integrating beauty with content in service to the Catholic Faith.

Part of this integration includes an innovative approach to faith formation that we have named **Continuum™**. Described on pages 6-7, **Continuum™** maps the stages we as baptized Catholics move through as we mature in the life of faith. **Continuum™** is a guide to determine where we are on our spiritual journey and what our next step should be toward a deeper relationship with Christ.

In this inaugural issue of our new catalog, we also debut **Evangelization.com**. We have listened to the flood of requests for Ascension Press to “go digital,” and with **Evangelization.com**, your entire parish can enter into the world of Ascension online. You will be able to stream our video content on all devices. This will provide you with tremendous flexibility in how your parish can access a wealth of faith formation studies and resources.

To further meet the challenge of how to engage an “online culture,” we have recently launched a new digital resource, **AscensionPresents.com**. This online, video-driven Catholic site features some of the most dynamic and entertaining presenters in the Church today. No matter what the topic, the good, true, and beautiful shines through. Best of all, this rich video content is available for free.

Last but certainly not least ...

While **Evangelization.com** and **AscensionPresents.com** signal the new way Ascension Press is using technology to reach the Catholic world, three new studies demonstrate the commitment we have made to combining highly artistic design with incredibly effective and powerful content.

- **Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed**, featuring well-known youth author and teacher Mark Hart, will present the Mass in a way today’s Catholic youth will find irresistible.
- **Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible** is a thoroughly revised and updated version of our popular **A Quick Journey Through the Bible** study. Presented by Jeff Cavins, it provides the easiest way for anyone to understand Sacred Scripture.
- A new evangelization program will be a beautiful invitation to encounter the person of Jesus Christ. It will feature various presenters and will be available in the spring of 2016.

We also welcome the addition of Father Matt Guckin as our Ascension Chaplain. His tireless service in several Philadelphia parishes, hospitals, and for the last twelve years as a faculty member at a Catholic High School, is inspirational. We are blessed to have Father Guckin with us.

On behalf of the entire staff at Ascension Press, I would like to thank you for being with us over the last sixteen years—we are grateful and look forward to serving you in 2015.



Matthew Pinto
President



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Starting, planning, and running an effective, transformative faith formation program can be a daunting task. Where do you start? How much will it cost? Do you have the time and resources?

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We will help you determine the best study to meet your individual parish needs and present one of our studies to your pastor or faith formation team for approval.

Step 2

How to Easily Plan and Organize Your First Study

From building and training a leadership team, to budgeting and getting more people to participate, we provide you with FREE leader resources and advice on best practices from beginning to end.

Step 3

How to Build an Effective, Ongoing Faith Formation Program

We will work with you to structure a self-sustaining, multi-year faith formation program to ensure your participants will experience an ongoing conversion to Jesus Christ and play a more active role in your parish community.

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NEW LOWER PRICING

We are excited to announce a dramatic restructuring and reduction in the cost of our adult and teen faith formation Starter Packs.

This is the biggest pricing change we have ever offered—all in an effort to help your parish or school in its catechetical and evangelization outreach.

Our new pricing reduces prices across the board on all our study Starter Packs—in some cases by more than half.

As you explore the Ascension catalog you will see that each study Starter Pack falls into one of the following new prices:



Several examples illustrate the impact of the new Starter Pack pricing:

- *Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer* ~~\$99.95~~ **\$79**
- *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* ~~\$124.95~~ **\$99**
- *Theology of the Body for Teens* High School Edition ~~\$134.95~~ **\$129**
- *Momnipotent: Finding Peace, Balance, & Joy in Your Vocation as a Mother* . . . ~~\$149.95~~ **\$129**
- *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation* ~~\$269.95~~ **\$199**
- *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* ~~\$419.95~~ **\$199**

It is our hope that our new pricing will empower you to make bold choices in bringing faith formation to your entire parish community.

MEET OUR AUTHORS AND PRESENTERS



Jackie Francois Angel

Jackie Francois Angel is a Catholic recording artist and speaker who travels both nationally and internationally, leading retreats and conferences for youth and young adults. She is a *Chosen* and *Altaration* presenter.



Danielle Bean

Danielle Bean is editor-in-chief of *Catholic Digest* and author of several books including *My Cup of Tea: Musings of a Catholic Mom* and *Mom to Mom, Day to Day: Advice and Support for Catholic Living*. Danielle is lead presenter of *Momnipotent* and author of the book, *Momnipotent: The Not-So-Perfect Woman's Guide to Catholic Motherhood*.



Dn. Harold Burke-Sivers

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is the founder and director of Servant Enterprises, which is dedicated to the promotion of Catholic values. He makes regular appearances in Catholic media and leads retreats, seminars, and conferences around the world. He is a *Chosen* presenter.



Brian Butler

Brian Butler is lead author and presenter of *Theology of the Body for Teens* High School and Middle School editions and a *Chosen* presenter. He is the co-founder and president of Dumb Ox Ministries, a nonprofit organization dedicated to chastity and vocation formation for teens and young adults.



Jeff and Emily Cavins

Jeff and Emily Cavins have collaborated in creating Bible studies for more than thirty years. Jeff's *Great Adventure* Bible Study Program has helped hundreds of thousands of Catholics to read and understand Scripture. Emily is the author of *A Pilgrim's Guide to the Holy Sepulchre and Golgotha in Jerusalem*.



Sarah Christmyer

Sarah Christmyer is editor of *The Great Adventure* Bible Study Program and author of *The Bible Timeline Guided Journal*. Sarah has been a Bible study teacher since 1999 and is pursuing a master's degree in theology from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.



Leah Darrow

Leah has appeared on the reality TV show *America's Next Top Model* and was a professional model in New York City. As an international speaker, she brings her experiences of reality TV and the fashion world to teens. Leah is a presenter for *Theology of the Body* Middle School Edition and for *Chosen*.



Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia

The four Dominican sisters who participated in the *Chosen* program are part of a group of almost three hundred religious sisters based in Nashville. The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia are committed to teaching in schools throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. Visit them at nashvilledominican.org.



Jason & Crystalina Evert

Jason and Crystalina Evert are co-authors and presenters of the *Theology of the Body for Teens* High School and Middle School editions. Jason is a presenter in *Chosen* and Crystalina in *Momnipotent*. They speak internationally on chastity to more than 100,000 youths each year in Catholic, Protestant, and public schools.



Tim Gray

Dr. Tim Gray helped develop *The Great Adventure* Bible Study Program and is the author and presenter of *Exodus: Called to Freedom*. He is president of the Augustine Institute and a Scripture professor at St. John Vianney Seminary. He holds a doctorate in biblical studies from Catholic University of America.



Mark Hart

Mark Hart is the best-selling and award-winning author and co-author of more than a dozen books and is the author and lead presenter of *T3: The Teen Timeline, Encounter, and Altaration*. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, he serves as executive vice president of Life Teen International.



Fr. Joshua Johnson

Fr. Joshua Johnson is a newly ordained priest in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. He has spoken at conferences for teenagers and adults, sharing his conversion experience and proclaiming a message of hope and restoration of the dignity of the human person. He is a presenter in *Altaration*.



Colin and Amy Maclver

Colin Maclver teaches theology and serves as the religion department chair and campus ministry coordinator at St. Scholastica Academy in Covington, Louisiana. He and his wife, Amy, are co-authors and presenters of *Theology of the Body for Teens* Middle School Edition and co-authors of the *Chosen* Parent's and Sponsor's Guides.

MEET OUR AUTHORS AND PRESENTERS



Tom McCabe

Tom McCabe is co-author of *Living a Joy-Filled Marriage*, a life-skills program for engaged couples, and author of the Marriage Action Plan (MAP) Journal, a concrete plan for growing in love. He has helped prepare more than 3,500 engaged couples for marriage through workshops, retreats, and mentoring.



Chris Stefanick

Chris Stefanick is the lead author and presenter of *Chosen* and is a presenter in *Altaration*. He speaks to more than 50,000 teens, young adults, and parents every year. Chris has served as director of youth and young adult ministry for the Archdiocese of Denver. He is a syndicated columnist and has authored or co-authored several books.



Damon Owens

Damon Owens is executive director of the Theology of the Body Institute. He has published articles on the Theology of the Body and has produced and hosted a Theology of the Body series for EWTN. Damon is lead presenter for *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* and a presenter in *Theology of the Body* Middle School Edition.



Sarah Swafford

Sarah Swafford is the director of special projects for Catholic Identity at Benedictine College. She is also a Catholic chastity speaker and the founder of EmotionalVirtue.com. She graduated from Benedictine College with degrees in theology and business marketing. Sarah is a presenter in *Chosen* and *Momnipotent*.



Chris Padgett

Chris Padgett is a professor of theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville and the author or co-author of three books. He is also a Catholic speaker and recording artist and travels around the world giving talks, missions, and concerts. Chris and his wife, Linda, live with their children in Ohio. He is a presenter in *Chosen*.



Rose Sweet

Rose Sweet has authored or contributed to ten books on the topics of divorce, parenting, and relationships and is the author and lead presenter of *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide*. She has facilitated divorce-recovery classes and has served as a lay advocate, working with Catholics seeking a decree of nullity (annulment).



Dr. Gregory Popcak

Dr. Gregory Popcak is an expert in Catholic marriage and family counseling. He has a master's degree in clinical social work and a doctorate in human services with a specialization in pastoral counseling. He is co-author of *Living a Joy-Filled Marriage* and has written for *Catholic Parent*, *Family Foundations*, and *Our Sunday Visitor*.



Fr. Mark Toups

Fr. Mark Toups is a priest for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, where he serves as director of seminarians. He is the author and presenter of *Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer* and a presenter in *Chosen*. He holds a master of divinity degree from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.



Fr. Mike Schmitz

Fr. Mike Schmitz serves as director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth and as chaplain for the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He is a presenter for *Chosen*, *Altaration*, and *Ascension Presents*.



Steve Weidenkopf

Steve Weidenkopf is the creator, co-author, and presenter of *Epic: A Journey Through Church History* and *Epic: The Early Church*. He is a lecturer of Church history at the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College. Steve holds a master's degree in theological studies from the Graduate School of Christendom College.



Thomas Smith

Thomas Smith served as the director of the Denver Catholic Biblical School and the Denver Catechetical School. He has been a guest on EWTN and Catholic radio and is a sought-after parish mission and conference speaker. Thomas is the author and presenter of *The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy*.



Christopher West

Christopher West is recognized around the world for his work promoting St. John Paul II's integral, biblical vision of human life, love, and sexuality known as the Theology of the Body. He serves as a research fellow and faculty member of the Theology of the Body Institute and is the author and presenter of the *Gift* series.



Edward Sri

Dr. Edward Sri is provost and professor of theology and Scripture at the Augustine Institute and founding leader with Curtis Martin of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). He is author and presenter of *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* and *Mary*. He holds a doctorate from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.



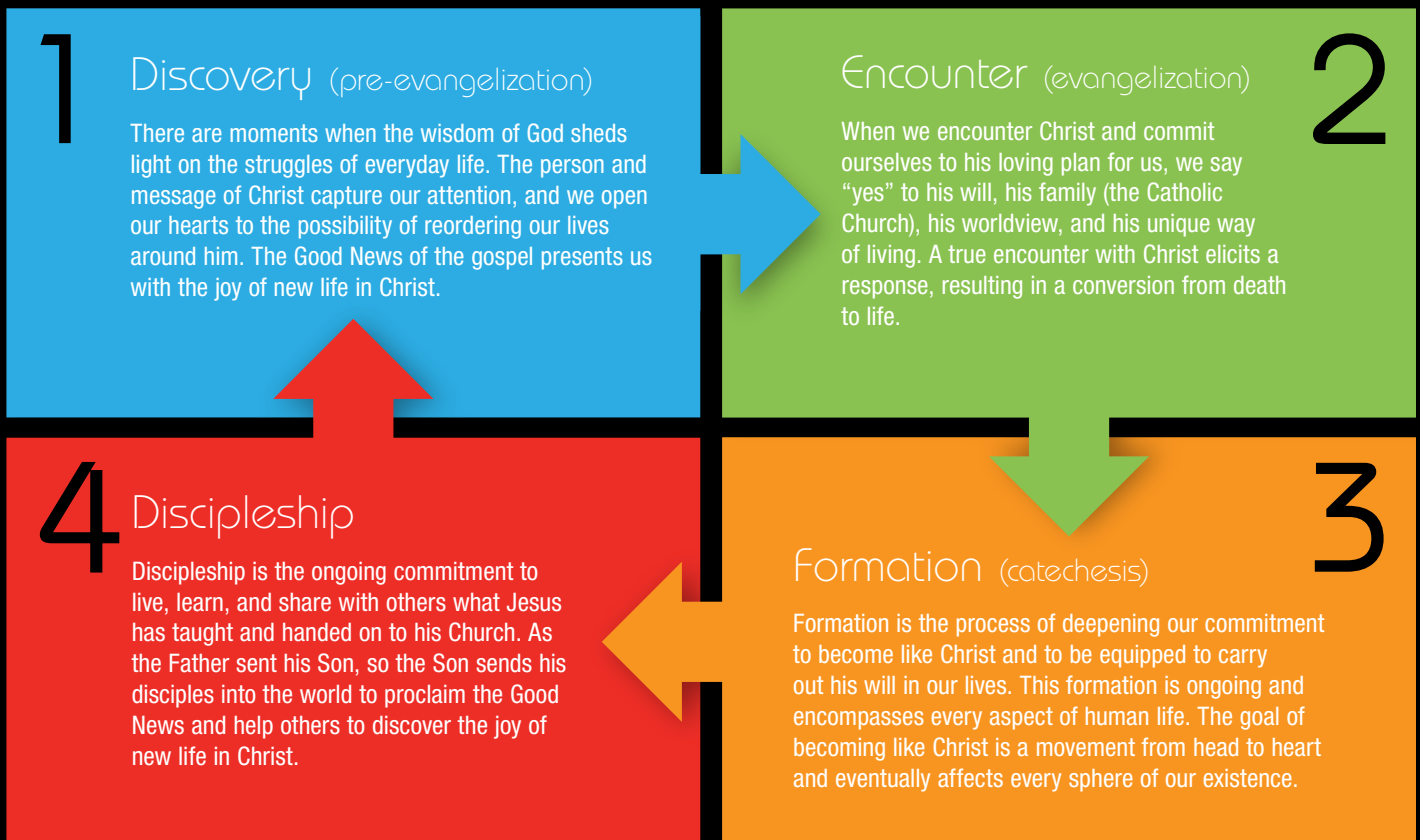
Mary Ann Wiesinger

Mary Ann Wiesinger is associate director of the Department for Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Oakland. She is responsible for the basic and master catechist certification programs (English and Spanish). Mary Ann is a *Chosen* presenter.

Introducing Continuum™. This new framework for all Ascension resources is based on the process of initiation the Church has used since the time of the apostles. The Church's understanding and teaching of the natural progression one moves through in the spiritual life is synthesized in the four stages of Continuum™.

continuum™

Discovery. Encounter. Formation. Discipleship.



Make faith formation a transforming reality for your entire parish.

Continuum™ is a framework that allows you to quickly assess where your parishioners are on the journey of faith, making it easy to identify gaps in formation, and, most importantly, what the best next step toward the goal of discipleship needs to be. Continuum™ helps you select the right faith formation programs for your parish as a whole and to meet the needs of specific segments within the parish community.

Whether you are a priest, educator, or parent, Continuum™ will immediately change your approach to learning, loving, and presenting the Faith.

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- *Your Call to Greatness*
- *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide*
- *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage*
- *Living a Joy-Filled Marriage*
- AscensionPresents.com

2. Encounter

- *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*
- Evangelization Program - Coming 2016
- AscensionPresents.com

3. Formation

ADULT STUDIES

- *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline*
- Ongoing Great Adventure Studies
- *A Biblical Walk through the Mass*
- *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*
- *An Introduction to the Theology of the Body*
- *Epic: A Journey through Church History*
- *Into the Heart*
- *Freedom to Love*

TEEN STUDIES

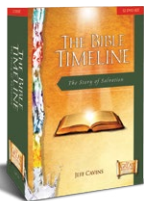
- *Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed*
- *Encounter: Experiencing God in the Everyday*
- *T3: The Teen Timeline*
- *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*
- *Chosen: This Is Your Catholic Faith*
- *Theology of the Body for Teens*

4. Discipleship

- *Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer*
- *Walking Toward Eternity: Daring to Walk the Walk Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart*

Each study in this catalog has a color-coded number corresponding to one of the four stages in Continuum™.

Formation 3



The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

The Bible Timeline is a fascinating study that takes you on a journey through the entire Bible. You will go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using the unique color-coded Bible Timeline Learning System, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith.

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— Daniel Cardinal DiNardo,
Archbishop of Gavelston-Houston



A Road Map for the New Evangelization

The Essentials of Effective Discipleship

By Bishop Paul Loverde with commentary by Jeff Cavins

In my years of leading seminars and conferences in parishes across the country, I have found that many Catholics want to evangelize. They just do not have a comprehensive way to go about it. Arlington Bishop Paul Loverde's pastoral letter "Go Forth with Hearts on Fire," written in 2013, offers many Catholics what they are looking for: a how-to guide for the New Evangelization. In this condensed version, we will explore his practical advice on being an evangelist in the twenty-first century.

Bishop Loverde states, "Each of us needs and desires a relationship with Jesus Christ in his Church." The brokenness of our culture makes this truth more relevant than ever. As divorce, abortion, and the

redefining of marriage and family prevail, the yearning for God in our hearts does not grow more faint. It just becomes less understood as we lose sight of our place in God's great story.

“Amid such brokenness, Pope Francis’ analogy of the Church as a ‘field hospital’ has never seemed more fitting,” the bishop continues. “Now is the time to find ‘a language of mercy,’ which he describes as ‘expressed in gestures and attitudes even before words.’¹ A nearly frantic search for peace, meaning, and hope is evident all around us. Yes, we experience a true hunger and thirst within us for something more—indeed, for *Someone* more.”

That is why we, as baptized Catholics, need to evangelize. “When we evangelize, we meet people where they are in their lives, amid all of their joys and trials,” says Bishop Loverde. “In so doing, we help others to understand that the desires of their hearts—however they may be directed at present—are a summons from the infinite God of love and mercy, who wants them to have the fullness of life. Evangelization allows people to become aware of the presence of God *already within them*, made as they are in his image and likeness. Evangelization invites others to identify that sense of yearning within themselves.”

Me, an Evangelist?

In our secular culture, it is easy to lose sight of the need to evangelize. Even among those who see the need, there is a fear that they will lose something great by witnessing for Christ.

While acknowledging this fear, Bishop Loverde encourages Catholics to believe the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who said, “If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful, and great ... Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return.”²

Another obstacle to evangelizing is our busy lives. When faced with a busy schedule, Bishop Loverde reminds Catholics that evangelization is not just another task to add to the list: “It is not a new ‘spoke in the wheel’; it is the *entire* wheel.”

We are not just dealing with another thing we should do to fulfill some personal ambition in life. Evangelization is a much more overarching matter. Faith in God is concerned

with our very existence. “God created us! He did not have to, but in his desire to love human beings made in his image, male and female, he created us,” Bishop Loverde says.

No other purpose has greater potential to fill us with a deep sense of mission. The bishop reminds us that our mission territory is all around us, in our homes, our neighborhoods, and wherever we go, and he recommends the following tools as we go forth in the New Evangelization:

The Evangelist’s Tool Box

1. **The Eucharist**, which is the “source and summit of the Christian life,”¹ helping us to love and be loved by Christ.
2. **Confession**, where the weight of our sins is lifted, allowing us to evangelize with new energy.
3. **Daily prayer**, which is essential to maintaining a close relationship with the Lord. One hour at Sunday Mass is not going to be enough.
4. **Joy**, which attracts people to Christ.
5. **Acts of loving service**, which are crucial to witnessing to Christ.
6. **Family time**, which can be used to promote faith, virtues, and character.
7. **Strong friendships**, which can build up our faith and strengthen us in love and good works.
8. **Study**, which gives us the tools we need to engage others intelligently and with sensitivity. As we grow in love for the Lord, we will want to grow in knowledge as well.
9. **Humility**, which strengthens us to say honestly, “I am a sinner.”
10. **Hospitality**, which is an essential element of evangelization.
11. **Mary**, who has only one desire for us: that we know and love her Divine Son.
12. **One another**, to encourage each other to become stronger disciples of Christ.

¹ Pope Francis, “A Big Heart Open to God,” *Thinking Faith*, September 19, 2013.

² Pope Benedict XVI, Inauguration Mass homily, April 24, 2005.

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1324; *Lumen Gentium* 11.



As Catholics, we may already know that some or all of these things are good for the soul and for evangelizing, and we may embrace one or more of them occasionally.

But assimilating these powerful gifts into our daily lives can be a challenge. Bishop Loverde offers suggestions on how to make these gifts the lifeblood of a daily routine.

Evangelist's To-Do List

1. Think of three ways God has blessed you recently. Thank him for these blessings.
2. Pray for and seek to develop a **right relationship with Christ**, which alone brings joy and right relationships with others.
3. Allow your joy to be increased through the Eucharist and the other sacraments of the Church.
4. Volunteer or take part in **charitable service**, and find ways to discuss charity with others.
5. As part of your deepening friendship with Christ, **find one concrete way to love him** and to love your fellow disciples through him.
6. **Ask for forgiveness** when you hurt someone.
7. **Receive Communion** on Sundays and, if possible, more often during the week.
8. Ask God's forgiveness each night for the sins of the day, and **receive the sacrament of reconciliation** regularly.
9. Set aside time for **reading or listening to the Scriptures**, spiritual works, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to increase your knowledge of Jesus Christ.
10. Look for a men's or women's **Bible study group** or a **prayer group** to join to receive support as a disciple and to offer your support to other disciples.
11. **Invite others** into your home to share a meal.
12. **Pray the Rosary**. Consider Mary's obedience to God. Seek her intercession for your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors.

How to Evangelize in Your Parish

The parish or local faith community is the place where we live out our calling as evangelists most fundamentally. It is the Catholic answer to the lack of answers in the secular culture. Through the parish, Catholics from all walks of life have created a culture that is not just a response to the world around us, but offers its own dynamic vision and worldview centered around Christ.

Our Catholic culture offers many things that are “good, true, and beautiful,” Bishop Loverde states. “These treasures—great literature, art, architecture, and music, among others—help us to see the glory of God’s creation and can move our hearts to love God and to understand our role in his creation.” The parish is the ideal place to express and share this Catholic culture.

The bishop continues, “Perhaps the most insidious message of the [secular] culture’s ‘anti-evangelization’ campaign is that the ‘institutional Church’ is to be ridiculed and rebelled against, like an unjust and old-fashioned parent.” The parish community needs to be ready to counteract this mentality and offer a positive vision of Christianity.

“Amid such brokenness, Pope Francis’ analogy of the Church as a ‘field hospital’ has never seemed more fitting.”

In his letter to parishes in the Diocese of Arlington, Bishop Loverde recommends that parishes ask themselves the following questions:

Parish Checklist

1. Do all members of our parish feel the personal love of God?
2. Do visitors to our parish experience an atmosphere of joy in us when they arrive for Mass on Sunday?
3. Does our parish have a sense of “mission” when participating in activities?
4. Does service in our parish offer an opportunity for participants to grow in relationship with Jesus?
5. Are there areas of sin in the lives of members of our parish that are common enough to warrant a teaching series on the topic?
6. Are there routine (weekly or monthly) opportunities to build fellowship among all age groups in our parish?
7. Does our pastoral team consciously use special events (such as weddings, sacraments, and funerals) as opportunities to teach everyone, including guests, about Christ?
8. How much do parishioners in our parish value the Eucharist?
9. Is there a growing acknowledgment in our parish of a need to improve our relationship with Jesus through the forgiveness of sins?
10. How often does our parish have groups getting together to engage in Eucharistic Adoration, *lectio divina*, devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Marian devotions such as the Rosary?
11. How does educating our youth (through our Catholic school and religious education program) support the networking of families in our parish?
12. Do adults in our parish know about opportunities to study the Catholic Faith?



Finally, the bishop asks, “Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, are you ready to accept your commission to evangelize in the twenty-first century? ... We go forth, with hearts on fire! ‘Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord’³ today, tomorrow, and every day until we see him face to face in our eternal home!” ■

This article is an abridged version of “Go Forth with Hearts on Fire,” a pastoral letter by Bishop Paul Loverde of the Diocese of Arlington.

³ Roman Missal, Order of the Mass, 144.

Evangelization

Now You Can Stream Our Studies Online!



MARY

A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother



EDWARD SRI

Why is Mary so Important to Us?

As Catholics, we have a profound reverence for the Blessed Mother. We turn to her in prayer, in the Mass, in the Rosary, and in Marian devotions. We honor her with special feasts celebrating the significant events in her life. We place images of her in our churches and homes.

The better we know Mary, the better we will know her Son.

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys...and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeking Mary in this way will transform your life.

on.com

Get free streaming access to any study your parish has ever purchased from Ascension Press!

A BETTER and EASIER Way to Start and Run Studies

1. Simplified registration

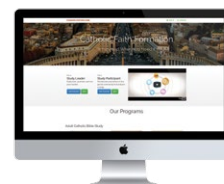
Never estimate group sizes or collect money again. Simply schedule your study and direct participants to register and pay at your study's sign-up page.

2. Flexible scheduling

Streaming video gives you tremendous flexibility in how, where, and when you run a study. Those unable to participate in person can now be part of your study from any location.

3. Easily communicate with your group

Built-in email tools make it easy to contact participants, and online commenting lets you keep the conversation going after the session ends.



Learn More at
EVANGELIZATION.COM

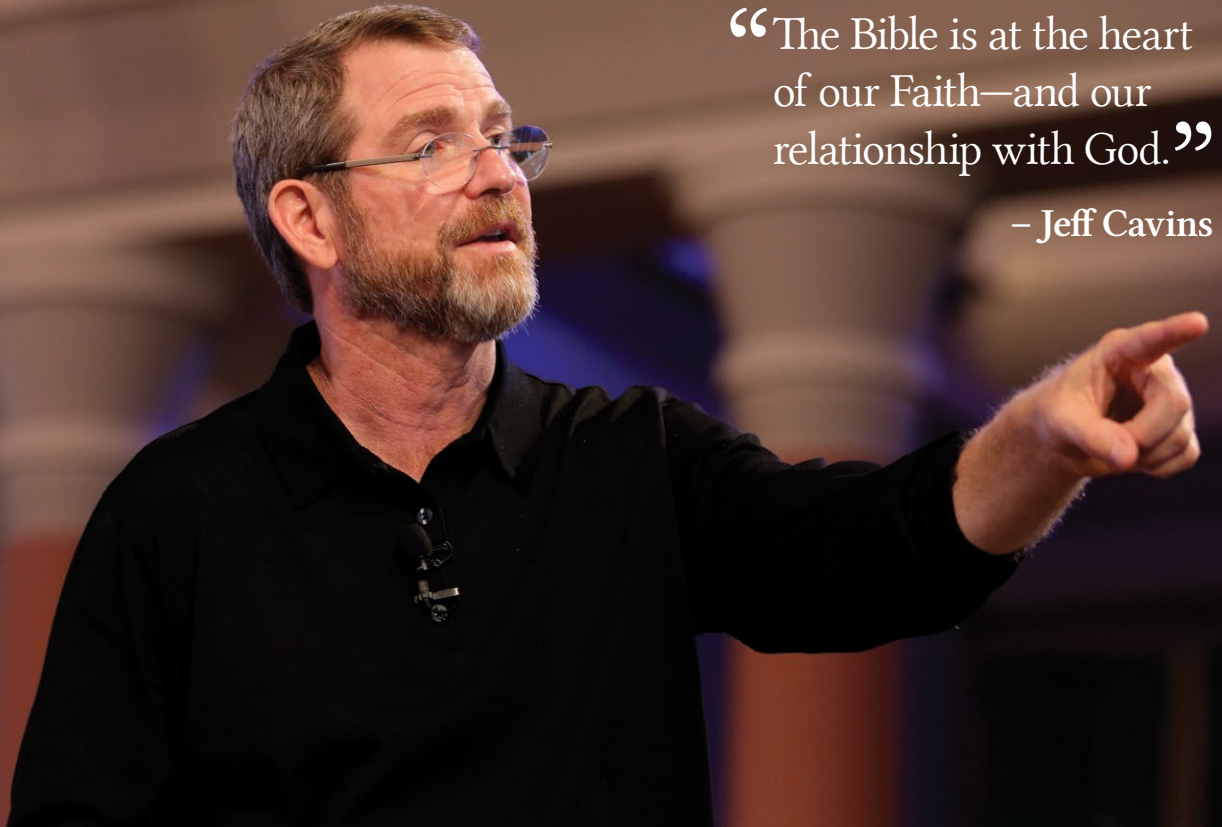
ADULT FAITH FORMATION



You Can Understand the Bible

“The Bible is at the heart of our Faith—and our relationship with God.”

– Jeff Cavins



The Bible is the living Word of God, where our Father meets with us and lovingly speaks to us. Reading the Bible should bring us closer to Christ, **but understanding it is not always easy**. The Bible is complex. With seventy-three separate books and so many names, places, and events, it can be hard to follow. Many people tell me they have tried time and again to prayerfully read Scripture, but they get frustrated because they “just don’t get it.”

The Great Adventure is designed in such a way that **anyone can make sense of the Bible** and experience the life-changing power of God’s Word. Hundreds of thousands of people have found new meaning in their lives after going through *The Great Adventure* Bible studies. It is my prayer that you, too, will see how a newfound understanding of God’s Word can transform your life and bring you closer to Christ.

Jeff Cavins

Creator, *The Great Adventure*

Director of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

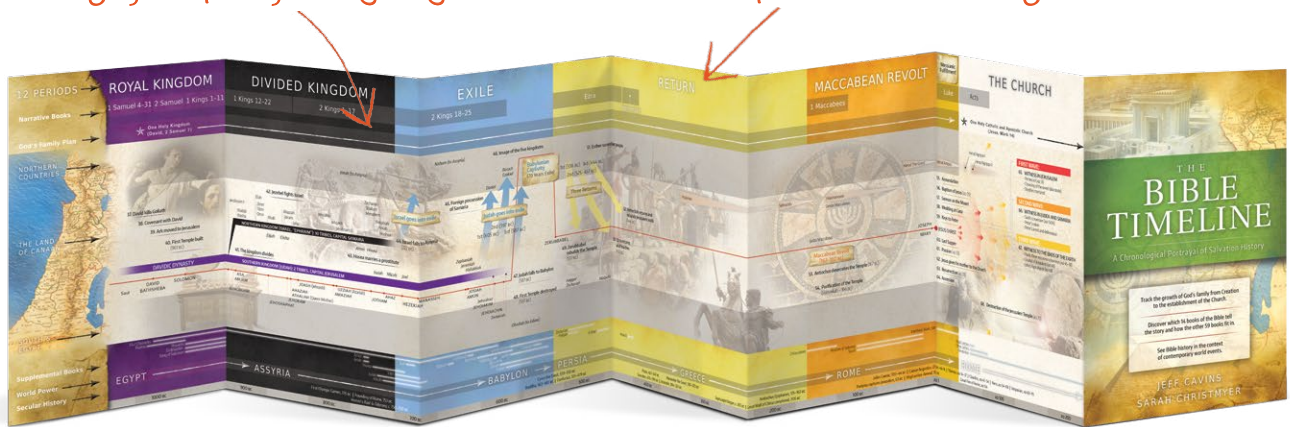
The Bible Timeline Learning System

73 books. One story. Your story.

The key to understanding the Bible is finding the story that ties it all together. *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline Learning System* makes the complex simple by helping you uncover the story woven through Scripture, so that you can make sense of it. Once you get a grasp of this “big picture,” the **Mass readings begin to make more sense, your Scripture reading and study come to life, and you see how your life fits into God’s loving plan.** *The Great Adventure Bible* studies are faithful to the teachings of the Church. They help you **learn to read and study the Bible as a Catholic** and illuminate the Scriptural roots of the Catholic Faith.

① It simplifies the Bible by focusing on fourteen narrative books that tell the story of Scripture from beginning to end.

② It divides the story into twelve time periods that act like chapters in salvation history.



(Front)

③ It ties all of Scripture together by following God’s “family plan” from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

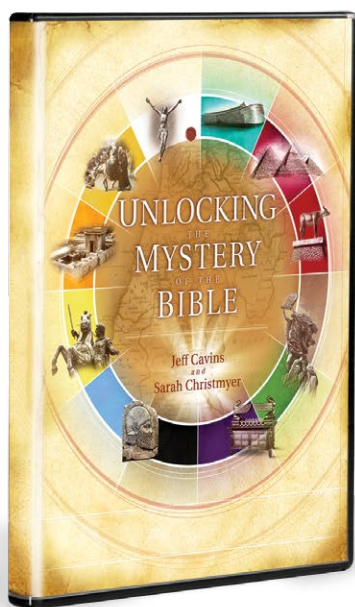
④ It makes it easy to remember by color coding each of the time periods.



(Back)

New to Bible Study?

Get Started by Getting the Big Picture!



*Unlocking the
Mystery of the Bible*

by Jeff Cavins and
Sarah Christmyer
See pages 20-21

Visit BibleStudyForCatholics.com

- Find a *Great Adventure* study in your area.
- Learn how to start a Bible study.
- Join Jeff Cavins and other great Bible teachers for inspiring videos, articles, and study resources.

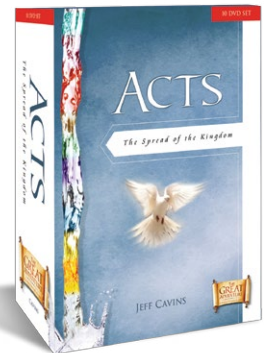
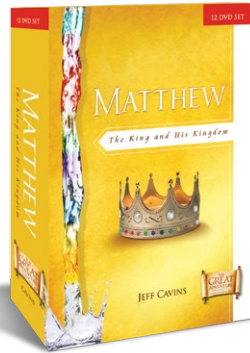
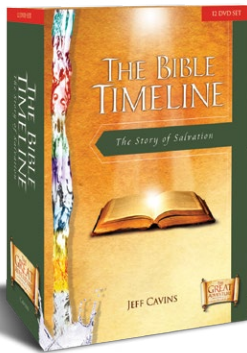
Questions?

Speak to a friendly and experienced Study Consultant:

call **1-800-376-0520** or visit AscensionPress.com

Then ...

Dive into Scripture with *The Great Adventure* Foundational Series



Step 1

*The Bible Timeline:
The Story of Salvation*

See pages 22-23

Step 2

*Matthew:
The King and His Kingdom*

See pages 24-25

Step 3

*Acts:
The Spread of the Kingdom*

See pages 26-27



*“The affect on my
parishioners has been
wonderful: a deeper love for
Christ, a deeper experience
of the sacraments, and
a continued growth and
love for the Scriptures.”*

- Fr. Michael Becker
Sacred Heart Seminary

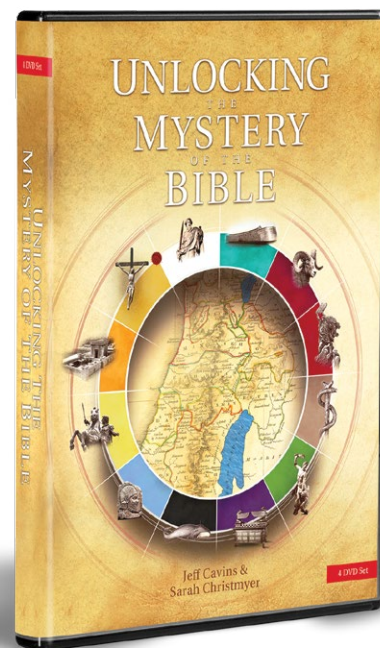


You Can Understand the Bible!





Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible is a thoroughly revised study that replaces A Quick Journey Through the Bible.



Imprimatur

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer

This study provides the easiest way to understand the Bible. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* makes the complex simple. It gives you the “big picture” of the Bible by focusing on the story that ties all of Scripture together. The Bible is a story about the Father’s unfailing love for you, a love that you are now called to share with others. You will:

- Make sense of the Bible, and see how it relates to your everyday life.
- Discover the remarkable connections between the Old and New Testaments.
- See how the sacraments, the papacy, and our entire Catholic Faith are rooted in Scripture.

Starter Pack \$99

- 4-DVD Set (Eight, 30-min. sessions)
- Workbook (includes *Timeline Chart* and *Timeline Bookmark*)
- Leader’s Guide

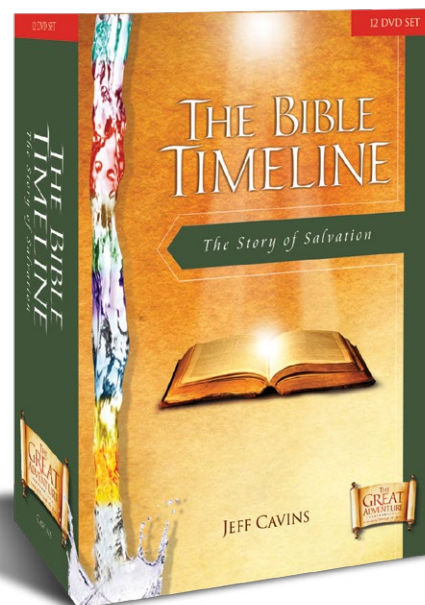
Workbook (one per participant) \$19.95

- Includes: *Timeline Chart* and *Timeline Bookmark*

STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

Immerse Yourself in the Biblical Story





Imprimatur

The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

by Jeff Cavins, Tim Gray, and Sarah Christmyer

The Bible Timeline is a fascinating study that takes you on a journey through the entire Bible. You will go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using the unique color-coded Bible Timeline Learning System, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith.

- Discover the amazing story woven throughout Scripture.
- Gain a greater appreciation your Catholic Faith.
- Learn how God's Word applies to your life.
- Develop a lifelong hunger for encountering God in his Word.

Starter Pack \$199

- 12-DVD Set (Twenty-four, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, talk notes, Timeline Chart, and Timeline Bookmark)

Study Set Workbook (one per participant) \$34.⁹⁵

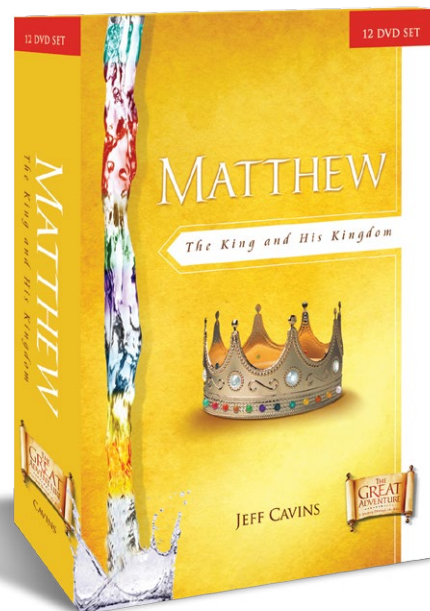
STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

“The Bible Timeline *has proven to be remarkably effective in helping Catholics uncover the meaning of Scripture.*”

– Daniel Cardinal DiNardo,
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

See How Jesus Reveals the Father's Love for Us





Imprimatur

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer

Matthew: *The King and His Kingdom* shows how Jesus, the promised Messiah, relives the life and struggles of Israel to become the faithful and victorious King. You will come to see Jesus in a new way and discover what his life and teachings mean for us today. *Matthew* is an ideal follow-up to the basic narrative of Scripture presented in *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation*.

- See how Jesus fulfills God's promises to the people of Israel.
- Learn how Jesus established his kingdom on earth in his Church.
- Discover how Christ instituted the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, so that we could share in his divine life.

Starter Pack \$199

- 12-DVD Set (Twenty-four, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set Workbook (one per participant) \$28.95

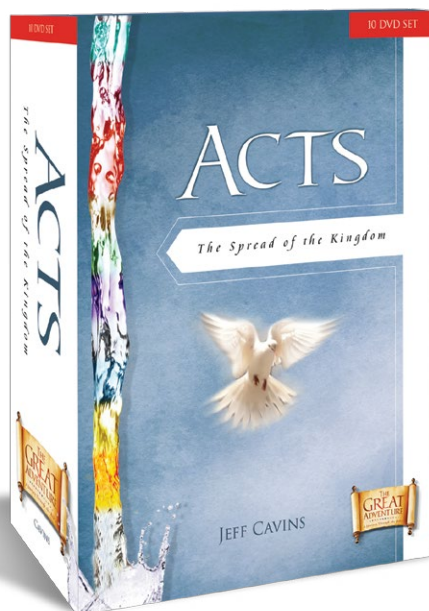
STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

*“The study afforded me
a deeper and richer
understanding of the
love and mercy of God.”*

– Mike F.

Witness the Birth of the Church





Imprimatur

Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom

by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer

Acts: *The Spread of the Kingdom* builds on *The Bible Timeline* and *Matthew* studies by showing how the Church, Christ’s kingdom on earth, is empowered to carry out his work in the world. The Acts of the Apostles provides the historical framework for understanding the rest of the New Testament. Paul’s letters come alive in a new way when they are read within the context of the Acts narrative.

- See how the gospel witness spread outward in waves.
- Share the joys and struggles of the first Christians.
- See your place in Christ’s Church.

Starter Pack \$199

- 10-DVD Set (Twenty, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set Workbook (one per participant) \$28.⁹⁵

STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

“Acts brought Paul, Peter, and the rest of the ‘characters’ to life.”

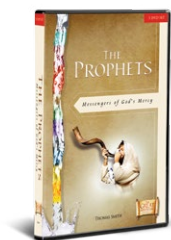
– Sally D.



“Each study has allowed me to have a deep and rich faith. I have been able to help my family and friends on their journey with the knowledge I have gained.”

– Mary S.

These studies are designed to take you even deeper into Scripture by focusing on individual books or themes of the Bible. Each of these studies follows the proven format of *The Bible Timeline*, *Matthew*, and *Acts*.



Imprimatur

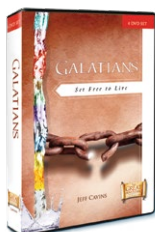
The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy

by Thomas Smith (presenter) and Sarah Christmyer

Starter Pack \$129

- 5-DVD Set (Ten, 30-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set (one per participant) \$23⁹⁵



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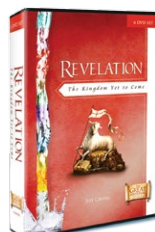
Galatians: Set Free to Live

by Jeff Cavins (presenter) and Gayle Somers

Starter Pack \$99

- 4-DVD Set (Eight, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set (one per participant) ... \$23⁹⁵



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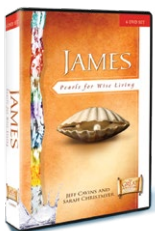
Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come

by Jeff Cavins (presenter) and Thomas Smith

Starter Pack \$129

- 6-DVD Set (Eleven, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set (one per participant) \$23⁹⁵



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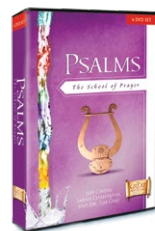
James: Pearls for Wise Living

by Jeff Cavins (presenter) and Sarah Christmyer

Starter Pack \$129

- 6-DVD Set (Eleven, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set (one per participant) ... \$23⁹⁵



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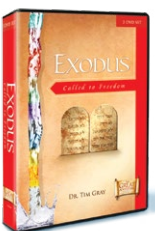
Psalms: The School of Prayer

by Jeff Cavins, Sarah Christmyer, and Tim Gray

Starter Pack \$129

- 6-DVD Set (Eleven, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set (one per participant) \$23⁹⁵



Imprimatur

Exodus: Called to Freedom

by Tim Gray (presenter) and Scott Powell

Starter Pack \$99

- 3-DVD Set (Ten, 30-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set (one per participant) ... \$23⁹⁵



Imprimatur

First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community

by Tim Gray

Starter Pack \$99

- 4-DVD Set (Eleven, 30-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook (includes questions, responses, and talk notes)

Study Set (one per participant) \$23⁹⁵



Parish Spotlight:

St. Peter the Apostle

Boerne, Texas

Boerne, Texas, a town of about ten thousand inhabitants, lies in the Texas hill country, approximately thirty-five miles north of San Antonio. It is a tightly knit community of caring people, and God is at the center of life for many.

St. Peter the Apostle Church stands on Boerne's highest point. Twelve years ago, Ree, a lapsed Catholic, joined the church. Though she had attended Catholic schools, as an adult, she felt drawn to Scripture and realized how little she knew about the Bible. At the time, there were a couple of studies available, but

neither had the instructional components she needed as a visual learner. She settled on an old EWTN series featuring Jeff Cavins and Scott Hahn entitled *Salvation History*. She wanted a study for people like her who had never attended a Bible study and had little biblical knowledge. So she ran an ad in the

bulletin in the hope of attracting no more than twelve people.

A week before the study began, a lady in her 80s called Ree and asked if it was too late to join. So she became the study's thirteenth member. This was the beginning of a journey into Scripture study for many more parishioners to come.

The following year, the Holy Spirit brought to Ree's attention *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline* Scripture study for Catholics. She had heard Jeff Cavins speak about it at an archdiocesan conference and had seen his work with Scott Hahn, so she placed an order. The original group of thirteen who had begun Bible study the previous year came back

“St. Peter’s is trying its best to incorporate these studies as tools for the journey to a closer encounter with Christ.”

for *The Bible Timeline*—and added five more participants to the group. (Today, there are thirty-six people in Ree's study group.)

As more *Great Adventure* studies were added, the group continued to grow. The “newbies” began to ask about the origin of some of the group's discussion points. *The Bible Timeline* was always the answer. It was suggested that these “newbies” start their own study group. After all, facilitating a group is a great way to learn. It worked. New *Bible Timeline* groups were formed, and each group bonded and wanted to continue on together.

A few years later, an adult Bible study ministry was formed in the parish to encourage and coordinate the various Bible studies. This led to formal training for volunteers in facilitating adult study groups. *The Bible Timeline* was

offered days and evenings, and it continues today as the parish's foundational study.

Three years ago, faith-formation studies from other publishers began to be introduced. St. Peter the Apostle Parish carefully selects studies with strong Catholic theology and biblical references, and Ascension Press' offerings remain the primary resources St. Peter's uses due to their outstanding production quality, excellent presenters, and strong Catholic content.

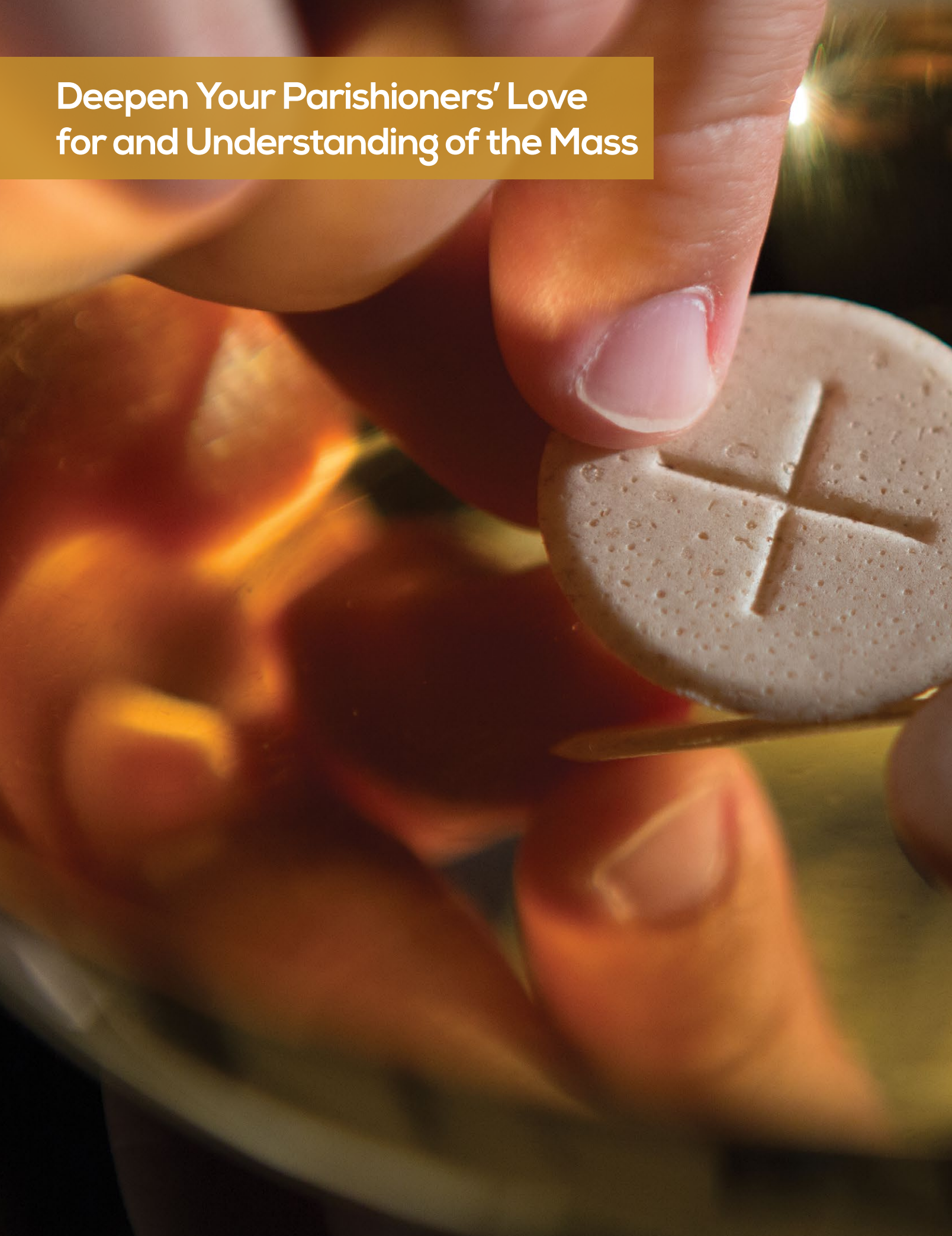
There are now twelve Bible studies offered in the parish with more than two hundred participants. Ten of these twelve groups can trace their beginnings to Ree's original study group. A different study (or two) meets each day of the week, mornings and evenings. Two years ago, the parish introduced a Sunday morning study, and the year before that, they added studies for parents on Wednesdays and Sundays during their children's religious education classes.

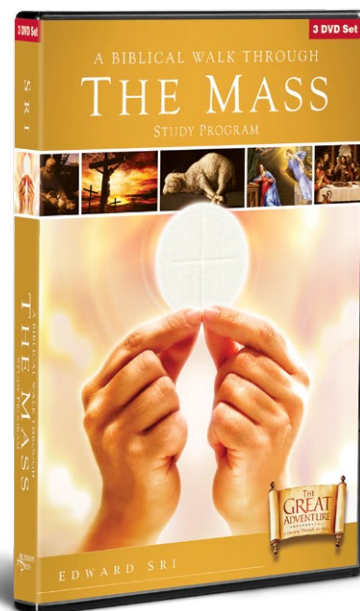
There is something for everyone at St. Peter the Apostle, and everybody is hungry for spiritual development. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “The Christian faith is not a ‘religion of the book.’ Christianity is the religion of the ‘Word’ of God, a word which is ‘not a written and mute word, but the Word which is incarnate and living.’”¹ An encounter with Jesus, the living Word, is what everyone truly wants—and needs. St. Peter's is trying its best to incorporate these studies as tools for the journey of its parishioners into a closer encounter with Christ.

Each year new groups begin and established ones continue to grow. This is due to the quality and commitment of the facilitators as well as the quality of the materials, presenters, and production. The facilitators are committed, faithful Catholics who out of a labor of love facilitate the groups. Those who attend the adult Bible studies find that the study of the Word of God has drawn them closer to Christ and to one another. ■

¹ CCC 108, quoting St. Bernard, *S. Missus est hom.* 4, 11: PL 183, 86.

**Deepen Your Parishioners' Love
for and Understanding of the Mass**





Imprimatur

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

by Edward Sri

This five-part Bible study takes you on an exciting tour of the Liturgy as it explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. You will come to know and understand the Mass like never before and see it in a new light, giving new life to the liturgical experience.

- Learn the biblical background of the Mass.
- Discover how the Mass is a “true re-presentation” of Christ’s redeeming sacrifice.
- Gain helpful insights for getting the most out of every Mass.

Starter Pack \$79

- 3-DVD Set (Five, 30-min. sessions)
- Leader’s Guide
- Student Workbook
- *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* book
- *Guide to the New Translation of the Mass* booklet

Student Pack (one per participant) \$19.95

- Student Workbook and *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* book

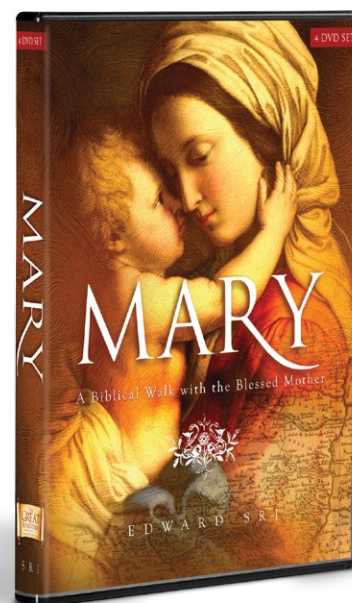
STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

“This will help Catholics pray the Mass with greater faith and to live, from the Mass, a fuller Christian life.”

– Fr. Dennis Gill,
Director, Office for Divine Worship,
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

A Moving and Powerful Introduction to the Blessed Mother





Imprimatur

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

by Edward Sri

Why is Mary so important to us? What is it about Mary that captivates us? *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys and sorrows.

- Visit the most significant places in Mary's life.
- Experience what she felt at each dramatic moment in the Gospels.
- Draw closer to Christ as you deepen your devotion to Mary.

Starter Pack \$99

- 4-DVD Set (Eight, 30-min. sessions)
- Study Set Workbook ((includes questions, responses, and talk notes)


Study Set Workbook (one per participant) \$24.⁹⁵

STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

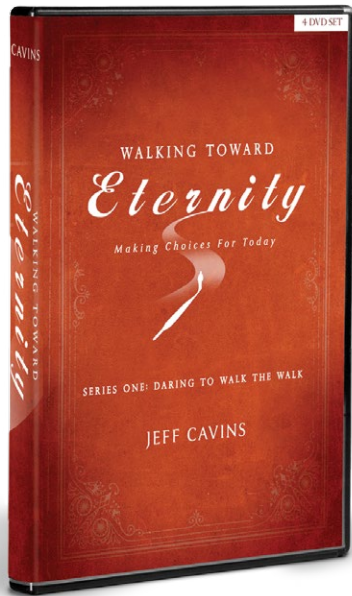
“I grew closer to Mary, and wanted to transfer her faith and trust in God to my life.”

– Pat G., St. Charles, Illinois

Applying the Faith to Your Life



“A great way for people to tap into a deeper relationship with God by changing within.”
– Jodie M.



Imprimatur

**Walking Toward Eternity:
Daring to Walk the Walk**
by Jeff and Emily Cavins

Seven key virtues and practical steps to live them out

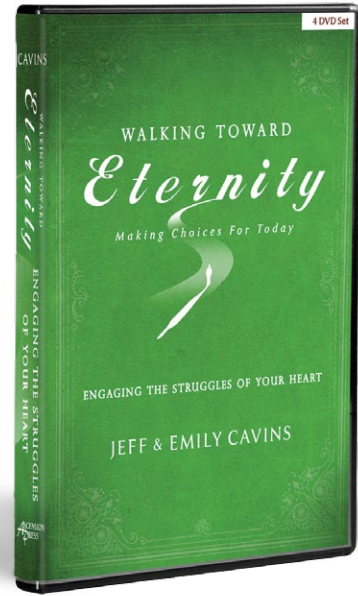
Daring to Walk the Walk is an inspiring study designed to help you live your faith more fully. Through a prayerful reading of Scripture, personal reflection, and a commitment to action, you will be able to make real changes that will help you become more like Christ.

- Learn how to walk in virtue through prayer, reflection, and guidance.
- Discover how to put your faith into practice.
- See how *lectio divina* can empower your spiritual life.

Starter Pack \$99

- 4-DVD Set (Eight, 50-min. sessions)
- Journal, includes *Lectio divina* Bookmark
- Leader's Guide

Journal (one per participant) \$15⁹⁵



Imprimatur

**Walking Toward Eternity:
Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart**
by Jeff and Emily Cavins

Overcome the obstacles holding you back

Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart is a challenging study that can open your eyes to obstacles in your Christian walk. Through prayer and the aid of the Holy Spirit, you can begin to engage these difficulties and draw closer to Christ.

- Learn practical ways to face difficulties in life.
- Gain the courage to engage your most common spiritual struggles.
- Share your journey through group discussion and personal witness.

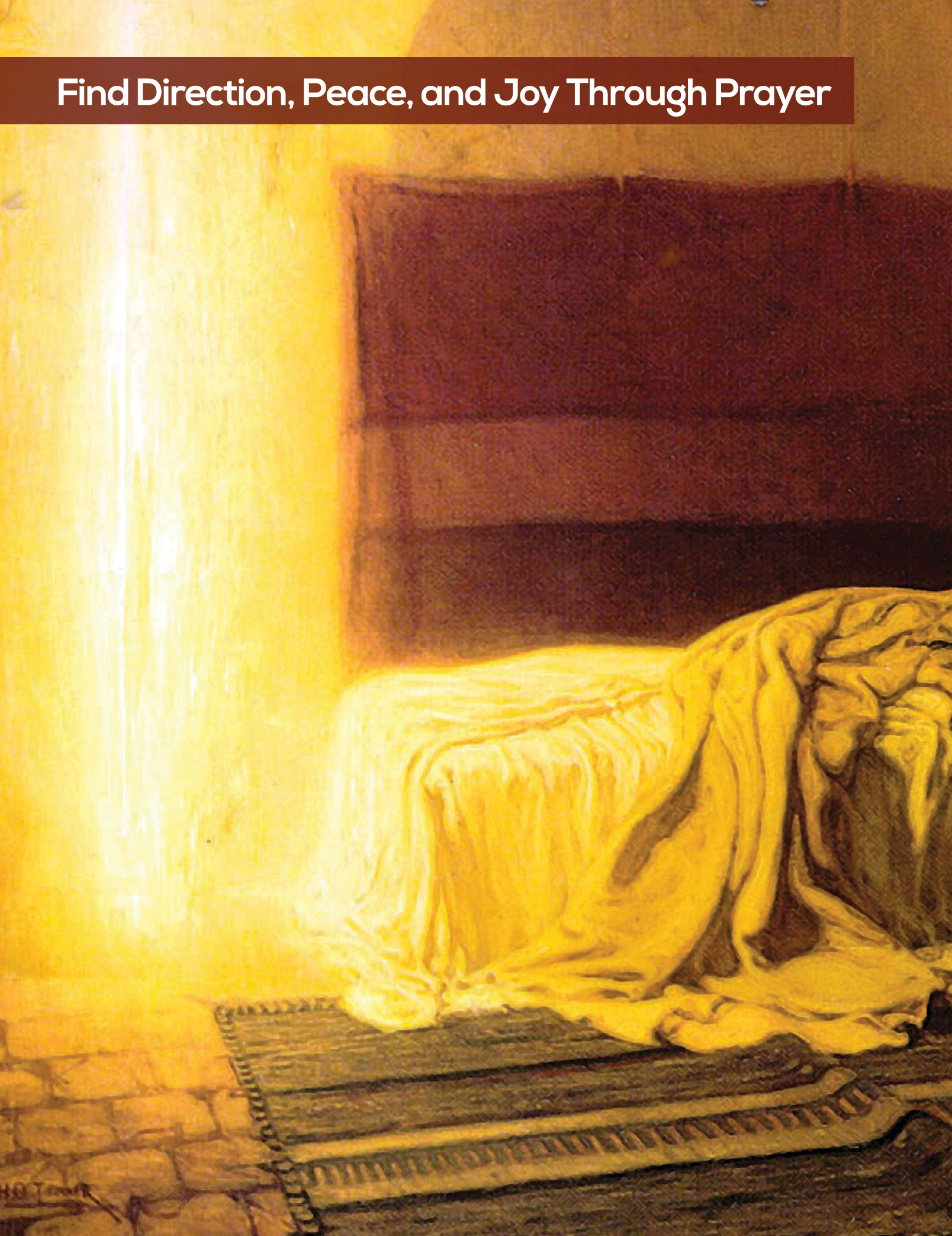
Starter Pack \$99

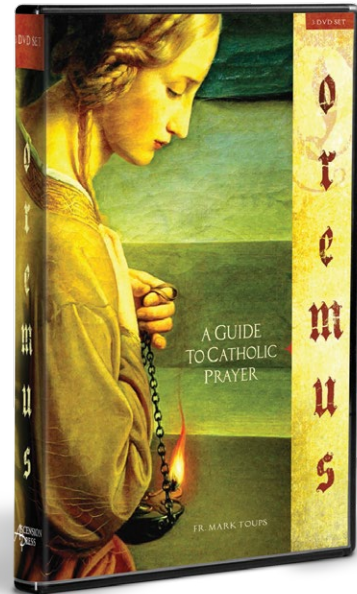
- 4-DVD Set (Eight, 50-min. sessions)
- Journal, includes *Lectio divina* Bookmark
- Leader's Guide

Journal (one per participant) \$15⁹⁵

STREAM THESE STUDIES ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

Find Direction, Peace, and Joy Through Prayer





Imprimatur

Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer

by Fr. Mark Toups

Do you hear God's voice in your daily life, and do you know how to respond accordingly? The *Oremus* study teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Over the course of eight weeks, you will discover how God speaks to you even in the smallest encounters. Following the Tradition of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn how to express yourself to God in prayer and how to hear his voice.

In this study you will:

- Become aware of God's presence in your life.
- Discover the simple, yet profound, steps of Catholic prayer.
- Grow in your relationship with God and those around you.

Starter Pack \$79

- 3-DVD Set (Eight, 30-min. sessions)
- Student Workbook
- Leader's Guide

Student Workbook (one per participant) \$14.95

STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

“Oremus taught us that the Lord is constantly pursuing us and desires that we have a relationship with him.”

– Rachael J.

Ten Commandments of Small-Group Discussion

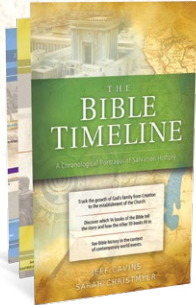
One of the most important and enriching parts of any Bible study is the small-group discussion. A great discussion usually does not “just happen”—it takes work. Trained facilitators can help guide a conversation using the “Ten Commandments of Small-Group Discussion.” Following these guidelines will ensure that everyone in your study has a great time together.

1. Enjoy yourself!
2. Speak with respect and charity.
3. Do not ridicule or dismiss what others say. Keep comments positive.
4. Come prepared.
5. If you were not able to prepare, let others speak first.
6. Stick to the topic and questions at hand.
7. Start and end on time.
8. Allow silence. Give people a chance to think.
9. Listen to others without interrupting.
10. Keep personal matters within the group.

For more information about how to plan, promote, and facilitate a Bible study, visit BibleStudyForCatholics.com/leaders.



Catholic Bible Study Resources



Great Adventure Bible Timeline Chart

An eye-catching Bible study aid that gives a chronological portrayal of salvation history broken up into twelve easy-to-follow time periods.

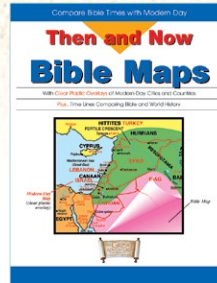
\$4.95



Great Adventure Catholic Bible Indexing Tabs

These pre-cut, one-inch, self-adhesive tabs fit the pages of any full-size Bible and are a great way to help you quickly locate each book of the Bible.

\$6.95



Then and Now Maps

The clear plastic overlays on these full-color maps allow you to compare the places mentioned in the Bible with modern-day cities.

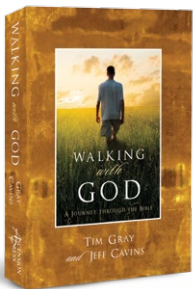
20 pages \$19.99



Bible Thumper: Volumes 1 & 2

A Bible verse finder with more than one thousand verses to help Catholics locate and explain the basic teachings of the Faith.

\$10

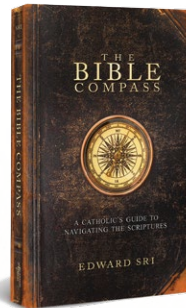


Walking With God: A Journey Through the Bible

by Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins

Dr. Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins unpack the central story woven throughout Scripture and present it in an easy-to-read, concise manner.

296 pages \$24.95

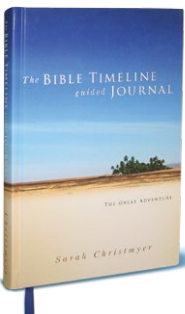


The Bible Compass: A Catholic's Guide to Navigating the Scriptures

by Edward Sri

Get the tools to study the Word of God with confidence, purpose, and in the appropriate context.

174 pages \$12.99



The Bible Timeline Guided Journal

by Sarah Christmyer

This valuable journal will assist you with a ninety-day plan for reading the fourteen narrative books of the Bible.

236 pages \$14.95



Praying Scripture for a Change: An Introduction to Lectio Divina

by Tim Gray

Theologian and biblical scholar Dr. Tim Gray walks you through the Bible and teaches you the simple steps of *lectio divina*, a practical and effective way to enhance your prayer life.

Book, 144 pages \$12.99

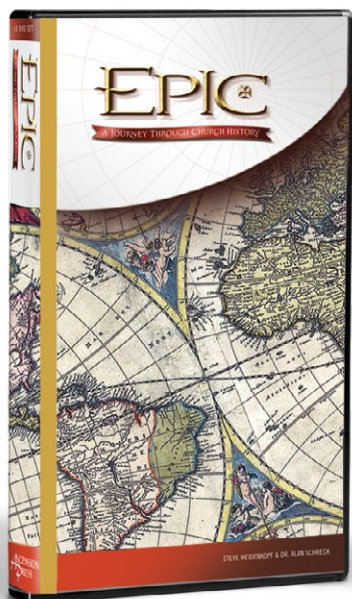
Study Workbook, 32 pages \$5.95



Make Church History Come to Life

*"This is Catholic history as
it should be written, with
Christ always at the center."*

– Warren H. Carroll,
Founder of Christendom College



Imprimatur

Epic: A Journey Through Church History

by Steve Weidenkopf and Alan Schreck

Take an amazing journey through the history of Catholicism. You will see the glory of the Church founded by Christ and understand where you fit into this epic story. This study and *Epic: The Early Church* are complementary and can be done in either order.

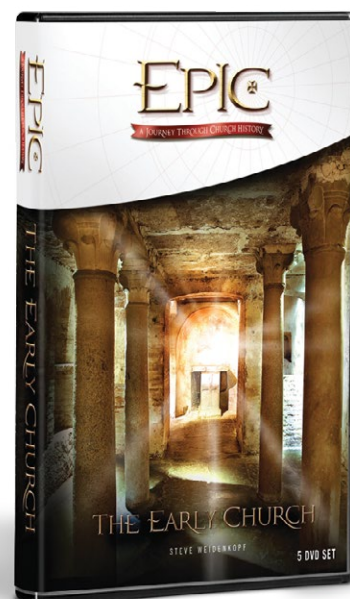
In this study, you will:

- Discover how God’s plan for your life is directly connected to his plan for the Church.
- Experience the stories of the saints in a new and powerful way.
- Understand Church history through an easy-to-follow color-coded timeline and chart.

Starter Pack \$199

- 10-DVD Set (Twenty, 50-min. sessions)
- Study Set (Student Workbook, *Epic* Chart, and Bookmark)

Study Set (one per participant) \$29⁹⁵



Imprimatur

Epic: The Early Church

by Steve Weidenkopf

Discover the exciting and dramatic story of the first five hundred years of Church history. Meet the saints, philosophers, theologians, and martyrs of the early Church and learn how their witness and discipleship ignited the spreading of the Gospel to the entire world.

In this study, you will:

- Grow closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of the early Church.
- Discover how the Church’s apostolic work of evangelization can come alive in your parish.
- Understand Church history through an easy-to-follow color-coded timeline and chart.

Starter Pack \$129

- 5-DVD Set (Ten, 45-min. sessions)
- Study Set (Student Workbook, *Epic: The Early Church* Chart and *Epic* Bookmark)
- Leader’s Pack (Leader’s Guide, Chart, and Bookmark)

Study Set (one per participant) \$24⁹⁵

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THEOLOGY OF THE BODY



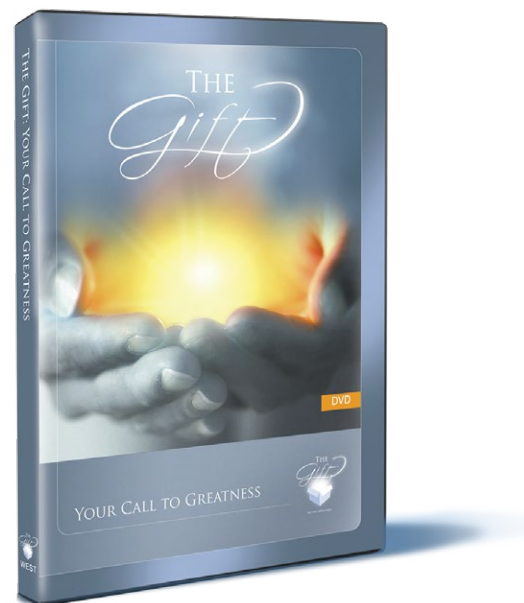


Free. Total. Faithful. Fruitful.



Answers to Life's Fundamental Questions





Imprimatur

Your Call to Greatness

by Christopher West

Your Call to Greatness is a one-hour “vision for life” talk. It answers some of the most fundamental questions of human existence, including: *What is our “call to greatness”?* and *What will bring the happiness we all long for?*

- Discover why we were created male and female.
- Learn the true meaning of the body.
- Uncover the meaning of life (no, really!) and how we experience it.

Starter Pack\$34.⁹⁵

- DVD (60 min.)
- Student Workbook
- Leader's Guide

Study Workbook (one per participant)\$6.⁹⁵

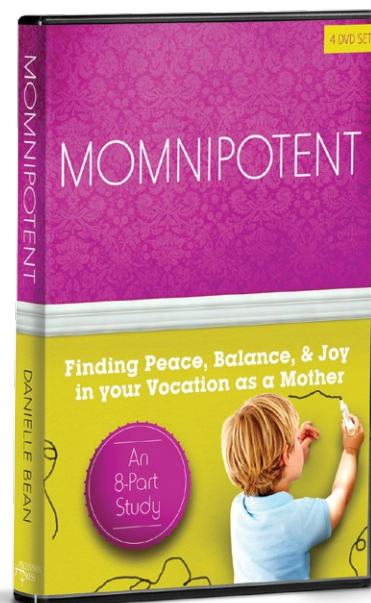
STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

“If the Gift Study was being done at every parish, it could change the Church.”

– Nancy F., study participant

**More than a Study ... a Movement
to Reclaim a Vocation**





Momnipotent: Finding Peace, Balance, & Joy in Your Vocation as a Mother

by Danielle Bean

Too many moms feel disillusioned and overwhelmed. Many moms quietly resign themselves to the idea that peace, happiness, and joy are things they will need to find in spite of motherhood, not because of it.

Danielle Bean meets you just where you are in *Momnipotent*. Journey with women of diverse backgrounds as they discuss real issues that moms face every day.

- Rediscover your unique feminine gifts.
- Learn ways to encourage other women and be encouraged in your vocation as a mother.
- Understand the beauty of the call to motherhood.

Starter Pack \$129

- 4-DVD Set (Eight, 30-min. sessions)
- Mom's Pack
- Leader's Guide Journal

Mom's Pack (one per participant) \$29⁹⁵

- Journal
- Book

*“Balm for the weary
mother’s soul.”*

– Hallie Lord, blogger, editor, and author

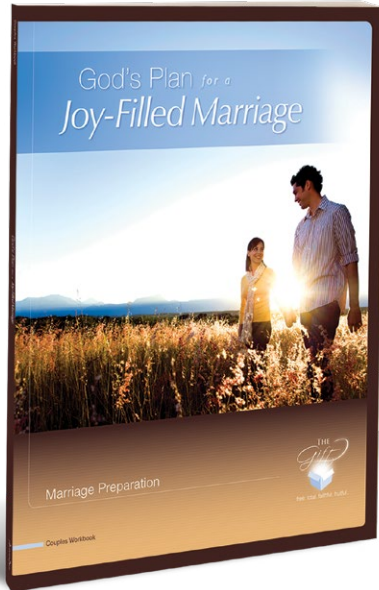
STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

A young man and woman are shown in profile, facing each other and smiling warmly. They are standing in an outdoor setting, possibly a field or park, during the golden hour of sunset. The background is filled with soft, warm light and blurred trees. To the left, several large, bright yellow balloons are visible, partially obscuring the view. The overall mood is romantic and joyful.

A Fresh and Life-Changing Vision of Love and Marriage

“The program was wonderful. I plan to return to the Church because of it, and I’m so excited. This program has truly touched me.”

– Stephanie S., study participant



Imprimatur

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage

*by Christopher West
Presented by Damon Owens*

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage offers a refreshing, liberating vision of marriage and sexuality—one that helps couples fully embrace God's glorious plan for their lives.

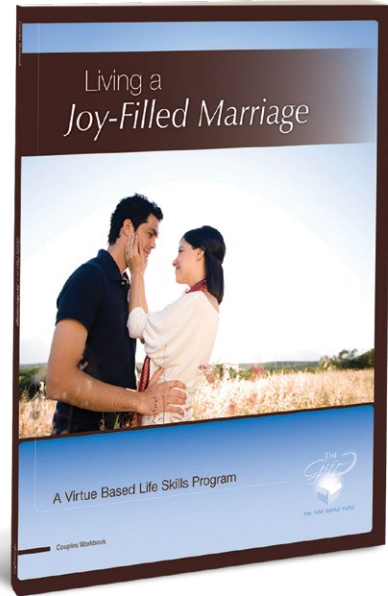
- Share a deeper understanding of God's plan for marriage.
- Unpack what makes marriage a sacrament.
- Inspire couples to a deeper appreciation of the beauty of marriage.

Starter Pack \$129

- 5-DVD Set (Eight, 30-min. sessions)
- Couple's Workbook
- *Good News About Sex & Marriage* book
- Leader's Guide

Couple's Set (one per couple) \$39.95

- 2 Couple's Workbooks
- 1 *Good News About Sex & Marriage* book



Imprimatur

Living a Joy-Filled Marriage

by Tom McCabe and Gregory Popcak

Living a Joy-Filled Marriage is a virtue-based, life-skills program for marriage preparation that is designed to help engaged couples set patterns of thought and behavior that can lead to lifelong, joy-filled marriages.

- Impart the tools needed for a fulfilling married life.
- Provide concrete plans for living virtue in marriage.
- Guide couples in setting goals and practices that will last a lifetime.

Starter Pack \$49.95

- Couple's Workbook
- 1 Marriage Action Plan (MAP) Journal
- Leader's Guide

Couple's Set (one per couple) \$34.95

- 2 Couple's Workbooks
- 1 Marriage Action Plan (MAP) Journal

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Spanish Version Also Available

El Plan de Dios *para un*
Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría

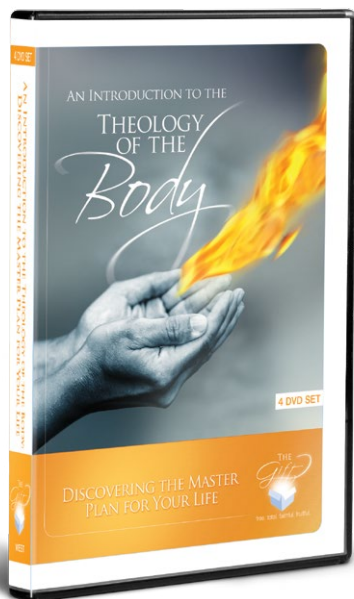


*Christopher West edition
is also available, call for details.*

Discover Who You Were Created to Be

“It has helped me with my role as a father, my role as a husband, my role at work, as a son to my parents, and everything.”

– Scott M., study participant



Imprimatur

An Introduction to the Theology of the Body

by Christopher West

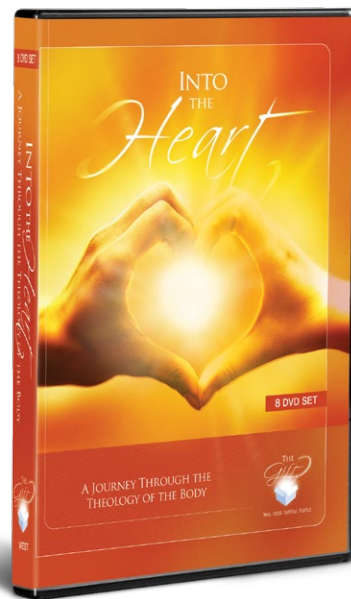
This is a definitive program in capturing the essence of what it means to be human. Discover how to live an authentic life through St. John Paul II’s great gift to the Church: the Theology of the Body.

- Learn why the redemption of our sexuality is the key to happiness.
- Develop a “new lens” through which to see the world with greater clarity.
- Discover the meaning of life.

Starter Pack \$99

- 4-DVD Set (Eight, 30-min. sessions)
- Student Workbook
- Leader’s Guide

Student Workbook (one per participant) \$12⁹⁵



Imprimatur

Into the Heart

by Christopher West

Discover what saints and mystics alike have always known: A life of ecstasy and deep union with God is not only possible, it is what you were created for. It is a lot closer than you think!

- Discover how the redemption of our sexuality leads to happiness.
- See how God’s mystery is revealed through the body.
- Learn the language of sexual love.

Starter Pack \$129

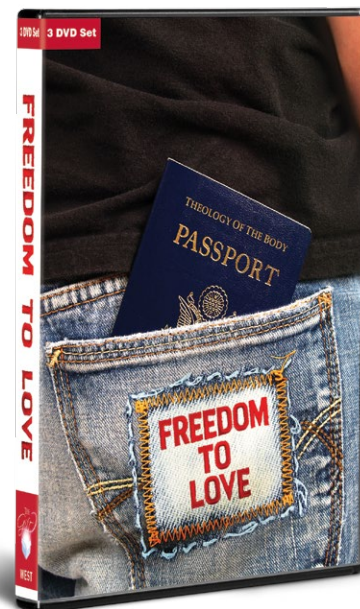
- 8-DVD Set (Sixteen, 30-min. sessions)
- Student Workbook
- Leader’s Guide

Student Workbook (one per participant) \$19⁹⁵

STREAM THESE STUDIES ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

A Profound Message of Love and Freedom





Freedom to Love

by Christopher West

Recognizing the world’s confusion, St. John Paul II proclaimed an unconventional message of love and human sexuality. He turned the notion of freedom on its head, declaring it to be selfless rather than selfish. He says “freedom exists for the sake of love.”

In this powerful five-part presentation for young adults, Christopher West lays out a convincing and refreshing road map to living a life of freedom. The concepts presented in this study will change your entire worldview.

- Discover what it means to live a life of true freedom.
- Learn what love looks like and how to live it out authentically.
- See that God has a plan for the future.

Starter Pack \$79

- 3-DVD Set (Five, 50-min. sessions)
- Student Workbook
- Leader’s Guide

Student Workbook (one per participant) \$11.95

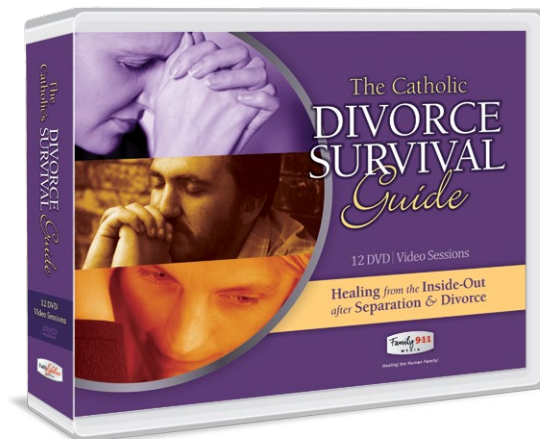
STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

“This program helped me to realize how much God really loves us, even with all of our imperfections. It is just incredible.”

– Angela W., study participant

Hope and Healing to the Divorced and Separated





The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide

by Rose Sweet

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide was created to restore fullness of health, life, and joy to the divorced or separated. With the help of expert counselors, theologians, and priests, Rose Sweet guides participants from pain and loneliness to hope and healing.

- Hear the personal testimonies of those who have suffered through divorce.
- Learn how to navigate new financial concerns.
- Address questions of forgiveness, family, finances, and new relationships.

Starter Pack \$129

- 12-DVD Set (Twelve, 30-min. sessions)
- Personal Survival Guide
- Leader's Survival Guide
- Welcome packet with resources for leaders

Personal Survival Guide (one per participant) \$14.⁹⁵

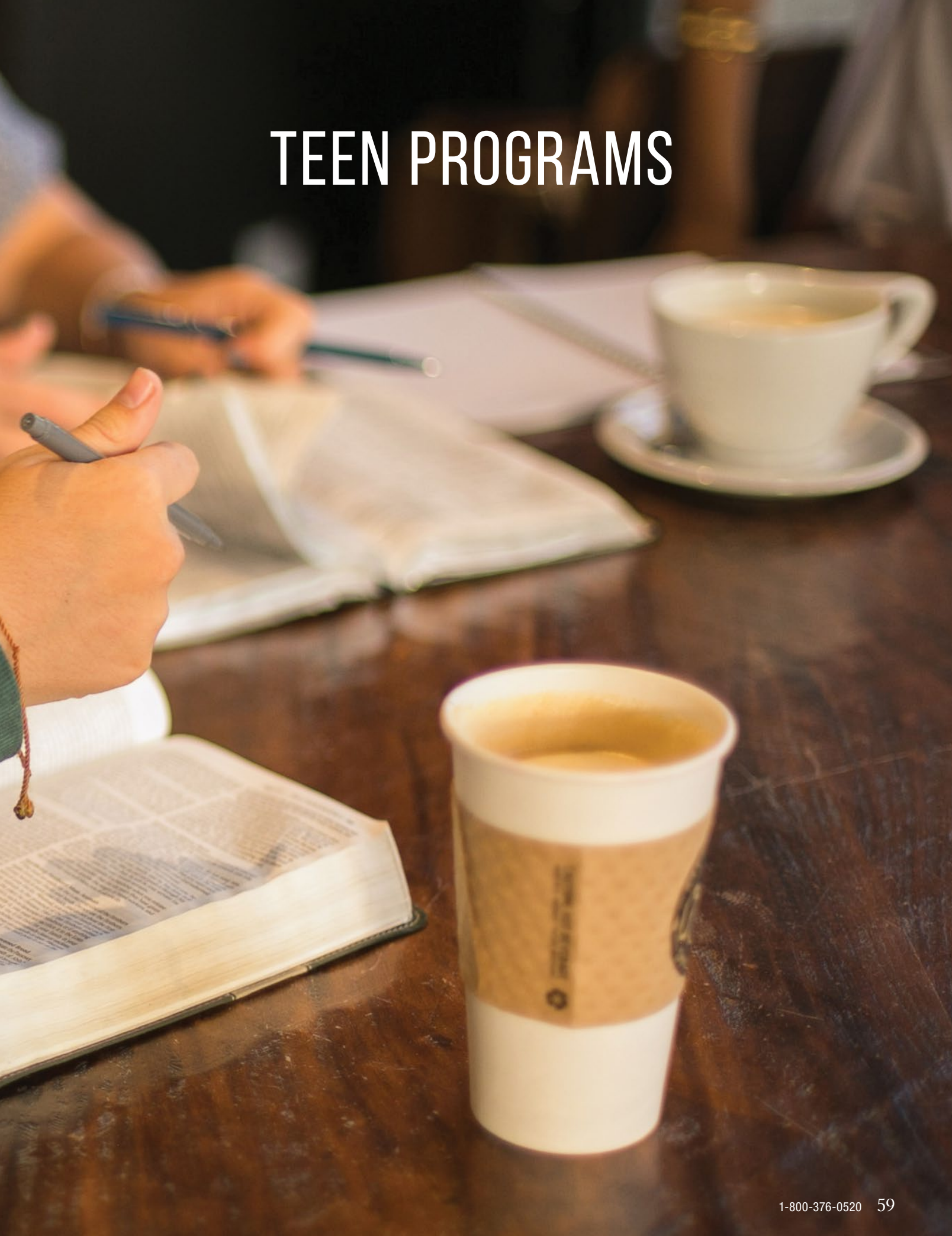
STREAM THIS STUDY ONLINE AT EVANGELIZATION.COM

“This program weaves together the beauty of the Catholic Faith and a process of healing.”

– Bishop Leonard Blair,
Archdiocese of Hartford



TEEN PROGRAMS





Keeping Teens Catholic

Jason Evert

You have probably seen the polls that say young people are leaving the Church. According to the data, it is not that they are hostile to all things spiritual, but that they have become indifferent to organized religion. They are “into” spirituality without structure—or, one could say, a soul without its body.

Why is this happening? Was St. Augustine wrong about human nature and our “God holes” that need to be filled?

What if the youth of recent years have been asking for honest, direct answers more intensely now than ever

before, but we are not addressing their questions in a language they can understand?

As I see it, there are three root causes of young people’s increasing indifference to the Faith.

1. Defective Pedagogy

Many young people head off to college only having been taught what they are *not* supposed to do. They might think, “OK, I know I shouldn’t look at pornography, have premarital sex, live with my girlfriend, or have an abortion. Great. But what *should* I do?”

When it comes to finding and receiving love, discerning their vocation, and growing in virtue, many youth feel unequipped. In part, this is because the Church’s teachings on difficult matters (such as sexual ethics) are often presented from the “outside-in.” For example, the Ten Commandments are presented, and they may even be applied to real life. For many, though, both young and old alike, this approach can seem more of an *imposition* rather than a *revelation*. Such a methodology may correctly present the truth of our Catholic Faith without conveying its inherent *goodness* or *beauty*.

A key reason this approach falls short is that today’s young people have been fed so many lies by our modern culture. They have had to expend a great deal of energy to sort fact from fiction, “reality” TV from real life. When they are presented with the truth, they instinctively question it. Some seem to have a visceral reaction to the very concept of objective truth.

Meanwhile, they are immersed in a culture that has deprived them of the opportunity to experience authentic beauty. Everything is exposed, but nothing is revealed. If we are going to help today’s young people embrace the truth of the Catholic Faith, we must begin by revealing its beauty to them, showing them the intrinsic harmony of its teachings. It is easy to argue with “truth,” but it is impossible to resist beauty.

If the Church is the bride of Christ, then she does not need to be defended. She needs to be unveiled, so her beauty can speak for itself. Song of Songs 4:9 foretells the love that Christ has for his Church in the bridegroom’s declaration, “You have ravished my heart, my sister,

my bride.” If we could only see what Christ sees in the Church, our hearts would fall in love as well. What is keeping us from doing that?

2. Impure Hearts

Christ’s purity fills the Church and makes it beautiful. In his Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5–7), Christ promised that the pure in heart will see God. He was not speaking merely about seeing God in the next life, but having the capacity to recognize him now.

Those who lack true purity of heart, then, will have difficulty understanding—or even recognizing—the things of God. Given that today’s young people are relentlessly

bombarded with images of impurity on TV, the Internet, and in social media, it is no surprise that they find it increasingly difficult to understand spiritual matters.

Young people who live unchaste lives open a chasm between their will and the will of God. They lose the ability to see spiritually with eyes unclouded by sin. This is why St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote, “When a raven finds a dead body, its first act is to pluck out the eyes; and the first injury that [impurity] inflicts on the soul is to take away the light of the things of God.”¹

God created us as rational creatures. When we choose to live an immoral lifestyle while calling ourselves Christians, we have to grapple with the tension between how we are living and what we believe. If our behavior does

not match our beliefs, ultimately one of them will have to go—and it is always easier to drop our faith than our sins.

We search for moral loopholes, such as, “Where in the Bible does it say [*insert sin*] is wrong?” When no loopholes are left, we search for dubious reasons to leave our faith behind, things like: “The Catholic Church has a medieval view of sex,” or “I don’t believe in organized religion,” or “The Bible was written thousands of years ago. How

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

— Pope Paul VI

¹ St. Alphonsus Liguori, *Dignity and Duties of the Priest* (Potosi, WI: St. Athanasius Press, 2009), 108.

do we know it is reliable?” or, “I can’t obey the Church because its leaders are hypocrites.” We look for something to divert us, something to keep us from studying and confronting the truth. We may claim to be “spiritual” but not “religious.” But St. Augustine’s words are a challenge to all of us: “If you believe what you like in the gospel, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.”

Perhaps the most common objection to the Faith, however, is that Christians often fail to live up to the name.

3. *Lack of Saints*

A teenage girl once approached me in tears after a chastity talk I gave at her high school. She said that her father always harps on her to wear a purity ring and save sex for marriage. But she added, “I found his porn collection when I was eight years old, and I know he still has it all. I resent him so much.” In her eyes, all moral and spiritual authority had been stripped from him. How could he lead his own household if he could not master his own desires?

Pope Paul VI once remarked, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”² When teachers fail to be witnesses, their message will fall on deaf ears.

One of the many blessings of living in our era is that we were blessed with a pope who had a pure heart and a brilliant pedagogy—St. John Paul II.

On September 16, 1987, in an address to bishops of the United States, John Paul said:

We must also constantly recall that the teaching of Christ’s church—like Christ himself—is a “sign of contradiction.” It has never been easy to accept the

Gospel teaching in its entirety, and it never will be. The Church is committed, both in faith and morals, to make her teaching as clear and understandable as possible, presenting it in all the attractiveness of divine truth.

One of the prelates in attendance, Bishop John Michael D’Arcy, was so inspired by a phrase in the Holy Father’s presentation that he brought it up later while talking to the pope.

What struck me then and stayed with me, which I presented to the pope later ... was the term: attractiveness. It was only one word. How do we make [the Faith] attractive, I asked him. Then he gave me that response that is forever written in my heart. He got very serious, like a philosopher, and said, “It is necessary to understand the soul of the woman. All these things, which are meant to liberate the woman: premarital sex, contraception, and abortion, have they liberated her or have they enslaved her?”³

It is necessary to understand the soul of the woman. Isn’t this what every woman desires and what every man strives to accomplish? In one packed sentence, St. John Paul II sums up not only the intrinsic drama of human love, but also the solution to some of the most difficult questions of sexual ethics.

If we are to help young people today to incarnate their faith and understand that authentic spirituality and “organized” religion are not diametrically opposed, we would do well to follow the lead of St. John Paul II. He never compromised the truth of the Faith, but revealed its beauty in his teachings and through his pure heart and his life of sanctity. ■

² Pope Paul VI, Address to the Members of the *Consilium de Laicis* (Oct. 2, 1974): AAS 66 (1974), 568.

³ *Today’s Catholic News*, No. 39, Nov. 8, 2009.



Jason Evert is the best-selling author of a dozen books, including *Theology of His/Her Body* and *How to Find Your Soulmate Without Losing Your Soul*. He also co-authored *Theology of the Body for Teens* High School Edition with his wife, Crystalina, and Brian Butler. Jason earned a master’s degree in theology, as well as undergraduate degrees in counseling and theology, from the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Suggested Teen Program Sequence

	Grade	Program	# of Lessons	See Page
	6 th	Encounter (Bible Study) An exciting encounter with Scripture that speaks to the heart of middle schoolers	8	72
	7 th	Theology of the Body for Teens Middle School (Teen Chastity) A liberating and hopeful chastity program	8	82
	8 th	Chosen Confirmation A dynamic new Confirmation program that takes teens on a journey through the Faith	24	64
	9 th	T3 Teen Timeline (Bible Study) An engaging Bible study that makes the story of Scripture come alive for teens Altaration A new program that explains the “why” behind the “what” of the Mass	8 5	74 70
	10 th	T3 Matthew (Bible Study) An authentic way for teens to experience Christ in the Gospels	8	76
	11 th	Theology of the Body for Teens High School (Teen Chastity) A compelling chastity program that shows the union between God, sex, love, and life	12	84
	12 th	T3 Acts A Bible study that follows the incredible adventures of the first Christians T3 Revelation (Bible Study) An intriguing way to unpack the myths of the end times, the mark of the Beast, and more	4 4	76 76



| CHOSEN

Set your teens' hearts on **FIRE** for Christ and the Church.

The Catholic Faith for Teens

Comprehensive. Relevant. Effective.

Chosen is going to change the way we pass along our precious gift of the Catholic Faith to the next generation. Designed to offer young people a life-changing experience as they journey through their Catholic Faith in all its richness and vitality, *Chosen* will lead teens to see how the sacraments, prayer, and discipleship are the keys to a life of happiness.

Chosen utilizes a powerful and effective methodology with lessons designed to capture teens' attention and present the Faith in new and unexpected ways. *Chosen* features multiple, dynamic presenters in visually stunning, fast-paced videos, fully integrated written materials for students and leaders, and a rich offering of free, online resources. *Chosen* is unlike anything available in the Church today.



Chris Stefanick



Sarah Swafford



Fr. Mike Schmitz



Fr. Mark Toups



Leah Darrow



Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia (Nashville)



*Jackie
Francois Angel*



Jason Evert



*Mary Ann
Wiesinger*



Brian Butler



*Deacon Harold
Burke-Sivers*



Chris Padgett



Confirmation

A Challenge and an Opportunity

When asked why he first decided to write and develop a Confirmation program, Chris Stefanick said, “I served for four and a half years at a parish in East Los Angeles, and I found that there was no single resource available that would both fully catechize and effectively evangelize teens.”

Indeed, more than half a million Catholics are confirmed every year. However, according to a Pew Forum study, more than half of those confirmed leave the Faith within five years. Stefanick said that as the director of youth and young adult ministry for the

Archdiocese of Denver, he also saw the need for a turn-key program that could be easily implemented and run by both catechists *and* volunteers. “Many people teaching Confirmation are parents and parishioners who are not necessarily trained catechists, but who can

be great mentors and facilitators if they are given the proper tools.”

Stefanick began working with co-author Ron Bolster (the director of Catechesis at Franciscan University) and a team of youth experts in forming a comprehensive curriculum that serves as a thorough introduction to the Catholic Faith. “We spent a full year working on a twenty-four-lesson framework based on the RCIA model. Then we spent another four years working with an awesome team of presenters who would not only appear in the videos, but would also write a personal witness story, which would appear in the corresponding lesson in the student workbook.”

Changing Teen Lives

The end result, *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation*, was released in the spring of 2014. The program includes a video series, a Student Workbook, and guides for leaders, parents, and sponsors, along with extensive online resources. “We were determined to evangelize not only the teen to be confirmed, but also the parents, the sponsor, and even the leaders themselves, as we encouraged them to share their faith and become living witnesses of Christ,” Stefanick said.

In less than a year, the program has been adopted by thousands of parishes across the country and has received very positive reviews from clergy, catechists, and—most importantly—teens. “The examples they use in the videos are really relatable, and you can understand them,” said Cassie, 13. “It’s not just people lecturing you.”

“Before I started Confirmation [preparation], my friends and I didn’t really know what we were doing or what the point was,” said Connor, 15. “And then after we did *Chosen*, we began understanding everything—and now we’re all on fire. I actually understand my relationship with Jesus, which is really good right now.”

Beyond Confirmation

Due to the enthusiastic response of early reviewers, educators, and group leaders, *Chosen* was produced in two formats: a Confirmation edition and a general faith formation edition. Both formats offer the same powerful twenty-four lessons, differing only in the emphasis that key lessons of the Confirmation edition place on sacramental preparation.

Sister Paschalina Marie of St. Peter’s Parish in Spokane, Washington, spoke about the impact she saw the program having on her class. “We can see already that the *Chosen* program is going to give them the means to remain firmly rooted in Christ. Students said that it was very clear to them that the presenters

were passionate about what they were talking about and were seriously and lovingly interested in them. They also commented that, “It is so much better than driver’s ed!”

Stefanick summed up the philosophy behind *Chosen*: “Ultimately, it is beauty that draws the heart. And when people hear the gospel in a language that they can understand, it changes their lives.” ■

“We can see already that the *Chosen* program is going to give them means to remain firmly rooted in Christ.”

— *Sister Paschalina Marie*

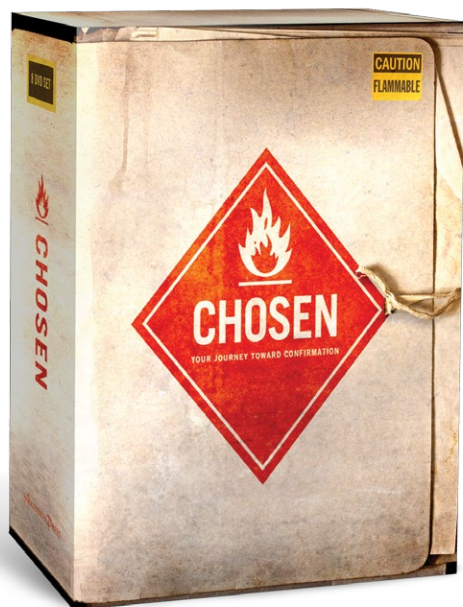




Show Teens the Path to Lifelong Discipleship

“Chosen speaks to youth in their language, from their culture, and with the enduring love of Jesus Christ.”
– Bishop James D. Conley, Diocese of Lincoln

Chosen was initially conceived as a Confirmation program, but it became evident during development that *Chosen*'s content goes beyond sacramental preparation. In response to the very high level of interest from early reviewers, educators, and group leaders—and to the enthusiasm from various experts involved in the project—*Chosen* has been produced in two formats: a Confirmation edition and a general faith formation edition. Both *Chosen* formats offer the same dynamic and powerful twenty-four lessons, differing only in the emphasis that key lessons of the Confirmation edition place on sacramental preparation.



Imprimatur

Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation

by Chris Stefanick and Ron Bolster

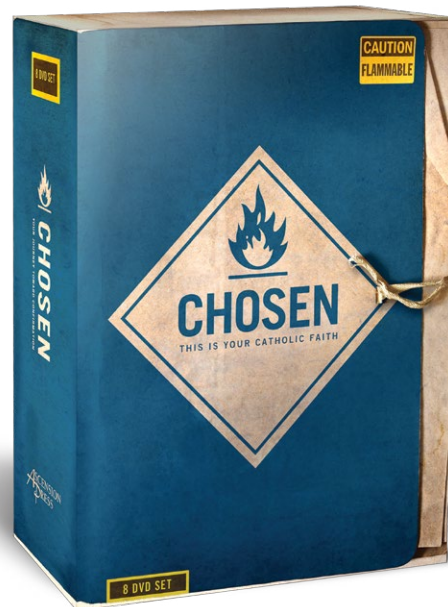
Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation is a twenty-four-lesson program that provides everything you need to prepare your students both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ.

Starter Pack \$199

- 8-DVD Set (Twenty-four, 15- to 25-min. lessons)
- Student Workbook
- Leader's Guide
- Sponsor's Guide
- Parent's Guide

Student Pack (one per participant).....\$34.95

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Imprimatur

Chosen: This Is Your Catholic Faith

by Chris Stefanick and Ron Bolster

Chosen: This Is Your Catholic Faith will both catechize and challenge teens to fully embrace a life in Christ. These twenty-four lessons are perfect for youth groups, parish religious education, whole family catechesis, RCIA, home use, or any setting that calls for engaging and inspirational catechetical teaching.

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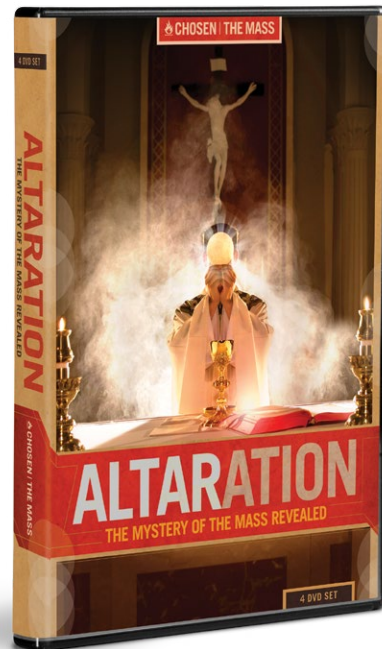


A close-up photograph of a man, likely a priest or deacon, holding a golden chalice. He is looking upwards with a reverent and focused expression. He is wearing a dark blue vestment with gold floral patterns over a white shirt. The background is dark, with some bokeh light effects.

Launch Teens into a Lifelong Love for the Mass

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- Enter prepared.
- Participate with sincerity.
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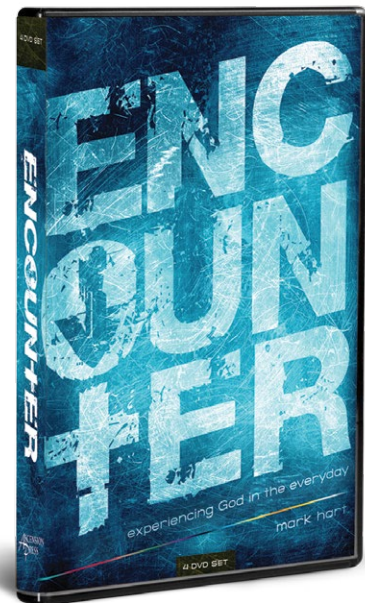
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Lead Your Students to a Deep
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Encounter: Experiencing God in the Everyday

by Mark Hart

*E*ncounter is a life-changing experience that speaks directly to the hearts and minds of middle school youth. Designed specifically for sixth to eighth grades, *Encounter* uses the color-coded *Bible Timeline* Learning System to reveal the story of our Faith and God’s plan for our lives. As youth are drawn into this story, they will see God not as a distant, doctrinal concept, but as a loving Father who desires a meaningful and lasting encounter with them.

- Lively video presentations keep kids interested.
- Interactive workbook keeps kids engaged.
- Leader’s materials make implementation easy.

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- Student Workbook
- Leader’s Guide

Student Workbook (one per participant) \$10⁹⁵

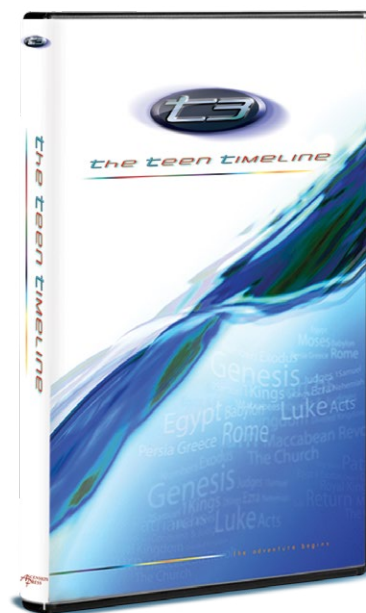
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“I never knew that reading the Bible could be so much fun.”

– Grant, middle school student

A Captivating Bible Study for Teens





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by Mark Hart

T³: *The Teen Timeline* brings Scripture to life. It unpacks God's Word in an exciting way teens can relate to and understand. It follows the fascinating story that ties all of Scripture together in order to give teens the "big picture" of salvation history. They discover who God is, and they see how they fit into "His-story." As teens see the story unfold, they come to see the Bible and God as important parts of their lives.

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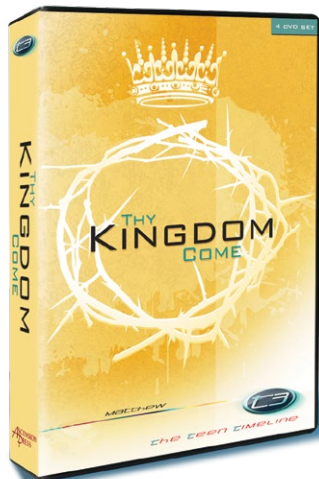
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*"My whole class loved it! ...
It really helped us all
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– Marissa, high school student

Your Teens Can Understand the Bible





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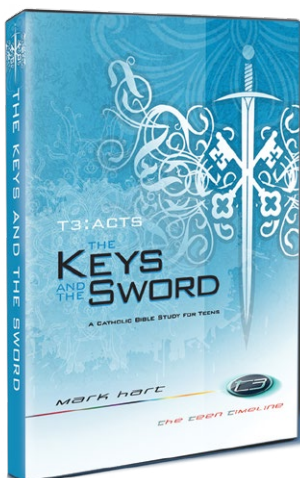
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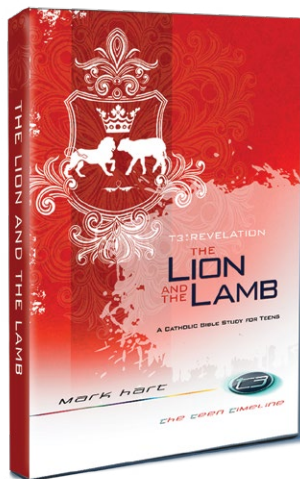
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- Leader's Guide

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 Illustrated by Eileen McCook

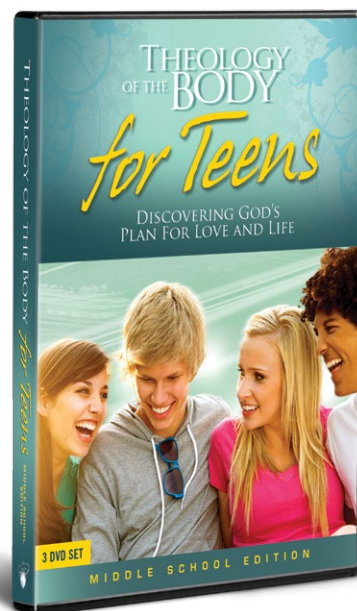
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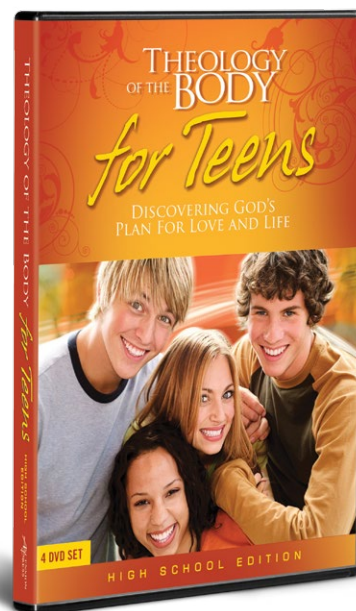


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by Brian Butler and Jason & Crystalina Evert

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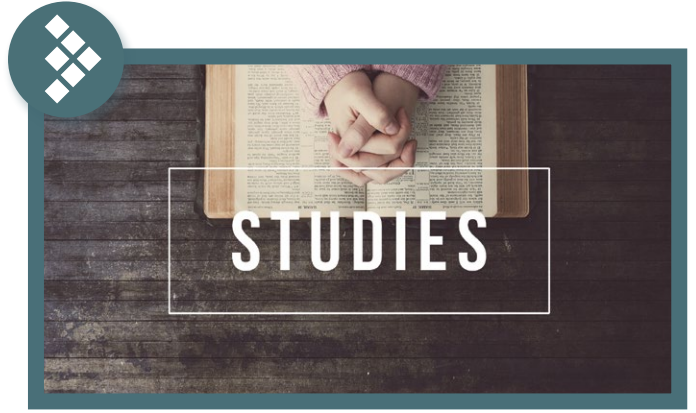
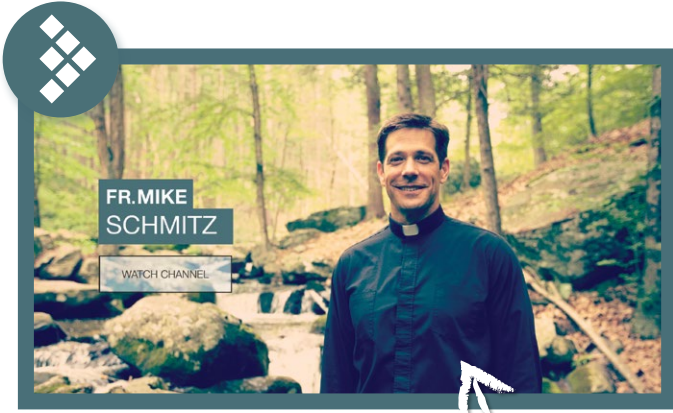
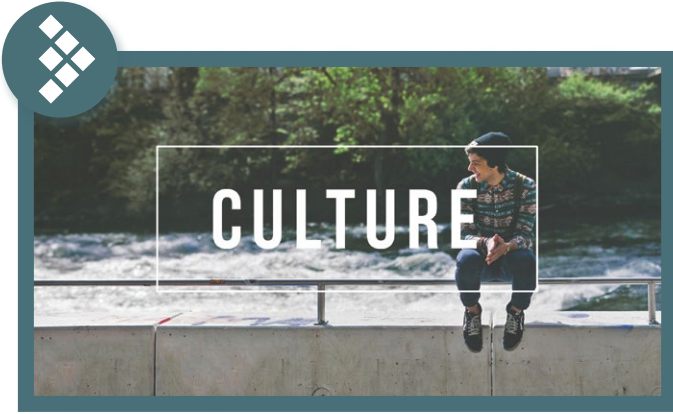
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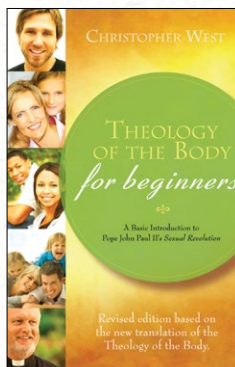
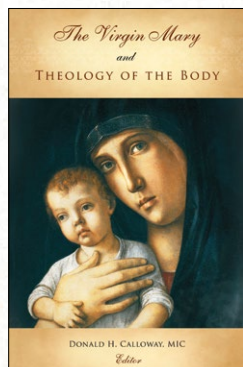
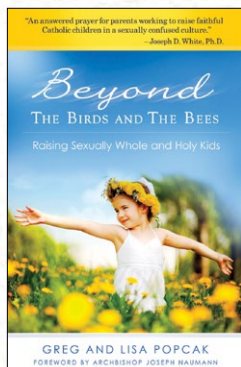
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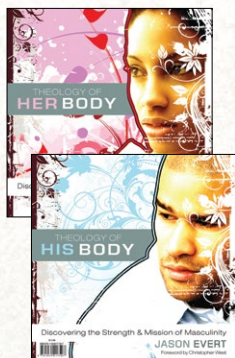
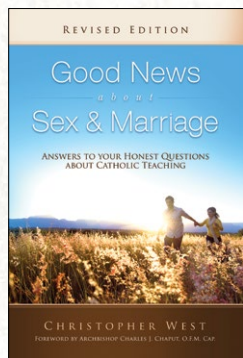
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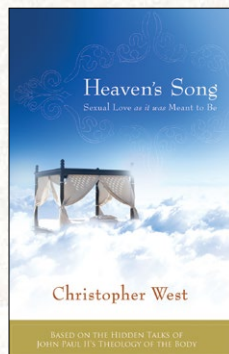
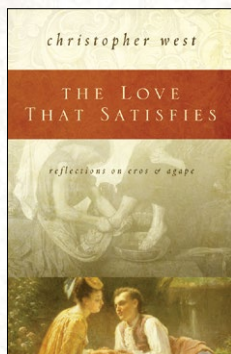
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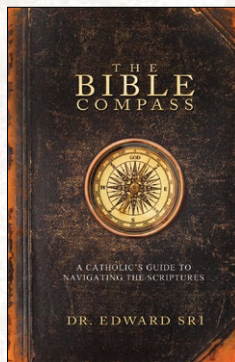
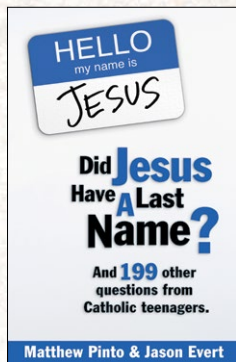
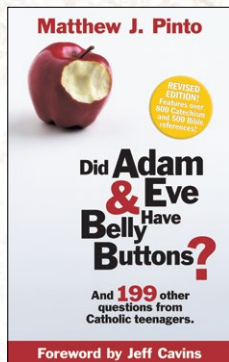
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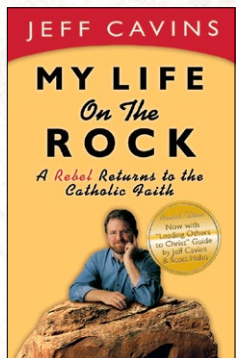
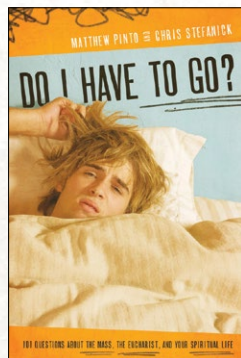
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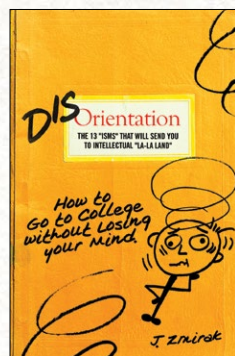
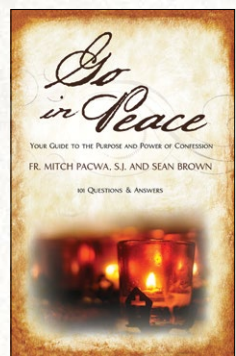
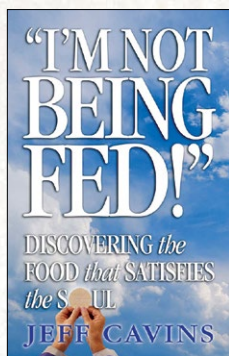
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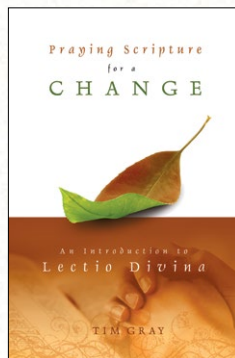
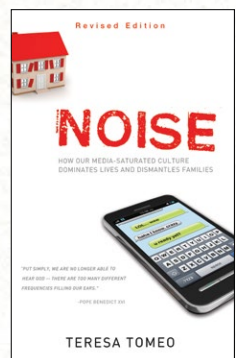
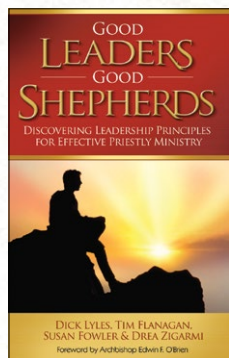
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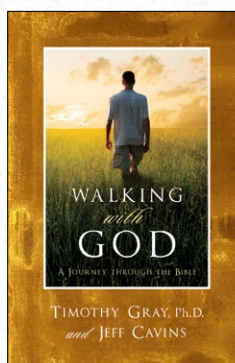
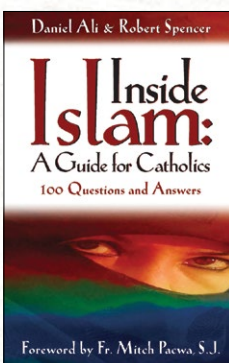
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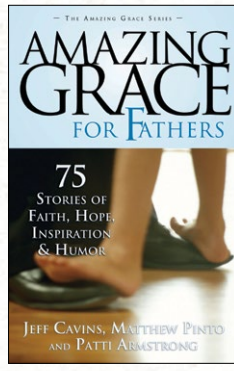
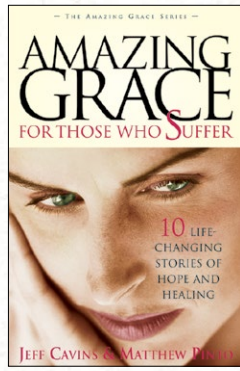
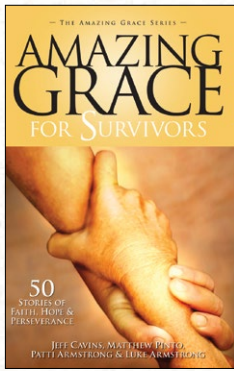
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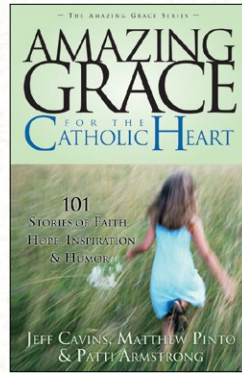
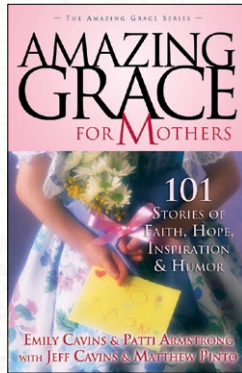
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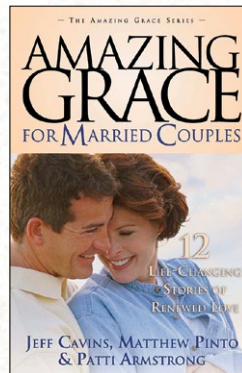
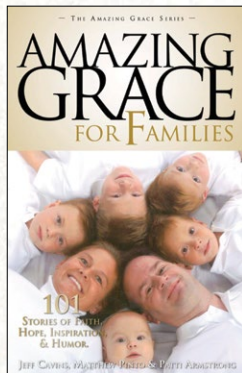


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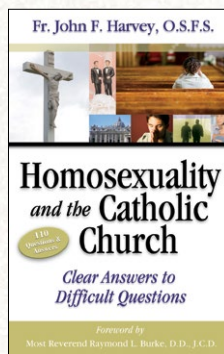
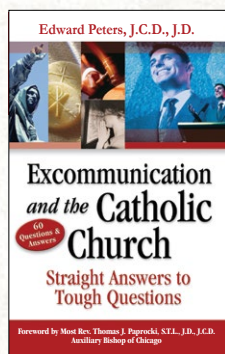
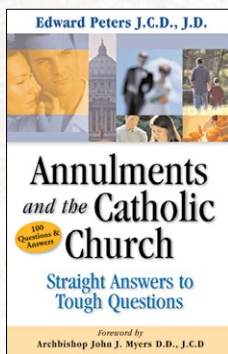


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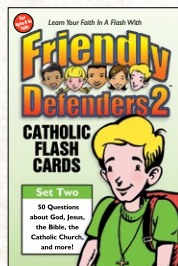
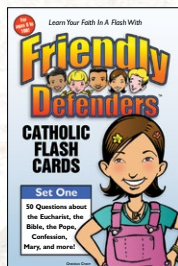
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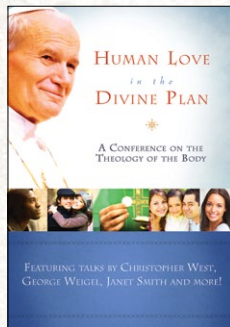
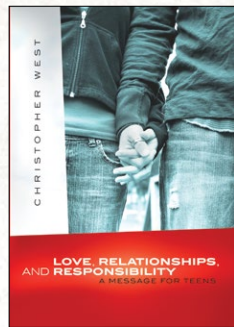
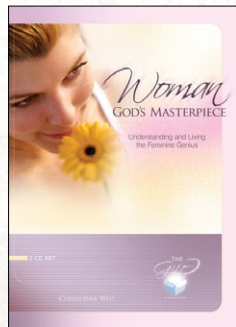


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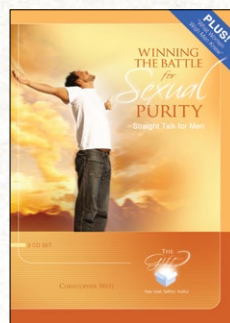
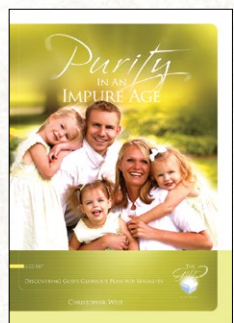
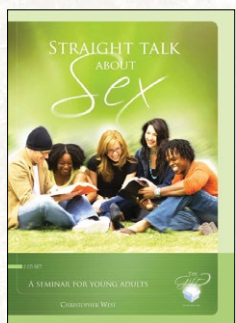
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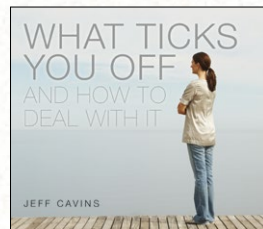
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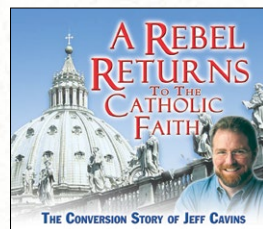
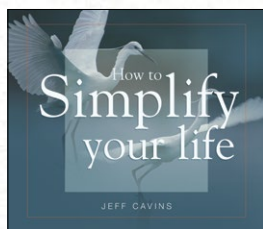


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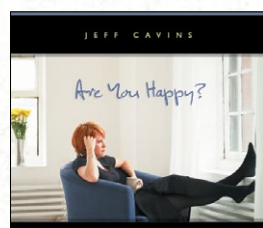
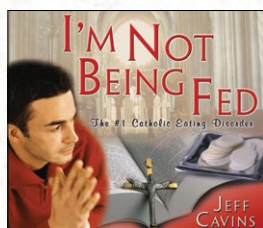
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For seminar information, contact Janene at 484-875-4550, ext. 204, or email jmontlouis@ascensionpress.com.

Bring a Training to Your Area

Chosen • Theology of the Body for Teens • The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide • A Joy-Filled Marriage

CHOSEN

Chosen Formation Days

The *Chosen* Formation Days offer leaders valuable insights and practical tools so they can confidently and inspirationally teach the program. Participants will discover how *Chosen* follows the RCIA catechetical model and how this process of conversion can lead teens to a personal encounter with Christ and lifelong discipleship.

Presenters: Chris Stefanick, Colin Maclver, Bill Donaghy, and Chris Padgett

“I found the most valuable part of the training to be the discussion on youth culture and how the *Chosen* program fits in by addressing the many misconceptions that teens have today.”

– Mary Ann Moore, DRE

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY for Teens

Theology Of the Body for Teens High School and Middle School Trainings

Theology of the Body for Teens trainings offer participants a comprehensive introduction to the Theology of the Body and a practical, working knowledge of the teens programs. By the end of the session, participants will have the tools and confidence they need to teach the Theology of the Body to their teens and pre-teens effectively.

Presenters: Brian Butler, Colin Maclver, and Bill Donaghy

“I am so blessed to have received *Theology of the Body for Teens* training from Brian Butler. He made the daunting task of teaching the Theology of the Body a little less daunting—and a lot more approachable. I feel confident going forward as I prepare to crack open these teachings for myself and share them with the teens at my parish.”

– Emily Burds LaLoggia

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee, WI

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide Training

This training will refresh and encourage those who are already serving in divorce ministry or anyone who is interested in starting such a group. Rose Sweet delivers practical insights and resources to start and run a “divorce survival” group, including how to minister emotionally and spiritually to the separated and divorced. You will come away prepared to lead or start your parish group effectively.

Presenter: Rose Sweet

“The event was outstanding. Rose was terrific!”

– Vince Gayle

Director of Marriage & Family Life, Diocese of Lansing

A Joy-Filled Marriage Training

The *Joy-Filled Marriage* Training equips marriage preparation leaders and presenters to effectively teach and present this program. A question-and-answer session will address any additional issues that are raised.

Presenter: Tom McCabe

“I have received calls from all over the diocese telling me how well-done this training was ... and saying how much their marriages benefited from learning the *Joy-Filled Marriage* program.”

– Pat McCarthy

Family Life Director, Diocese of Cheyenne

The Joy-Filled Marriage Program

Training Presenters



Brian Butler



Bill Donaghy



Colin Maclver



Tom McCabe



Chris Padgett



Chris Stefanick



Rose Sweet

For seminar information, contact Tara at 317-603-6199, or email tcabral@ascensionpress.com.

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–Jeff Cavins



Spotlight: Matthew Pinto

Name: Matthew Pinto

Title: President/Founder

Editor/Author: *Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?, Did Jesus Have a Last Name? Amazing Grace Series; Freedom: Twelve Lives Transformed Through the Theology of the Body; and A Guide to The Passion: 100 Questions About The Passion of the Christ*

Hobbies: Golf, reading, music, movies, travel, attending kids' sports games

Married to Maryanne, six children

I was tongue-tied the first time my Catholic Faith was challenged. I was twenty-one, and a devout Protestant friend challenged me to explain certain Catholic beliefs. I remember his first question like it was yesterday: “Matt, Catholics call priests ‘father,’ but the Bible says that we should call no man on earth ‘father.’ Why do you do that?”

In my teen years and early twenties, my working knowledge of the Church’s teachings was limited. Aggressively riding my skateboard and leading the tenth grade in detention minutes (a whopping 2,400 of them) was what occupied my life. The drama of the Catholic Faith had not yet been conveyed effectively to me. As so, I would have been hard-pressed to give coherent—and correct—answers to questions about what I, as a Catholic, supposedly believed or why I believed it.

Yet, that night nearly thirty years ago would be when a wonderful journey in faith would begin. I would not only get an answer to my friend’s question, I would be taught so much more about the Catholic Faith in the years to come. In just a few short years, I would sell a fledgling advertising agency and begin working for the Church in a variety of media and pastoral ministries. In 1998, I founded Ascension Press to publish my first book, *Did Adam and Eve Have Belly-Buttons?* At the time, I had no intention to publish any more books, much less to establish a full-time apostolate. But God had other plans.

Today, I am pleased and humbled that Ascension Press has become one of the leading faith formation companies in the Church, employing more than fifty talented and committed people.

Looking back over the past sixteen years, we have been blessed to have been able to work with some of the best and brightest talent in the Catholic Church today. Again, this is humbling.

I really cannot imagine more fulfilling and blessed work. Every day, my staff and I receive letters, emails, and calls of encouragement, thanking us for our resources. We are reminded that we not only have to “walk the walk” of faith ourselves, but also need to be stewards of the work we have been given. The adage from Luke’s Gospel, “To those whom much has been given, much will be expected,” brings joy to our hearts, as well as a beautiful burden.

Matthew Pinto

President



Matt’s wife, Maryanne, and their daughter Anna at her fifth birthday party.



Love is Our Mission: The Family fully alive

Ascension Press is the World Meeting of Families Youth Congress Café Programming Partner

“We selected Ascension as our Café Programming Partner because of its excellent reputation and its past successes in helping teens wrestle with the ‘big questions.’”

-Mary Beth Yount, World Meeting of Families, Director of Content and Programming

The World Meeting of Families Congress

September 22-25, 2015 will be a chance for families around the world to join **Pope Francis** for a celebration of God’s plan for the family in the **City of Brotherly Love**. Many friends and colleagues of **Ascension Press** will speak at the event.



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*Where Is this
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Going: Dating and
Discernment*



Rose Sweet

*“I Am with You:”
Struggling with
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