

How to Use this Study Guide

Based upon Sacred Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *Our Catholic Faith* is a twelve-week collaborative study that brings together Catholics who are seeking a deeper understanding of their faith. The Catholic faith is made full through both Sacred Scripture and the oral Tradition of the Apostles. Likewise, this study guide, while sufficient in its written format, is not complete until it is shared within a small group.

Groups are comprised of 12 participants and a facilitator. The intent is for each participant to select a topic from the study guide, research it using the given resources under the guidance of a priest and/or group facilitator, and present the topic to the group. Only when participants internalize the material through personal study and then teach it to others will they experience the fullness of what this study has to offer.

Each lesson in this guide provides a brief description of the topic as well as concise objectives, recommended resources for study, and presentation goals. The description at the beginning of each chapter provides valuable insight on the lesson as well as quotations from magisterial documents and Sacred Scripture. Prior to researching the selected topic, each presenter should review the introduction to the presentation as well as its goals and objectives.

A list of resources is provided in each chapter that will assist the presenter with the preparation of the lesson. The resources may vary for individual topics; however, the required material for all participants includes the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and *Revised Standard Version Bible – Catholic Edition*. Each presenter may use additional resources not explicitly mentioned in this study, but should do so with the approval of the group facilitator to ensure fidelity to the magisterial teachings of the Church.

The length of the lesson is dependent upon the presenter, but care should be made to address the objectives listed and meet the goal established in the study guide. At the time of each lesson, the presenter should distribute to all group members handouts of the lesson as well as references used.