



Recollection Nights

Catholic Scripture Study

Introduction

Recollection Nights include a series of ideas for groups and individuals to use during the transition weeks between bible studies. These transition week recommendations can be done before a study begins, or at the end. Look at the list below and decide for yourself when they'll best work for your group or individual study.

Individuals

Adoration

Spend an hour meditating on the truths of the study in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Points for meditation can be easily gleaned from the Points to Ponder or the Conclusion sections of Catholic Scripture Study.

Prayer at Home

Use your regular prayer time at home to reflect on the truths of God. Set aside a quiet time with some points from the study that are particularly relevant to your life. Remember that the purpose of the study is not just to gain more knowledge but also to draw us closer to our Lord.

Share the Word

Invite a friend, a family member, or your spouse to read your favorite chapter or lesson from the book and discuss how it is important to the two of you. Or, share with someone what inspired you or helped your relationship with God after studying this book. Then, invite them to join you for the next study. Hint: make these sharing opportunities very positive times instead of attempts to change the person with whom you are sharing.

Groups

Some of the following will take a great deal of preparation, whereas others are more impromptu and can be organized the previous week:

Group Living Book

Divide the previous study among 5-10 people. Each of the individuals will take one or more of the lessons and report on that lesson in 5 minutes. Either have the reports focus on the truths of the study or a reflection on how that lesson changed the individuals' perspective. You may find that most people prefer to give a reflection on what it meant to them rather than restating the general truths of the lesson.

Share the Word

Invite a friend, a family member, or your spouse to read your favorite chapter or lesson from the book and discuss how it is important to the two of you. Or, share with someone what inspired you or helped your relationship with God after studying this book. Then, invite them to join you for the next study. Hint: make these sharing opportunities very positive times instead of attempts to change the person with whom you are sharing. You could make it like a "tag team." Therefore, the group presents the entire study. Each person reporting should know the previous week what he or she would be reporting on. Limit the talks to five minutes each, as most people will probably go over a few minutes. Also, there will probably be some laughing and small talk intermittently that will add to the overall time.

When soliciting for volunteers, make it clear that we're not looking for experts—just looking for simple a synopsis of the lesson or what they received from the lesson.



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Groups (cont.)

Charades Based on the Theme

This is a fun way of acting out a truth, concept, or character of a story—in this case a bible chapter or a bible story related to that study.

Take the main theme of each lesson or group of lessons and write them out (just brief descriptions). You can also use the memory verses or lines from the conclusions. You could put points from the lessons in a hat and choose one. A member stands up and acts out one or the themes—spontaneously. Also, a member could organize team skits (sometimes people feel more comfortable within a group). Limit the preparation time for the team skits to a couple of minutes so that the evening does not drag out too long—or divide up into different groups and give each of the groups one of the lessons and have them all prepare at the same time before coming back to the main group and performing.

Banquet and Raffle

Prepare a banquet based on the central theme of the study. Members dress according to the theme (as saint or bible personalities). Have appropriate music and table decorations. Raffle off a book or something else that would be appropriate to the study. This is for a larger group and needs a good bit of planning. This idea could also be adapted to just a small party or social.

On the Hot Seat

Put one of the members in a chair in front of the group. Perhaps you may be able to bring in one of the priests from your parish. Then, pre-written or impromptu questions are fired at the person for five or ten minutes. The questions should be based on people, places, or the central themes from the study. You can also use questions from the lessons.

Testimony Night

Members share testimonies of what the study meant to them and how the study changed their life. This would be a great opportunity to invite non-members to come and listen. You may be able to advertise it in the parish bulletin. Limit it to 5-10 persons sharing. Although testimonies should begin with what the Bible Study meant to each individual, encourage people to share their own testimony of coming to Christ, Christ's involvement in their lives, what the parish means to them and how it helps them, etc.

Adoration

Spend an hour meditating on the truths of the study in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The group leader can type a list of possible reflections of topics the group spent a lot of time discussing. Points for meditation can be easily gleaned from the Points to Ponder or the Conclusion sections of Catholic Scripture Study. Afterwards, have a coffee and snack time for sharing reflections.

Send us your suggestions for a great Recollection Night. Email us at biblestudy@catholicexchange.com