

# How to start

an Ascension Press

# Bible Study



DIOCESE OF TRENTON

## How to Start an Ascension Press Bible Study

Simple steps to set-up and run a vibrant  
'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' small-group study.

**Just follow these easy steps!**

**STEP 1:** Determine your goals for the study.

**STEP 2:** Get buy-in from key people.

**STEP 3:** Recruit and train your core team.

**STEP 4:** Develop a promotion plan.

**STEP 5:** Run and facilitate your study.

**STEP 6:** Plan where to go from here!

**STEP 7:** If you are already part of a small group or ecclesial movement, get started with the *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* study by using just the applicable steps.

**STEP ONE:** Determine your goals for the study.

1. Identify what you want participants to gain, who you want to target, and the size and length of the study.

- Goal for participants: (e.g: We want to create transformative small-group experiences that help people to grow in the life of Christ as missionary disciples and form meaningful and lasting faith-filled friendships.)

- Write your goal here. We want to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- "How" Goal(s) (e.g: "We want to have 3 Lenten small-group studies with 20 people per study reaching 25 new people.")

- Size of the group(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Time-frame of the study: \_\_\_\_\_
- Target audience(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP TWO:** Get buy-in from key people.

1. Write down the names of key people you need to get on-board with your plan.

- Who are the Decision Makers? (e.g. pastor, director of faith formation, pastoral associate, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Who are the Influencers? (your Bible study leaders, parish ministry leaders, pastoral council members, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Who are the Implementers (your "worker-bees") \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Identify how you will reach them and present your plan.

- Plan a Parish Information Session that explains the benefits of Bible study. See: <http://youcanencountergod.com/downloads/encountering-god-parish-information-session-outline.pdf> for step by step “how to” host an *Information Session*.

- Identify who will lead the session: \_\_\_\_\_
- Who will you invite: \_\_\_\_\_
- Set the date(s) and time(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- Request a time to present the plan to key decision makers (e.g. pastor, pastoral council, etc.)

- Who will present the plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- Set the date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP THREE:** Recruit and train your core team.

1. Write the names of those “implementers” who are on-board with the plan.

- Who are the Bible study leaders: \_\_\_\_\_
- Who are the Bible study facilitator(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Who will lead facilitator training: \_\_\_\_\_
- Who will coordinate logistics (e.g. put on calendar, organize refreshments, etc.)\_ \_\_\_\_\_

2. For help with this, go to these links:

- See: <http://biblestudyforcatholics.com/build-your-core-team/> for “*Building a Core Team*”.
- See: <http://d3b7z5rq4tkhrp.cloudfront.net/media/TGA-Leaders-Companion-new.pdf> for “*Putting a Team Together*”, “*Hosting a Facilitator Training*”, and your “*Bible Study Team*”.

**STEP FOUR:** Develop a promotion plan, for both a general and targeted audience, that successfully gets participants to join your Bible Study!

1. Targeted promotion plan:

- Develop a word-of-mouth plan. A personal invitation is the most effective promotion plan. For example, have your leaders personally invite others to join them in the study.

2. General promotion plan:

- Consider using the pulpit announcements, the bulletin, posters, social media, have registration tables after Mass, etc. Brainstorm with your core team how best to promote the study in your parish.
  - How will you promote the study? \_\_\_\_\_
  - When will you begin promoting your study? \_\_\_\_\_
- Identify who will be in charge of general promotion (e.g registration tables between Masses, at Information session, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

3. For help with this, go to these links:

- See: <http://biblestudyforcatholics.com/planning-promoting-study/> for “*Promoting your Study*” step by step and best practices.
- See: <http://youcanencountergod.com/downloads/encountering-god-parish-information-session-outline.pdf>

**STEP FIVE:** Run and facilitate your Study.

1. Take registration for Bible study and assign your facilitator(s) to their small group(s).

- Date(s)/time(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Bible study leader(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Small group facilitator(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Who will order study materials for group or send “invite” to participants who want to purchase their own workbooks at [Ascensionpress.com](http://Ascensionpress.com): \_\_\_\_\_
- Who will coordinate logistics (e.g. reserve parish hall, provide refreshments, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

2. For help with this, go to these links:

- See: <http://biblestudyforcatholics.com/running-facilitating-study/> for how to “*Run the Study*” and how to use the *Ascension Press* Small Group digital platform.
- See: <http://d3b7z5rq4tkhrp.cloudfront.net/media/TGA-Leaders-Companion-new.pdf> for “*Running and Facilitating your Study*”.

**STEP SIX:** Plan where to go from here!

1. Plan on continuing your Bible studies and adult faith formation with the participants from your Bible study by getting your next study started for your group(s). Have them outreach to invite others! Discipleship in action!

- Which study(ies) will you do next? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Continue with the *Great Adventure Bible* study series.
3. Plan on offering *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* again, perhaps later in the year to get new Bible study groups started.

**4. What Study Should We Do Next?**

After completing *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*, there are a number of studies available to help you enrich your faith and grow closer to Christ.

Dive deeper into Scripture with The Great Adventure Foundational Series by beginning with *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation*, and then continue with *MATTHEW: The King and His Kingdom*, and *ACTS: The Spread of the Kingdom*.

Your parish small groups could also get more out of the Mass with *A Biblical Walk through the Mass* and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of our Blessed Mother with *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*. Or they could strengthen their prayer life with *Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer*.

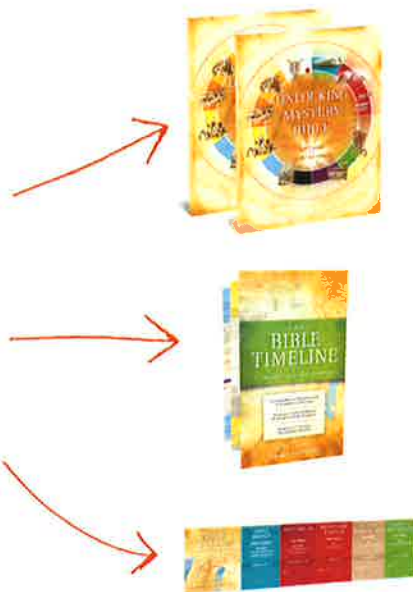
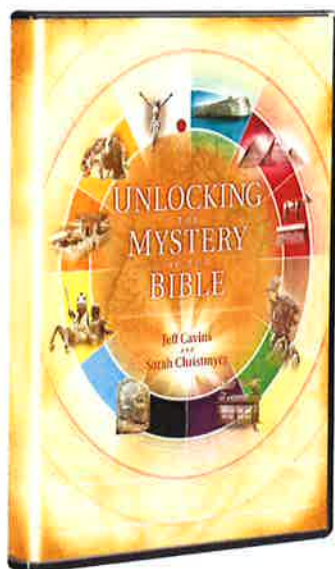
5. For help with this, go to this link:
  - See <http://biblestudyforcatholics.com/what-study-to-begin/> for "What Study Should We Do Next."

**STEP SEVEN:** If you are already part of a small group or ecclesial movement, get started with the *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* study by using just the applicable steps.

**Please note that all of the links will be on the Adult Faith Formation website on how to get started with a Bible Study program using "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible." In addition, the first twenty parishes to win will receive a complete set of "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible." Please contact Laura Rivas at (609) 403-7132 for further assistance. (Email: [lrivas@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:lrivas@dioceseoftrenton.org))**

# New to Bible Study?

Get Started by  
Getting the Big Picture!



*Unlocking the  
Mystery of the Bible*

by Jeff Cavins and  
Sarah Christmyer

Visit [BibleStudyForCatholics.com](http://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.

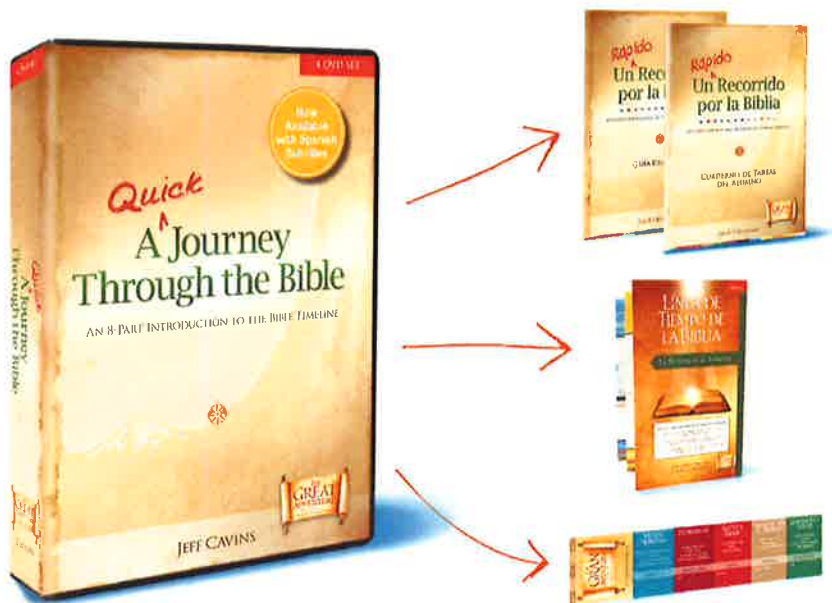
## Questions?

Speak to a friendly and experienced Study Consultant:  
call **1-800-376-0520** or visit [AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com)



# ¿Está estudiando la Biblia por primera vez?

Comience por  
¡Ver el Panorama completa!



*Un Rapido Recorrido  
por la Biblia*

por Jeff Cavins y  
Sarah Christmyer

Visite la página web [BibleStudyForCatholics.com](http://BibleStudyForCatholics.com)

- Encuentre un grupo de estudio en su área.
- Aprenda como empezar un grupo de estudio sobre la Biblia.
- Compartan con Jeff Cavins y otros expertos en el tema a través de videos inspiradores y otros recursos.

## ¿ Preguntas?

Hable con un consultor de estudio amable y profesional:

Llame al **1-800-376-0520** o visite nuestra página web [AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com)