

## CONFIRMATION FAITH-SHARING PROJECT #2: The Sacred Book

Due:

Candidate's Name:

Sponsor's Signature:

Date you met:

### BEFORE MEETING WITH YOUR SPONSOR:

Candidate phones sponsor and schedules an hour meeting time and gives sponsor a copy of this project.

Items needed: project, pen or pencil, Bible.

### LET'S GET TOGETHER

#### Back up a Moment

Let's follow up on last month's faith sharing project, KEEPING THE FAITH.

What happened in your life this last month that relates to your faith?

What questions have you had about the Catholic faith since the last time you met?

Who did you talk to about their faith?

What did you learn?

Other?

#### Opening Prayer:

#### A PSALM TO GOD'S WORD

In your kindness give me life,  
that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.  
Your word, O Lord, endures forever;  
it is firm as the heavens.  
Through all generations  
Your truth endures...  
all things serve you...  
Never will I forget your precepts,  
for through them you give me life.  
I am yours; save me,  
for I have sought your precepts.  
Psalm 119:88-94

#### Focus Question:

What is your favorite Bible story?

### HEART OF THE MATTER

#### The Book

Fill in the attached "The Sacred Book" worksheet together.

## TELL IT LIKE IT IS (FAITH SHARING)

Share your responses to "The Sacred Book" worksheet.

**Candidates, write your answers here.**

Item #1: When you did you first "discover" the Bible (i.e. actually open it and read from it)?

Item #2: The Bible is both inspired by God and written by human authors. Why is this important to know?

Item #3: What did you learn about the Bible that you did not know before?

Item #4: Share your answers to each of the statements and on ones you answered differently, share your thoughts.

Item #5: What does the Bible say about the Bible?

Item #6: Evaluate your lives according to these statements from Scripture.

### Project Summary

The Bible was written by human authors who were inspired by God. As our sacred book, it reveals who God is, how God interacts with us, and what God expects from us as Catholic Christians in our relationships to God and to others. It is our primary handbook for learning how to live in a religious relationship with God. With a habit of consistent Bible study, God's word can be helpful in guiding our daily lives.

How has your understanding of the bible changed after doing this faith sharing project?

How would you explain to someone what the bible means to the Catholic faith?

How would you explain why B-I-B-L-E means "Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth"?

*In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, "But as what it really is, the word of God." In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (104)*

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

**You are called to ACTION!** Choose one of the suggestions below or think of another on your own that relates to this topic. Note: You will discuss results of your action with your sponsor when you meet for your next project.

### Suggestions:

- \* Look up the Scripture readings for the next two Sundays. Read and meditate on them before Mass. You will find them listed in the bulletin or on the website at [gnm.org](http://gnm.org).
- \* Pick a book of the Bible (like the Gospel of John) and read and reflect on it in its entirety, a little at a time each day. Write down all of the best verses or thoughts that you discover from your reading.
- \* When you have a problem, look in the Bible for guidance and comfort. Use the attached bible verses to get you started. (You may tear off this booklet and put it in your bible for easy reference).
- \* Other

## GO WITH GOD

### Closing Prayer:

Oh, dear God, how foolish I am.  
I spend my precious time trying to please those around me.  
I get distressed when others disagree with me.  
I am disturbed whenever I am misunderstood by my peers.

But, God, I am learning to trust in you because  
I read in your word that you knew me in my mother's womb.  
You molded me into a unique human being.  
You say that you will never leave me  
and that you will always guide me.  
So, in the future, let me keep all things in perspective.  
Let me not be so concerned with pleasing other people,  
but help me to seek to please you, living God. Amen.

Chris Haven, Brother Rice High School, Bloomfield Hills, MI

(continued on back of this sheet)

## LOOKING BACK

Complete these sentences:

One thing I learned about my sponsor/candidate during this session is....

One thing I discovered about myself during this session is...

After this session, one thing I like about the Catholic Church is....

The sponsor/mentor keeps his/her copy of this project. The candidates turns in his/her copy of this project - all pages - with all answers written in - before the deadline on the front page.

# THE SACRED BOOK

## 1. To me the Bible is: (check one)

- My favorite book
- Interesting and exciting
- Interesting most of the time
- Sometimes interesting, sometimes boring
- Most of the time boring and hard to understand
- Totally boring and irrelevant; I never read it

## 2. We Believe

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, expressed in human language. In other words, God somehow aided the human authors to produce the text that God desired. The Bible is the unique story of God's involvement in the life of the Israelites and the early Christians. Its authors wrote in their own idioms, poetry, letters, prayers, songs, epics, history, biography, and more. Although the Bible was written by many human authors who reflected the cultures and understandings of their time, God's message to people was recorded in a way that could be shared with future generations. When Catholics read the Bible today, they believe that it is the inspired Word of God.

Complete this sentence:

The Bible differs from other books because \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3. Bible Facts

The bible is a collection of writings about God's relationship with His people. These books were written over a period of a thousand years and tell the story of God revealing Himself to His people.

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. Today the Bible is printed in almost all modern languages. The word *Bible* comes from a Greek word, *biblia*, meaning "books". The Church has defined the list of books that make up the bible Catholics read.

Open your Bible to the page that lists the books of the Bible.

- There are \_\_\_\_\_ books in the Bible.
- The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) has \_\_\_\_\_ books. These books tell the story of God's relationship with the Jewish people up to the time of Jesus.
- The New Testament has \_\_\_\_\_ books. The New Testament tells the teaching and actions of Jesus and his followers.

Read through the lists of books.

- The Old Testament book I know the least about is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The New Testament book I know the least about is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am pretty familiar with \_\_\_\_\_% of the Bible.

4. Agree/Disagree

What do you think? A=Agree D=Disagree

	A	D
a. The Book is a book of rules.	_____	_____
b. The Old Testament doesn't apply to today's world.	_____	_____
c. Any translation of the Bible is acceptable.	_____	_____
d. Church tradition is as important as the Bible.	_____	_____
e. The Bible has answers to everyone's problems.	_____	_____
f. The main theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ and salvation.	_____	_____
g. The Bible proves there is a God.	_____	_____
h. The Bible should always be interpreted literally.	_____	_____
i. More people would study the Bible if it wasn't so hard to understand.	_____	_____

5. Finding Scripture Verses

The books of the Bible are divided into chapters and each chapter is divided into verses. For example, go back to this project's opening prayer. It is found in Psalm 119:88-94. The word Psalm refers to the book in the Bible. The number following the name of the book is the chapter number, Chapter 119. The numbers that follow refer to the verse numbers, verses 88-94.

PSALM  
/  
BOOK

119  
/  
CHAPTER

88-94  
/  
VERSES

Look up each of the following Bible verses and write what they say about the Bible.

Isaiah 55:8-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 4:1-14 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:12-17 \_\_\_\_\_

6. After each statement below, rate yourself from 1 to 10 on the scale by placing an X on the line best describing your position.

	That's me	That's NOT me
I search the Scriptures to find guidance for my life. (Psalm 119:9-16)	1-----5-----10	1-----5-----10
I read the Bible daily. (Psalm 1:1-3)	1-----5-----10	1-----5-----10
I realize the Holy Spirit will help me understand the Bible. (John 14:26)	1-----5-----10	1-----5-----10
I see that I can grow as a Christian by studying the Bible. (1 Peter 2:1-9)	1-----5-----10	1-----5-----10
I try to live what the Bible says.	1-----5-----10	1-----5-----10

(James 1:21-24)

