

Catholic Scripture Study Circle: *Living the Kerygma*

When: *January 15, 2026*

Time: 7 – 8:15 PM

Location: St. Thomas Aquinas Room

Week 1: INTRODUCTION – Expectation, Overview, Story, Big Picture

NOTES:

- **Prayer:** Spontaneous and Personal
- **Introduction and Thank You**
 - Thank you for attending this scripture study on the “Kerygma”.
 - We will walk this path together for the next 9 weeks.
 - The Gospel is meant to be received not “get”.
 - Structured this study circle a little differently than traditional “bible study”.
 - Presentation of some topics
 - Discussions and sharing (may get a little personal). Safe space.
 - Time for reflection based on...
 - Topics, Scriptures, Catechism, Vatican documents
 - Sacred Arts, Praise & Worship Music, Movie Clips
 - Praying together; Lectio Divina; Chapel; Adoration
 - One of last sessions – Role Playing; Practice sharing the Faith
 - Last session, formal Commissioning to send off as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Overview**
 - Context to this Study Circle
 - Don’t have to do this Study to understand and learn about Kerygma
 - It’s about being together: learn, share, pray, and walk this path together
 - We’re not theologians. Holy Spirit is here, inspiring, leading
 - Sharing – encourage not required; Safe space
 - May get off track... time is limited, may need to cut off and move on
 - Using examples – coincidental, not directed at anyone, not personal
 - General meeting structure – start right at 7pm; end around 8-ish
 - Opening Prayer – volunteer each week
 - Review last session
 - Topics presentation and discussion
 - Sharing, Reflection, Prayer
 - Homework (TBD)
 - Closing Prayer & Blessing
 - Practical
 - Sources: Bible, Catechism, other sources will be given
 - Each week builds on each other
 - Flocknote – notification of any changes and updates
 - Timeline (show/distribute timeline)
 - Goals – by the end of this study circle, we will

- Understand the four essential movements of the Kerygma:
- Recognize the Gospel as a personal rescue story, not just a set of doctrines
- Reflect on our own relationship with God and identify areas needing healing or renewal
- Grow in confidence to share the Gospel with others in a compelling and personal way (tell the Story).
- Deepen participation in the Sacraments and missionary life of the Church (missionary discipleships)

- **Story**

- Anonymous Polls
 - What does “Kerygma” mean to you?
 - Know it, love it, live it. (16%)
 - Googled it and sort of know it. (44%)
 - Read the description of this Study Circle. (31%)
 - It’s some kind of Italian pasta dish. (9%)
 - How well do you know the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - Love the Gospel and try to live it each day. (45%)
 - Learning about the Gospel in bible study and/or small groups. (23%)
 - Hear it at Church on Sunday. (32%)
 - Where do I begin? (0%)
 - How comfortable are you sharing our Catholic faith?
 - Can share it with anyone. Bring it on! (39%)
 - Only around my Catholic friends and parishioners. (48%)
 - Only with my family (sort of). (10%)
 - Talking about Jesus and my Faith makes me uncomfortable. (3%)
- Kerygma comes from the Greek word meaning “proclamation.”
 - It refers to the core message of the Gospel – the Good News
 - ...that God created us out of love,
 - ...that sin has broken our relationship with Him,
 - ...that Jesus came to rescue us through His death and resurrection,
 - ...and that we are invited to respond with faith, repentance, and a new life in the Spirit.
- Does this excite anyone to go to Church, come back to the Church, or join the Church?
- What are we not doing that gets others to be excited about the Gospel?
 - Know the Story
 - Tell the Story
 - Live the Story
 - Be a witness to the Story
- What’s our story? And how does it fit in to THE STORY?
 - Where do I come from?
 - Why am I here?
 - Where am I going?
 - How do I get there?
- First two questions
 - Where do I come from? => straight forward (*for now*)
 - Why am I here?
 - Why here, why now?.. and not in the past or future?

- Look at international, domestic, local, family, Church, ourselves
 - The world is crying right now
 - The family and society are crying right now
 - The Church is crying right now
 - We are crying right now
- Why now, this moment? There has to be a reason...
 - St. Joan of Arc
 - “*I am not afraid. God is with me. I was born for this!*”
 - You and I are **born** for this.
 - So what is the “**this**”... I believe that is the Kerygma!
- **Big Picture**
 - Start by revisiting the Big Picture... Big Picture of the Gospel.
 - #1: St. Paul in Romans 1:16
 - The Gospel has power? What kind of power?
 - Power to heal us, to free us, to transform us, to save us – power of salvation
 - The Greek word for “**power**” is “**dunamis**”, where we get the word “dynamite”
 - The Gospel, the Good News, is *explosive*, or rather..
 - It is **extraordinary**, incredible, transformative and life-changing proclamation of what God has done for us in Jesus
 - Why aren’t people excited about the Gospel?
 - Why aren’t *we* excited about the Gospel?
 - Don’t know or forgotten the story...
 - #2: We need the Gospel. Why? ...because we all have the same desires.
 - Desire to love and be loved
 - Desire for identity and acceptance
 - Desire to have meaning in our lives
 - Desire that we matter (dignity of every person)... desire for **happiness**
 - #3: Each of us is called to be herald of the Gospel, the Good News.
 - How should we go about “proclaiming” *THE* good news?
 - This Good News, this Kerygma, is so much more!
 - We are called to be heralds!
 - Definition of “herald”:
 - *An official messenger bringing news*
 - *A person or thing viewed as a sign that something is about to happen*
 - Don’t feel confident or adequate to share or talk about the Gospel
 - Difficulty telling my own story let alone God’s story to others
 - Remember: The Gospel itself is power
 - Power to transform regardless of how well or how badly we communicate it
 - So be confident, be brave, be bold... you are born for this!
- **Home Work**
 - Read the first two chapter of Genesis
- **Closing Prayer**
 - Short Lectio Divina (*if time allowed*) on Isaiah 43:1-7