

# Reading the Bible as Catholics: the sessions

What is a “Catholic way” to read the Bible? How do we read differently from fundamentalists at one end and rationalist skeptics at the other? These ten introductory sessions provide a fun and faithful way to begin to develop the practices essential to entering into God’s Word with faith, hope and love without checking our minds at the door. We encourage you to bring a companion with you for this exciting and stimulating journey into the heart of our tradition!

## Circle of Story, Circle of Ourselves:

We start by introducing the basics: what is the Bible, where and when was it written, what are its parts, and how are we to enter the Word?

*Tool:* Means of interpretation

## Genesis: God as Creator

We begin at the Beginning with the foundational stories of love, lust, power, violence in the midst of YHWH’s good creation,

*Tool:* Wordplay and laughter

## Exodus: God as Liberator

We continue with the formative stories of God’s people on pilgrimage from slavery in Egypt into freedom in “the Promised Land.”

*Tool:* Characterization

## Leviticus-Deuteronomy:

### God as Covenant Partner

We explore the torah (law), the oft-overlooked gift of the framework of how to live in harmony with one another, the earth and God.

*Tool:* Social analysis

## From Monarchy to Exile:

### God as King

The continuous saga from Joshua through Kings of Israel’s struggle to maintain its covenant commitment, between the prodding of prophets and the temptation to “be like the nations.”

*Tool:* Allegory and multiple levels of meaning

## Psalms and Wisdom Writings:

### God as Wisdom

The songs, poems and reflective stories that comprise Israel’s heritage of community worship and reflection.

*Tool:* Poetry and metaphor

## Synoptic Gospels:

### God Enfleshed As a Human Being

We compare Mark’s, Matthew’s, and Luke’s stories of Jesus the crucified and risen Messiah in rural Palestine.

*Tool:* Comparing a parable across three gospels

## John’s Gospel: God as Word

We enter the gospel most central to the Lenten journey to baptism and Easter transformation.

*Tool:* “Chiastic” structure

## Paul’s Letters: God as Spirit

The Good News spreads throughout the Greco-Roman cities of the Mediterranean, as interpreted by the converted Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, missionary, community organizer and pastor.

*Tool:* Reading and writing in the ancient world

## Revelation:

### God as Beginning and End

The Bible ends with a powerful, hope-filled message to urban Christians tempted to forget the power and promise of their baptism call “out of empire” and into God’s Holy City

*Tool:* Apocalyptic symbolism

# Registration Form for “Reading the Bible as Catholics” series

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day/eve) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to “Wes Howard-Brook” and mail to:  
Wes Howard-Brook • 80 6th Ave SE • Issaquah, WA 98027

## **What do I need to participate?**

---

**There is no expectation** of experience studying the Bible! Please bring a Bible—whichever translation you prefer—an open mind and heart, and you're all set!

## **Goals and format of the series**

---

*There are three, integrated goals:*

1. *To provide an introduction and overview to the entire Bible*, including its purpose, origins and how its parts combine into the Story of God and God's people.
2. *To introduce "reading tools"* that enable one to use faith and reason *together* in order to hear the Word of God most fully.
3. *To whet appetites for more!*

### **Format:**

We will be interweaving shared prayer, large group presentation/discussion, and small group discussion/sharing in each session. Participants are strongly encouraged to prepare for each session as fully as possible to enable the Word to "sink in."

## **Series Schedule**

---

The series meets for ten Monday evenings. All sessions will be digitally recorded and posted to a website for use of registered participants of this series who must miss a session or two. Handouts and reflection questions will also be posted at the website.

Interested in Bible study but not sure where or how to start?

Join us for a fun and stimulating program of prayer, study, sharing, and community!

## **Registration and fees**

---

The fee is \$100 for the ten sessions, but no one will be turned away for lack of money. If you cannot afford the fee, please pay what you can or fill out the registration form and simply join us! For more information, please call 425-369-8735 or email, [info@abideinme.net](mailto:info@abideinme.net).

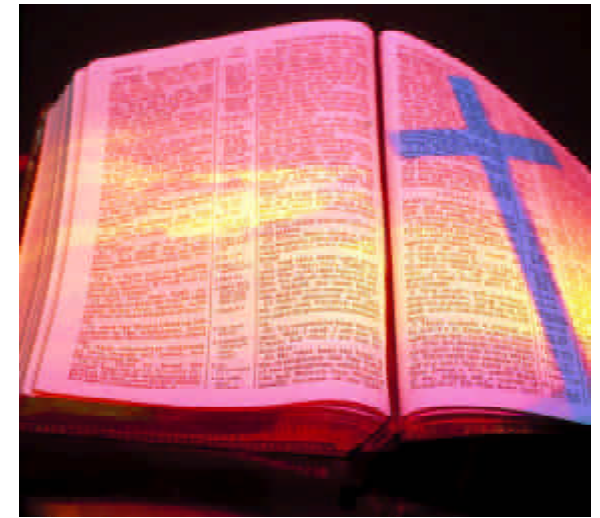
## **About the Facilitators**

---

Wes Howard-Brook, adjunct professor at Seattle University, has been teaching and writing on Scripture since 1988 and is author or co-author of five books on the Bible. His joy is breaking open God's Word with people so as to ignite a commitment to embody the Good News more fully in the church and in the world.

Sue Ferguson Johnson has been for many years a spiritual guide of both individuals and groups, retreat leader and psychologist. Her passion is providing opportunities to experience God more deeply in body, mind and spirit that we might live in God for the world.

Together, Sue and Wes have been called to a ministry that interweaves the mystical and the prophetic, the inner and outer journeys with God. Through word, silence, song and movement, they seek to be agents of God's passionate desire to transform individuals, communities and the world itself into the body of Christ.



# **Reading the Bible as Catholics: From Genesis to Revelation**

**Mondays, 7-9 p.m.  
Oct 6 - Dec 8, 2008**

facilitated by

**Wes Howard-Brook**  
and  
**Sue Ferguson Johnson**  
at

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish**

7000 35th Ave SW \* Seattle, WA 98126