

Eucharist

Family Guide



Mary Beth Jambor

Jacque Jambor
Diane Lampitt

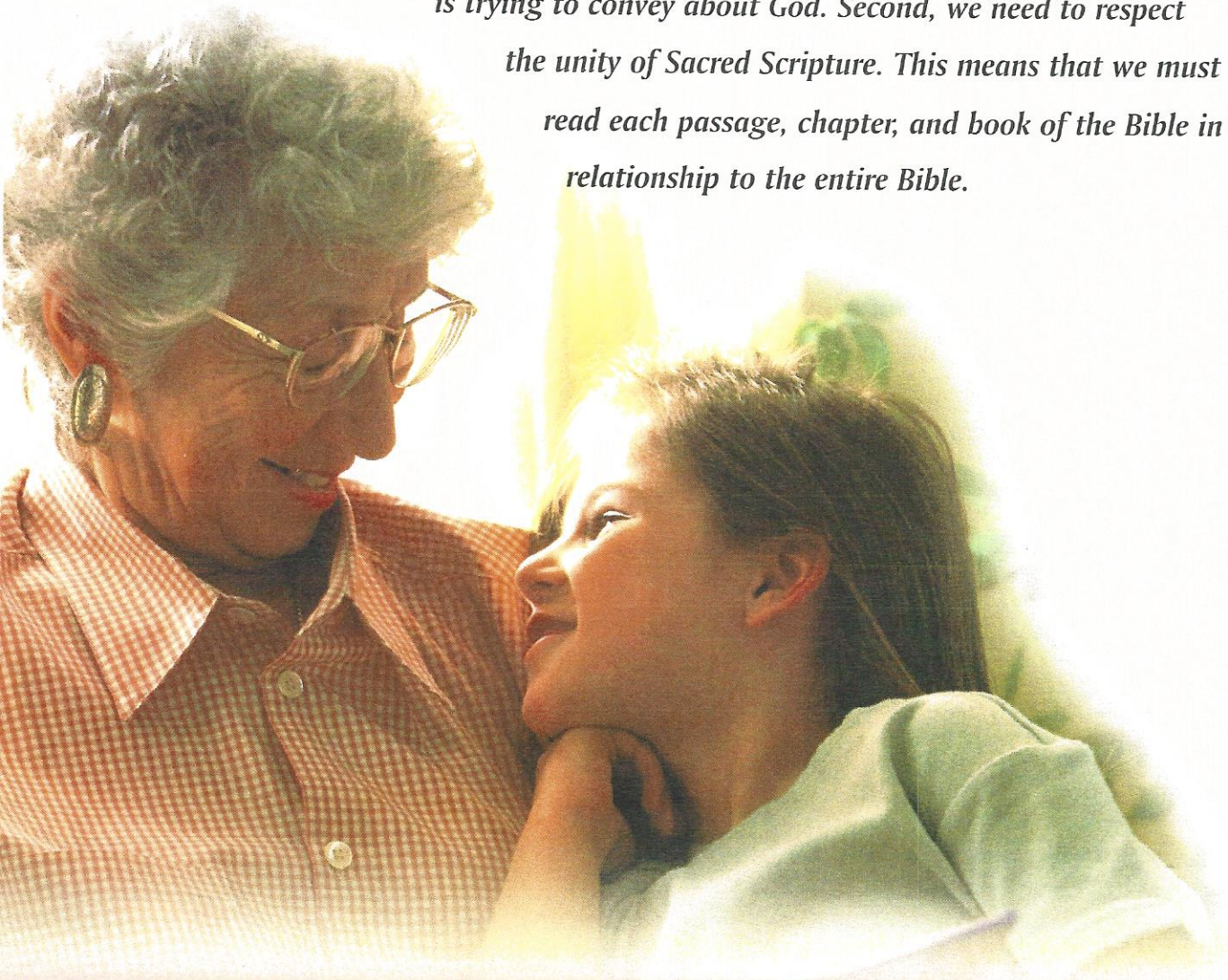


Cincinnati, Ohio

We Listen

We need to understand the phrase “the Word of God” to understand the importance of the Bible in our life of faith. As Catholics we believe that the Word of God, Sacred Scripture, is God’s communication of himself to all people. We believe that the Holy Spirit inspired all the human writers of Sacred Scripture. These writers, using a variety of genres such as poetry, songs, narratives, and parables, communicate God’s word to us.

Two principles can help us understand the meaning of Sacred Scripture. First, we need to consider the times and culture of each of the writers in order to find out what the writer is trying to convey about God. Second, we need to respect the unity of Sacred Scripture. This means that we must read each passage, chapter, and book of the Bible in relationship to the entire Bible.



Overview

What We Will Learn

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith.

The faith theme of this lesson is:

The Bible, or Sacred Scripture, which is proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word, is God's own word to us.

What We Will Do

Follow these simple steps to help your child prepare for the celebration of the sacrament. The details of this process are found on page 22 of this family guide.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay on page 20. Look over the "Overview" page.
- **Step One:** Celebrate and share your experience of the ritual action of signing your forehead, lips, and heart as a sign of reverence for the Word of God. The ritual is found on page 23 of this family guide.
- **Step Two:** Retell and share your understanding of the Scripture story "Samuel Listens to God" (1 Samuel 3:1–10). An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 24 of your child's *Eucharist* book.
- **Step Three:** Discuss and share how you can participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. The Church's teaching on the Liturgy of the Word is found on pages 26 and 27 of your child's *Eucharist* book.
- **Step Four:** Choose to do something that you learned from listening to the Word of God. Suggested activities are found on pages 28 and 29 of your child's *Eucharist* book.
- **Conclusion:** Pray together that the Holy Spirit will give you courage to live as children of God. A suggested prayer is found on page 22 of this family guide.

What We Will Need

These are the items you will need for this lesson. Take the time to gather them in advance of meeting with your child:

- RCL Benziger's *Eucharist* child's book
- Family Bible or children's version of the Bible
- Scripture card "Samuel Listens to God"
- Pencils

Looking for More

These are some additional resources that will help you enrich or extend the lesson:

- RCL Benziger's *Eucharist* music CD, Song 3, "Óyenos, Mi Dios" (Listen to Your People); Song 4, "Alle, Alle, Alleluia"; Song 5, "We Believe"; Song 6, "Creo en Jesús."
- **Children's Books**
 - Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)* by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard (Clarion Books). A joyful encounter of the elder and younger generations as Aunt Flossie tells stories.
 - The Other Way to Listen* by Byrd Baylor (Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing). Listen to the message within your heart.
- **Children's Videos**
 - Faith First** Grade 2 video, Segment 6, The Visual Bible™, "Blessing of the Children."
 - "Jesus and His Kingdom," Children's Video Bible (Oxford Vision).
 - We Listen to God's Word* (Brown-ROA).
- RCL Benziger's *Eucharist* interactive calendar.



Visit the RCL Benziger sacraments web site by following the link titled "Sacraments" at www.FaithFirst.com.

Sharing Together

STEP ONE

Celebrate the Ritual

- Celebrate the ritual "Reverence for the Word of God."
- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 22 and 23. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 23.

STEP TWO

Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 24 and 25. Ask your child to describe what is happening in the illustration.
- Point out the "Faith Focus" question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 24 and 25. Pay special attention to "Together as a Family."
- Explain that our response to the first two readings at Mass is "Thanks be to God." Ask your child, "Why do you think we thank God after listening to the Scripture readings at Mass?" (Possible responses would include: God's word to us is a gift. God speaks to us because he cares for us and loves us.)

STEP THREE

Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photographs on pages 26 and 27. Ask your child to describe what they see.
- Read the "Faith Focus" question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read these pages.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 26 and 27. Pay special attention to "Together as a Family."
- You might like to use pages 64 and 65 of your child's *Eucharist* book to help your child better understand and become familiar with the Liturgy of the Word rites and prayers of the Mass.

STEP FOUR

Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 28. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 29. Choose one activity from "Sharing Together" that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child's book and punch out the Scripture card "Samuel Listens to God." Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.



Closing Prayer

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

READER: A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

READER: Proclaim Mark 10:13–14.

Conclude by saying,
The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LEADER: God has spoken his word to us.
May he bless us with gifts
of the Holy Spirit.

May he give us courage
to live as his children.

May God bless us, the Father,
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by
your life.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reverence for the Word of God

Gathering

Gather your family for prayer around a Bible. Invite everyone to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin by remembering our Baptism by praying the Sign of the Cross.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you are with us as we gather around
the Sacred Scriptures.
May we remember your word in
our thoughts.

*Invite everyone to make the sign of the cross
on their forehead.*

May we remember your word when
we speak.

*Invite everyone to make the sign of the cross
on their lips.*

May we remember your word in our hearts.

*Invite everyone to make the sign of the cross
over their heart.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Ritual Signing and Scripture Reading

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story "Samuel Listens to God" (1 Samuel 3:1–10) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 26 of your child's Eucharist book.

LEADER: The Bible is God's own word to us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us listen to the Word of God by making the sign of the cross on our forehead, lips, and over our heart.

READER: A reading from the First Book of Samuel.
*Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading,
saying,*
The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Closing

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
today we gather to listen to your word.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us listen
to and follow your word.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.