Faith Sharing Notes

<u>Session one: Finding the Story in Scripture</u>

Tips to reading the bible:
- Keep eye on the goal - Get the main message of the passage (don't have to understand everything and try to decipher it), Get the big picture
- Speed read
- Keep a "space" for questions you encounter to study for later
- Use a simple translation of bible for initial and dive in deeper after

Catholic church is big, overwhelming at first glance -> Catechism is tool to understand God's plan

Catechism
- Conveys essential and fundamental content of Catholic faith and morals in a complete and summary way, core values.
- 4 pillars
  - The Creed
    - Symbol of faith
    - "The plan of salvation in a tightly bound form"
  - Sacraments and Liturgy
    - How we learn and get into the history
  - Life in Christ
    - Our personal story and relationship with Christ
    - Letting Christ live through us; how we want to live life
  - Prayer
    - Makes our lives with Christ real and put into practice
- First order of business is to learn the plan -> the Bible
  - Must know the story to understand 2nd, 3rd, 4th pillar

Bible is not a book, it is a library of 73 books, contains 73 stories
- Books are not in chronological order, sorted by genre/ types of literature
- 46 Old Testament Books (Protestants ignore 7 Deuterocanomical books)
  - The Law:
    - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
  - The Prophets:
    - Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habkkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
  - The Writings:
    - Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 and 2 Chronicles
  - (7) Deuterocanomical Books:
    - Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch (plus some additional passages in Daniel and Esther)
- 27 New Testament Books

The Bible Timeline is a methodology to understand God's Story
Story of Salvation
- Uses 14 of the books (notes where remaining 59 books fit in timeline) and divides the Bible into 12 Periods
- 12 Periods dividing up the Bible
  - Early World
  - Patriarchs
  - Exodus
  - Conquest and Division of Canaan
  - Judges
  - Royal Kingdom (Development and Rise of the Kingdom)
  - Divided Kingdoms (Division and Fall of the Kingdom)
  - Exile (Babylonian Captivity)
  - Return (Return from the Exile and Rebuilding)
  - Maccabean Revolt (Or Lost Years)
  - Messianic Fulfillment
  - The Church

3 Criteria to understand holy scriptures
1. Be especially attentive "to the content and unity of the whole scripture"
2. Read the Scripture within "the living Tradition of the whole Church"
   a. Sacred scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records to carry her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word
3. Be attentive to the analogy of faith
   a. Coherence of the truths of faith among themselves and within the whole plan of Revelation

Senses of Scripture
- Literal Sense
  - Meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture
  - Intended meaning of author
- Spiritual Sense
  - The realities and events about which the scripture speaks can be signs
  - 3 spiritual senses
    - Allegorical Sense (relate to Christ)
      - Understanding of events be recognizing their significance in Christ
    - Moral Sense (relate to our individual life)
      - Scripture helps to lead us to act justly
    - Anagogical Sense (relate to eternity)
      - Scripture leading us to realities and events relative to present and future
What to do:
Get a bible, Make it comfortable (mark it up), make it yours
Mark down the thoughts you have while reading - What God is saying to you now.
     The Bible (with your notes) will mark your journey

-Presenter says he has 3 bibles that he marked up at different times, and he has 3 daughters, plans to one day give one each to daughter, show his love for Christ and his Journey with Christ-

You are not alone in this journey, Don't be afraid, Do not give up if you fall behind, Have faith.

Readings for Next Session:
- Genesis 1-3
- CCC (Catechism of Catholic Church) 279-421 (optional)