

UNDERSTAND THE FAITH YEAR 2 STUDY GUIDES

Monthly study guides can be used in personal prayer and for small group reflection.

AUGUST 2026

SCRIPTURE

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17

REFLECT:

1. In this passage, Paul urges Timothy to persevere in the faith, even amid difficulty and persecution. What can help us persevere in difficult times in our lives?
2. Paul asks Timothy to hold on to what he has been taught, especially in difficulty. How has the faith that you have been taught proven to be beneficial to you at various times in your life?
3. In this passage that would become part of Christian Scripture itself, Paul highlights the divine inspiration of Scripture and how it can be useful for the Christian life. Where do you encounter and engage in Scripture in your own life?

READ: A selection from *Via Fidelis* — Catechetics in the Parish (pg. 28)

In our intellectual tradition, St. Jerome was a translator of the Bible from Greek and Hebrew to the Latin Vulgate. He did this because the majority of believers spoke Latin, and the Church wanted the faithful to hear and understand the Word of God. In his work, the saint-scholar said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

We cannot know who Jesus Christ is, or follow his way, or discern his will if we are not well-versed in the Scriptures that contain the prophecies and promises of his arrival, the sacred institutions that paved his way, the account of his life and teachings and the proclamation of his Paschal mystery by which we are saved. We can have no confidence in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus without the inspired Word of God. As followers of the Lord, we need to read, study and pray over the sacred Scriptures.

It is a sad observation that we Catholic Christians have a stigma of not reading the Bible outside of the context of the Mass. Our Protestant neighbors have many of the Lord's words, and the words of St. Paul about him, memorized by heart. We can learn from their example.

Our lack of exposure to the Bible can be effectively diminished by attending daily Mass, which is always highly recommended by the Church. For most people, however, daily Mass is not possible because of work and family commitments. For many believers, the best time to study the Bible is at home or in their parish.

REFLECT:

1. In this selection we encounter St. Jerome's famous axiom: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." What do you think this means?
2. What are some concrete ways to engage with Scripture on a regular basis?
3. If you regularly read the Bible, what difference has this made in your life? If you have not had much experience with Scripture, what difference do you think it could make?

