

JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

H O L Y

IS HIS NAME

LEADER GUIDE



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WELCOME TO JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Journey Through Scripture is the St. Paul Center’s dynamic Bible study program designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of Scripture while deepening their understanding of the riches of our faith. Distinctively Catholic, Journey Through Scripture reads the Bible from the heart of the Church, considering both the Old and New Testaments and how they work together. It’s grounded in history, yet it actively engages topics faced by today’s Catholics. More than just an ordinary Bible study, it’s biblical catechesis.

Holy Is His Name is the sixth study in the Journey Through Scripture series. In twelve beautifully produced lessons, Scott Hahn takes us through his quest to define “holiness” as it is found in the Scriptures. Catholics are taught to prize holiness—to admire it in others and to strive for it in our own lives. But we’re never quite told what holiness is.

Tracing the meaning of holiness first through the Old Testament and then the New, Scott will demonstrate for us how God gradually transmits his holiness to his people—through creation, right worship, and more—and ultimately transforms them through the sharing of his divine life.



Study Components

Holy Is His Name is designed for both group and individual study. It contains two suggested components, all of which can be ordered at JourneyThroughScripture.com.

- This leader guide
- *Holy Is His Name* DVD set or video streaming

This study is based on Dr. Scott Hahn’s book *Holy Is His Name: The Transforming Power of God’s Holiness in Scripture* and is also recommended reading for the study. You can find this book at StPaulCenter.com

HOW TO USE THIS LEADER GUIDE

This leader guide will serve as just that—your resource to guide the participants through the study, giving you step-by-step directives. This leader guide contains all that is included in the study guide—the Scripture verses discussed, lesson summary notes, review and discussion questions, and memory verses—plus additional information intended only for the leader with cross-referenced pages to the study guide. The information that is not necessarily communicated to participants is under the heading  **LEADER NOTE**. The suggested text you can use for sharing information with participants is found under the heading  **LEADER SAYS**.

At the end of every lesson, you will see a “Going Deeper” section with suggested readings from Dr. Hahn’s book, *Holy Is His Name: The Transforming Power of God’s Holiness in Scripture* and at times paragraphs from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, to enrich your study.

TIPS FOR LEADING JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Pray: The first step when undertaking any Catholic Bible study is always prayer. Ask the Lord how he wants to use you for this study. Who does he want you to invite? He could be simply asking you to lead your family in the comfort of your living room or perhaps to lead a parish Bible study. Whatever the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do, pray and ask others to pray with you, for you, and for your participants.

Bible study setting: Determining the setting for your study is key. A parish study is ideal to grow in fellowship within your faith community. It is also conducive to a larger number of participants. Home studies, on the other hand, may present opportunities to welcome participants who would otherwise never attend a parish study, providing a more intimate setting. Whether the study takes place in a parish or at home, make it convenient, comfortable, and welcoming so that people will want to stay and participate.

Consider hosting a virtual study. Many participants may find it hard to physically attend a study. With today's technology, participants can gather virtually. Inquire about streaming options at customerservice@stpaulcenter.com.

Marketing: To help spread the word about the study, marketing materials are available. You will find editable posters as well as bulletin blurbs at JourneyThroughScripture.com/resources.

Purchasing study guides: To inquire about parish discounts or orders of twenty study guides or more, email us at CustomerService@StPaulCenter.com. Consider shipping delivery options when placing your order. It helps to order study guides at least ten days before the beginning of your study to ensure you receive them on time.

Participants can also purchase their own study guide online JourneyThroughScripture.com.

Preparation: Take some time before each lesson to prepare by reading through the notes so you're familiar with the lesson's content. If possible, preview the video lesson and go over the summary and review questions in advance.

Preparation doesn't just include *personal* preparation, though. It's also wise to check your equipment ahead of time to make sure everything is working smoothly before people arrive. For hosting virtual studies, this may mean making sure your internet connection is strong and that you and your participants are familiar with how you will connect with each other when doing the study.

Small Groups: Breaking up into small groups for discussion following the video presentation is ideal for large Bible study groups. The review and discussion questions at the end of each lesson provide good material for such groups. If you are limited on time, focus on the discussion questions, as these provide the most food for thought for participants.

To facilitate the small group discussions, select extroverted individuals for each of the groups. However, you want them to be facilitators, not moderators—this means keeping the conversation on track and making sure that everyone who wants to contribute can do so.

TIPS FOR LEADING JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Fellowship: For in-person studies, plan some social time in with each session and, if possible, include refreshments. Snacks do not need to be elaborate or expensive. There is something quasi-sacramental about eating together: it is a family activity and, gathered as the Church, that's what we are. This also affords participants an opportunity to get to know each other, which is a very valuable and, in some areas, difficult-to-achieve part of parish life.

Name Tags: Providing name tags is especially important for the first few sessions when people are getting to know each other.

Start on Time: This sets the tone for the study and honors those who arrive on time. Leaders are encouraged to linger after the session is over to give more introverted individuals a chance to ask questions.

Bible: Encourage participants to bring a Bible to the study. Journey Through Scripture uses the Revised Standard Version Second Catholic Edition for all Scripture references.

Sample Journey Through Scripture Session

Journey Through Scripture is intended to be a very flexible study. It can be an individual study for personal enrichment or a faith-building exercise with friends or fellow parishioners. Below is an example of how a typical session might run:

Amount of Time	Section
5 minutes	Opening Prayer
25–30 minutes	Video
10 minutes	Break
10–15 minutes	Review questions (omit if running short on time)
10–15 minutes	Discussion questions
5 minutes	Review of Memory Verse and Supplemental Reading
1 minute	Closing prayer

From here on, all leader information in this guide will be printed in green. All text that is printed in black is identical to what your participants see in their study guide.

Lesson 1

THE GENESIS OF HOLINESS

LEADER RESOURCES

**LEADER NOTE****Opening Prayer and Introduction**

At the beginning of the first session, introduce yourself and then open in prayer. If you are not comfortable praying in your own words, you can use the prayer written below. Each lesson has an opening and closing prayer written out for your use.

**LEADER SAYS****Opening Prayer**

“Heavenly Father, we thank you for who you are, a mystery that is far beyond us and yet bids us to draw near. And so we come together to delve deeper in this mystery of your holiness. As we prepare to explore this singular attribute you wish to share with us, we ask you to send us the Sanctifier, your Holy Spirit, to enlighten our minds and enkindle our hearts. Hear us as we pray, Our Father . . .”

Welcome

“Welcome to our first lesson of *Holy Is His Name*. In this twelve-part series, we will join Scott Hahn as he takes us through his quest to discover the meaning of holiness as it is found in Scripture.

This study is a part of Journey Through Scripture, a Catholic Bible study series from the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, an apostolate dedicated to teaching Catholics how to read Sacred Scripture from the heart of the Church. Though it’s focused on Catholic doctrine and teaching, everyone—Catholic or non-Catholic—is welcome. In fact, we encourage you to invite friends to come with you.”

Introduction to the Lesson Order

“Before we begin the video and start the study, let us quickly go over the basic flow for the study and review what’s in your study guide so you know what to expect as we go through it.

We will always begin each lesson with an opening prayer to ask God to send us assistance from above to open our hearts and minds to take in the study.

At the beginning of each lesson, you will see the Scripture verses discussed as well as a summary of the lesson organized by the major themes covered to assist you in retaining the content. This can be helpful for focusing on the lesson itself instead of worrying about taking detailed notes.

Each one of the videos is about twenty to twenty-five minutes long. After the video is finished, we’ll break into groups and go over the review and discussion questions. You’ll also notice there is a suggested memory verse for each lesson, as well as a Going Deeper section. This is suggested

LESSON 1

additional reading that, while it's not crucial to the study, can enrich your study experience. Then we will close with prayer. Feel free to linger after the study to continue fellowship."

Lesson Introduction

"We are about ready to begin our first session. And Dr. Hahn will start by giving us the context of his initial quest for the meaning of holiness. As we hear about his early influences we will see that search for a definition was quite elusive. That is when he turns to the Sacred Scriptures."



LEADER NOTE

Start video. When video is complete, refer to the next leader note.



Lesson 1 THE GENESIS OF HOLINESS

Scripture Verses Discussed in Lesson 1

- Genesis 1:1–31
- Genesis 2:1–15
- Genesis 28:1–22

LESSON 1 SUMMARY *(Study Guide pg. 7)*

Holiness is something all Catholics hear about at an early age. It is something we are encouraged to strive for and something we admire when we see it in others. But we're never quite told what it is.

One of the messages of the Second Vatican Council was the universal call to holiness. In the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, we are summoned: "All the faithful of Christ are invited to strive for the holiness and perfection of their own proper state. Indeed they have an obligation to so strive." But we don't read a definition of this high calling.

We read hints of it in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2809 when we read:

The holiness of God is the inaccessible center of his eternal mystery. What is revealed of it in creation and history, Scripture calls "glory," the radiance of his majesty. In making man in his image and likeness, God "crowned him with glory and honor," but by sinning, man fell "short of the glory of God." From that time on, God was to manifest his holiness by revealing and giving his name, in order to restore man to the image of his Creator.

This is a good start, but let's go deeper into the study of holiness.

Love is not all you need

Growing up in the late 60's during the "Summer of Love," Scott and many of his young contemporaries had contempt for the rock star mottos: "Make Love Not War," and "All You Need is Love." After experiencing a profound conversion to Christ, Scott was thirsting for something deeper; a knowledge of God through Scripture.

It was then that he discovered the Ligonier Valley Study Center founded by a rising Protestant preacher named R. C. Sproul. The Study Center was where he delved deeper into his faith through thought-provoking lectures on Scripture. But one series in particular resonated with him like no other: the holiness of God.

Based on the book *The Idea of the Holy* by Rudolf Otto, Sproul lectured on the presence of God, the *mysterium tremendum et fascinans*—a mystery that makes one tremble yet also fascinates. Scott found he was drawn to this aspect of God, recognizing his desire to draw near to God for whom men tremble and yet being aware of his own weaknesses.

By the 70's, the "all you need is love" attitude had seeped into the Church. All Scott heard in his church is that God is love and that we should love one another. All true but not entirely true. This new teenage convert wanted everyone to know about the mighty and awesome God that he was learning about at the Study Center.

This set him on a religious quest to know more about what made men tremble in the presence of God. He discovered that the word used by scholars to describe the awe and terror inspired by God was his "holiness." He knew its effects on creatures, but he wanted to know what it was. Many writings defined holiness in elusive terms or described what it wasn't. So he then turned to Scripture itself to find answers.



Holiness in the Scriptures

The Book of Genesis tells us that we are made in God's image, after his likeness; but we are more unlike God than like him. God is the creator of all things, which means he must exist apart from all creation. Otherness is the original meaning of holiness.

In Scripture we find the Hebrew word *kadosh*. This word in all its derivations means holy, set apart. Marriage, *kiddushin*, for example, is sacred because it is a covenant but also because the man and woman are "set apart" by this bond.

God and objects associated with God are *kadosh*. He is "other" also in that he is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-good. These divine qualities are manifest in the iconic encounter between Moses and God in the burning bush. First

Moses is fascinated and curious. As soon as he approaches, he's struck with fear and awe.

But this iconic moment doesn't occur until the Book of Exodus. What about the notion of holiness in Genesis?

Holiness in the beginning

Kadosh appears right at the beginning, in the second chapter when God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it and dedicated it to himself in his rest. Thus the seventh day, the Sabbath, would be considered holy, because it is specially inhabited by God.

Though this is the only instance where *kadosh* is used in Genesis, the phenomena of the holy runs through it. We read about Jacob's dream: he sees a ladder with angels ascending and descending, then awakens to a profound sense of the presence of God. Awestruck, he renames the site Bethel.

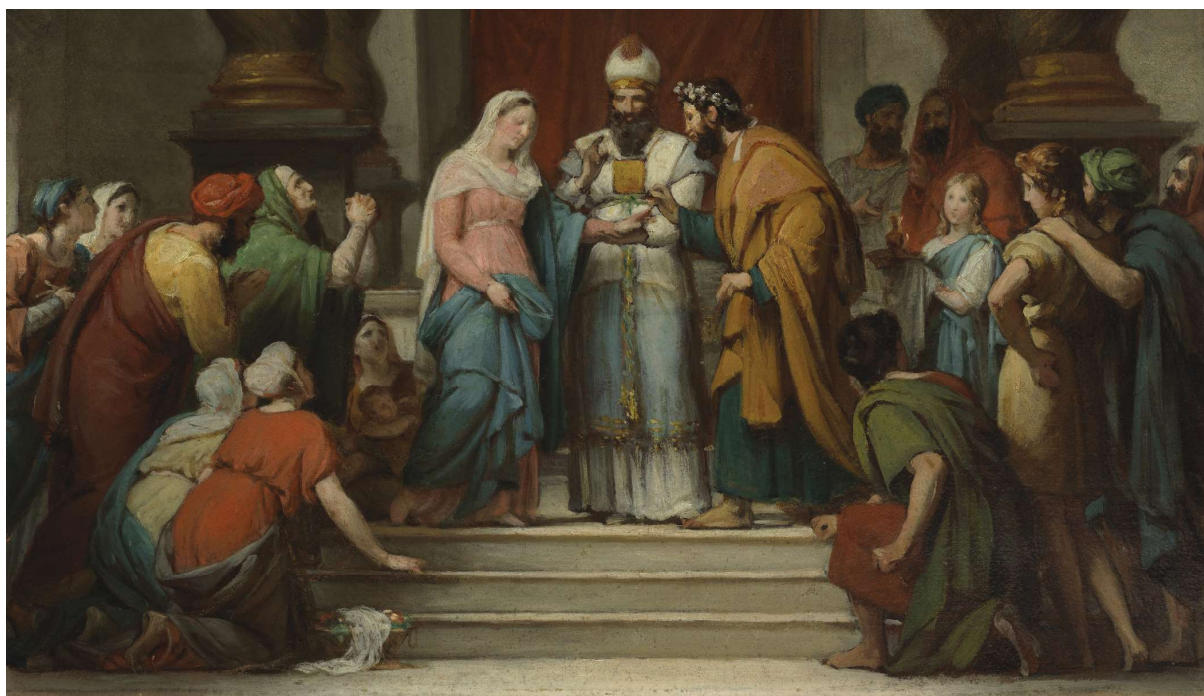
A sense of unworthiness overcomes those who are in the presence of God. Abraham describes himself as "dust and ashes" when speaking to the Lord. This is a typical response to God's holiness.

But why is the word "holy" only reserved for the Sabbath in Genesis? And why would the patriarchs in this book not mark the day as holy as Israel does in the Book of Exodus? To find the answer, we must read Genesis like the ancients did.

Bound by covenant

The act that bound ancient cultures was covenant. This was understood as the kinship bond between two parties, established by an oath creating a family relationship where none had existed before. Marriage and adoption are just two examples. Covenants imposed obligations on the parties involved, rewarding its fulfillment, and punishing infidelity. Both parties swear an oath to God, invoking him as their witness. He would enforce the terms of the covenant. His presence in the invocation would provoke the *mysterium tremendum et fascinans*.

These oaths were the foundation to ancient societies. Scripture tells the story of such human covenants but the overarching story that unites both the Old and the New Testaments is God's covenants with humanity. In the Old, we read



LESSON 1

about covenants that are broken then renewed, many times over. But ancients agree that the original covenant between God and man was established in creation.

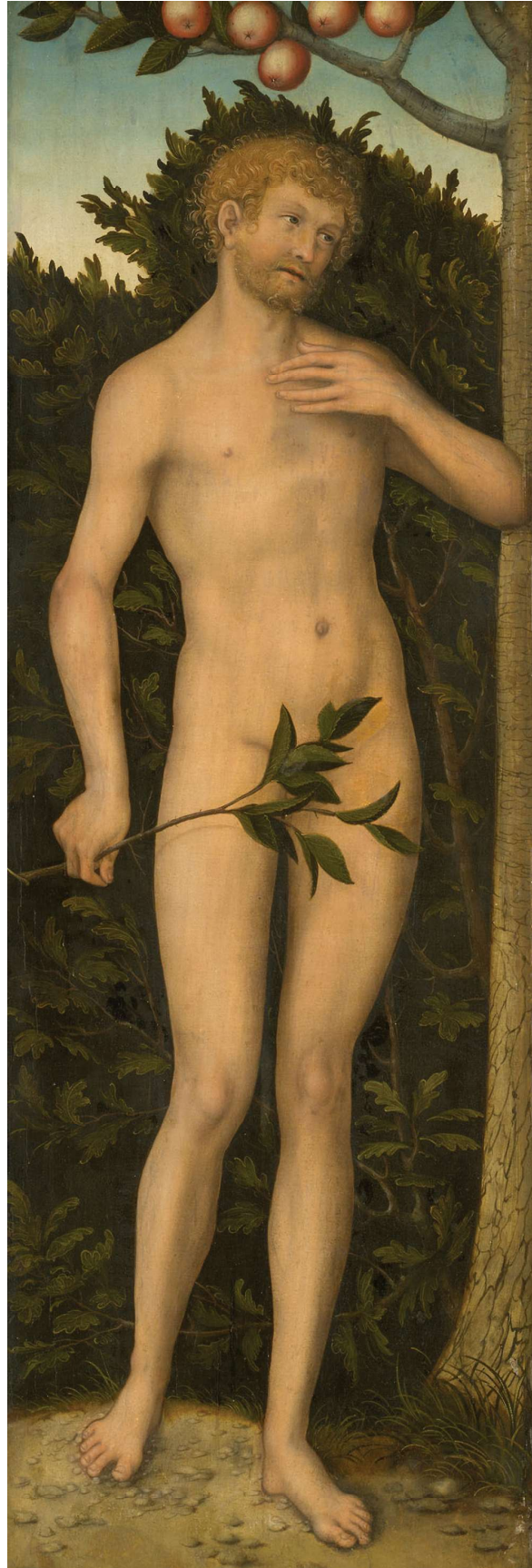
The original covenant

The key which allows us to understand God's covenantal action in creation to make the Sabbath holy is found in the term *sheva*. This Hebrew term for seven also serves as a word for oath. To "seven oneself" was to swear an oath. In Genesis 21 we read of a covenant established between men, exchanging seven ewe lambs and then renaming the site *Beer-sheva*, or the Well of the Oath.

On the Sabbath, the seventh day, God establishes a primordial form of covenant, blessing the cosmos and creating a family bond with humanity. In this covenant, Adam is the mediator called to serve as God's son, given dominion over the earth. Fulfilling these obligations will bring him reward and punishment if he fails.

This is the beginning of the human story. It begins with a covenant with creation. If we do not see this, we cannot understand the rest of the story. God's later covenants hearken to this covenant. In this first covenant, God shares his holiness with his creation, and with it came peace, fruitfulness, and integrity. Adam's sin violated the covenant bringing discord, arduous work, pain, and suffering upon humanity.

To understand holiness then, we must see the unity of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. It must be read as a single story. The covenant that was established with creation in Genesis will find its full expression in the following book, in Exodus.



NOTES

LEADER NOTE

Take a short break at the end of the video and then begin the review and discussion questions. If your group is large, break them up into appropriately sized groups (6–10 people). Explain the purpose of the review questions (see below) and let them know how long you have set aside for this section.

Brief answers to the review questions are listed below so you can help along any group that may not be able to answer a particular question.

NOTE: If you are running short on time, bypass the review portion and skip to the discussion questions, as these are the ones that elicit a deeper analysis of the content.

LEADER SAYS

“The review questions on page 12 are exactly that: a review of the material from the video. If you were listening closely, Scott Hahn discussed the answer to each of these questions in the lesson segment. See if you can answer them in the lesson summary.”

REVIEW QUESTIONS *(Study Guide pg. 12)*

1. What is *kadosh*?

It is the Hebrew word for “holy.”

2. What is the only thing called “holy” in the Book of Genesis?

In the Book of Genesis, the only thing referred to as holy is the Sabbath, the seventh day hallowed by God.

3. What is the significance of the number seven in establishing covenants?

In Hebrew, the number seven, or *sheva*, also serves as a word for oath. To “seven oneself” was to swear an oath. Oaths were required in establishing covenants.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS *(Study Guide pg. 13)*

1. What struck you in this lesson?

2. What was your early church experience like? What kind of homilies do you remember?

3. When have you been overcome with awe, wonder, or trembling in the presence of God?

LEADER NOTE

Memory Verse and Supplemental Reading

Before dismissing the participants, please point out the memory verse for this lesson on page 14, as well as the “Going Deeper” supplemental reading.

LEADER SAYS

Closing Prayer

“Our Father in heaven, we give you thanks that from the beginning you created a covenant with your creation by making the Sabbath holy. Give us the grace to honor your day of rest, to worship and glorify you. Glory be to the Father . . .”

MEMORY VERSE

“So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed
it, because on it God rested from all his
work which he had done in creation.”

— *Genesis 2:3* —



GOING DEEPER

Supplemental Reading

- *Holy Is His Name: The Transforming Power of God’s Holiness in Scripture*, chapters 1–2
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2807–2815

