



Evening Bible Study at Holy Family

Written by Tina Delaney

On Monday evenings, after Religious education for children is finished in classrooms 12-13, there is another lively meeting: Bible Study for adults! The learning continues in that blessed room. As facilitator for the evening group, I have found much joy in sharing Scripture study with fellow parishioners.

This group has been meeting for about 5 years, and we have studied books of the Bible, and topical themes. In the Year of Mercy, for example, we did a study on the mercy of God, using some of Pope Francis' homilies and writings. Some of our studies have included the Little Rock Scripture Study series on the history of Israel, the Gospels according to Mark and John, Acts of the Apostles, the parables of Jesus, and some DVD series, including a Biblical Walk through the Mass, and Priest, Prophet and King.

We begin each class with prayer, thanking God for this opportunity to be together, asking the Holy Spirit to guide our learning and discussion, and we lift up our petitions. This communal act of turning to God is a sign of unity, as we are made aware of the needs of those among us and our dependence on Him. We then discuss the lesson we have studied during the week and share insights from our backgrounds and experiences. This enriches our understanding as we grow in knowledge. The 1 ½ hour session usually ends with a wrap up video lecture.

Since the Second Vatican Council, popes have stressed the importance of small Christian communities as a way to nurture the larger community. In Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis begins, "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." That is the goal of our community of faith.

We are blessed at Holy Family parish to have many opportunities to be part of small Christian communities, whether it be in study or in service. The Monday evening group is just one of several study groups, and we welcome all who may be interested.

We are already familiar with the story of salvation and studying with others opens us to new insights. Our experiences bring richness to the meaning of life and the message of Jesus.