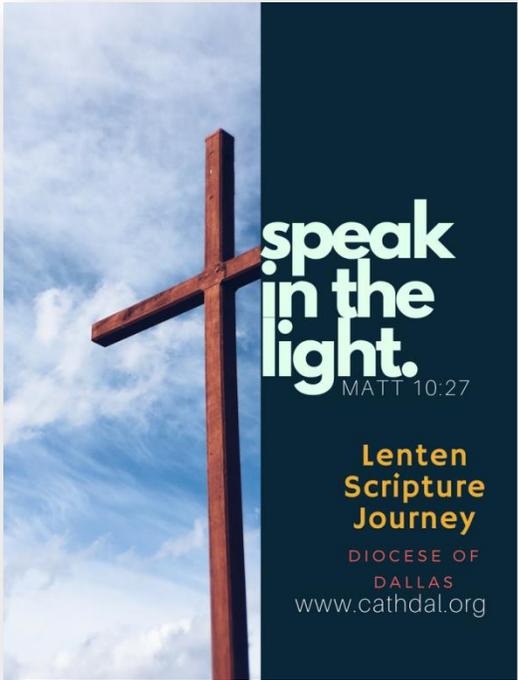


Parish Leader Packet

INCLUDES:

- ✓ *Parish Leader Information Sheet*
- ✓ *Speak in the Light sample flyer*
- ✓ *Speak in the Light Bulletin announcement*
- ✓ *Helpful Tips for Parish Leaders*
- ✓ *Hints for Small Group Facilitators*

Parish Leader Information Sheet



Catechetical Services of the Diocese of Dallas would like to invite every parish to consider participating in *Speak in the Light (Matthew 10:27)*, a Lenten Scripture Journey.

Participants in the program will receive a Bible with a personalized dedication from Bishop Burns. The program includes a weekly video segment and faith sharing session (one hour), designed to help break open Scripture, encounter Jesus in the Word, and share faith during Lent. The program is available in both English and Spanish.

Video 1: **Old Testament Overview** – Mark Hart

Video 2: **New Testament Overview** – Mark Hart

Video 3: **Catholic approach to scripture and liturgical connection to scripture**

- Kevin Saunders (Phoenix Bible School)

Video 4: **Lectio Divina** – Fr. Dempsey Acosta

No video: **I Can Speak in the Light** session

There is no cost to parishes to participate! When we receive your order, you will receive, before Ash Wednesday, links for the video components, PDF's of the weekly process questions and the "I Can Speak in the Light" complete final session (which you can use the week before Easter week or the week after Easter). Additionally, you can order a FREE Bible for each participant, in English or Spanish, with a dedication from Bishop Burns - while our supplies last. So...**order early!**

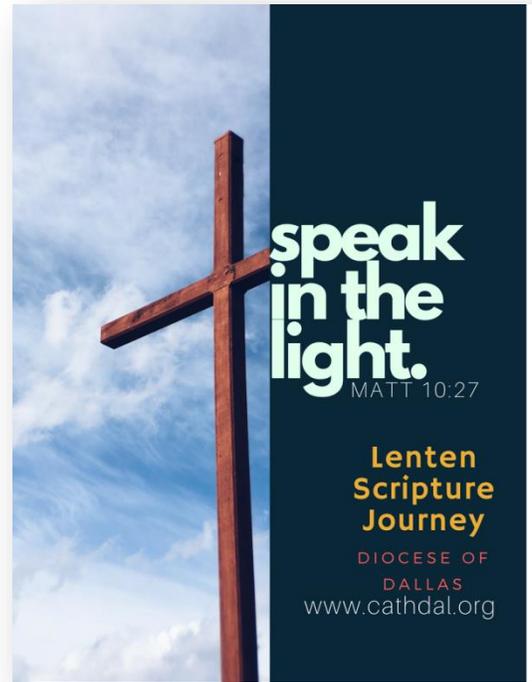
Simply click on the link below to submit your order. You will be asked for the name of your parish, name and contact information of the person filling out the form, name of the person(s) that will be leading the small faith-sharing group(s), the number of people you expect will participate, and the number of bibles you need for participants in English and/or Spanish. The Catholic English language bible is the latest approved New American Bible revised edition. The Catholic Spanish language Bible is Dios Habla Hoy. **Note:** This link is for parish groups not individuals.

Speak in the Light Parish Order Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/xOsD54D6h4N6TbpR2>

When Jesus sent the Twelve on mission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, he instructed them, "As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' . . . What I say to you in the darkness, **speak in the light**; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops" (Mt 10:7, 27). The *Speak in the Light* Lenten Scripture Journey will help us to immerse ourselves in Scripture, so that we can all better proclaim the Kingdom of God to the lost sheep.

Sample flyer

Join Catholics throughout the Diocese of Dallas this Lent to break open Scripture, encounter Jesus in the Word, and share faith in Catholic community.



When Jesus sent the Twelve on mission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, he instructed them, *"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' . . . What I say to you in the darkness, **speak in the light**; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops"* (Mt 10:7, 27). The *Speak in the Light* Lenten Scripture Journey will help us to immerse ourselves in Scripture, so that we can all better proclaim the Kingdom of God to the lost sheep.

Parish details can be placed here about: how to sign up, dates of sessions, contact information for staff person that is coordinating and will be able to answer questions, etc.

Sample:

Sign up today for **Speak in the Light!**

You can sign up online at www.stelsewhereparish.org or call the parish office.

Speak in the Light small groups (5-8 people) will meet on Sunday mornings during Lent after the 9:30am Mass, Monday mornings after the 8am Mass and Wednesday evenings at 7pm. The sessions are one hour and there is no cost to participate.

Bulletin announcement:

Speak in the Light Lenten Scripture Journey

“ . . . *What I say to you in the darkness, **speak in the light** . . .*” (Mt 10:7, 27). The *Speak in the Light* Lenten Scripture Journey will help us to immerse ourselves in Scripture this Lent, so that we can all better proclaim the Kingdom of God to the lost sheep. Join Catholic adults all over the Diocese of Dallas as we get to know Scripture better, pray with Scripture, encounter Jesus in Scripture, and respond to Jesus’ call to missionary discipleship.

Contact [Parish contact name here](#) or call the parish office to learn more about *Speak in the Light*

and sign up.

Helpful Tips for Parish Leaders, *Speak in the Light* Lenten Scripture Journey

1. Why Small group faith sharing?

There is a saying, “When Big, Go Small!” Small faith-sharing groups have proven to be the most effective way to form community where members can bring faith to life. With small groups, members can grow deeper in their relationship with Christ by breaking open the Word of God, engaging in meaningful conversation, and committing to care for one another.

2. Think about how you will organize for this experience.

- Will you organize one large gathering each week during Lent and break into many small groups?
- Will you organize small groups to meet on particular days of the week to accommodate different schedules (morning, afternoon, weekday evening, weekend)?
- Will all small groups meet at the Church or will you meet in homes around the Church? Note: If you meet in homes, consider setting up groups in every neighborhood of the parish. Arrange for host families in each neighborhood and ask them to invite neighbors.

3. Consider how you will invite your community to participate.

- Will you invite all adults in your parish to participate?
- Will you target particular groups that are already gathering?
- Will you invite people into generational small groups, ex. Silent generation, baby boomers, gen-Xrs, millennials?
- Will you invite into intergenerational groups?
- Will you invite into family clusters?
- Will you invite through personal invitation? the bulletin? Social media? Website?

4. Register your parish to participate in *Speak in the Light* and order free Bibles for your group(s).

As soon as you decide that your parish will participate - and make your best guess at the size of involvement - place your order at: <https://goo.gl/forms/xOsD54D6h4N6TbpR2> We have a limited number of bibles in English and Spanish so place your order as soon as you can. Bibles will arrive before Ash Wednesday so you will be able to begin the program the first week of Lent.

5. Train facilitators for *Speak in the Light*.

The resources below are not specific to *Speak in the Light* but are useful to train facilitators for your small groups.

- Top 11 Skills of an Effective Facilitator: <http://www.thedesigngym.com/top-11-skills-effective-facilitator/>
- 9 Meeting Facilitation Skills: <https://www.thebalance.com/meeting-facilitation-skills-2275915>
- How to Be a Great Facilitator <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgbc-uCSRaw>
- Group Leader Tips: How to Lead a Group Discussion? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=340jCpgFpLk>
- TEDxHampshireCollege - Jay Vogt - The Art of Facilitation: Changing the Way the World Meets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfZOvSU8PJE>

6. Clarify how this connects with other parish adult formation.

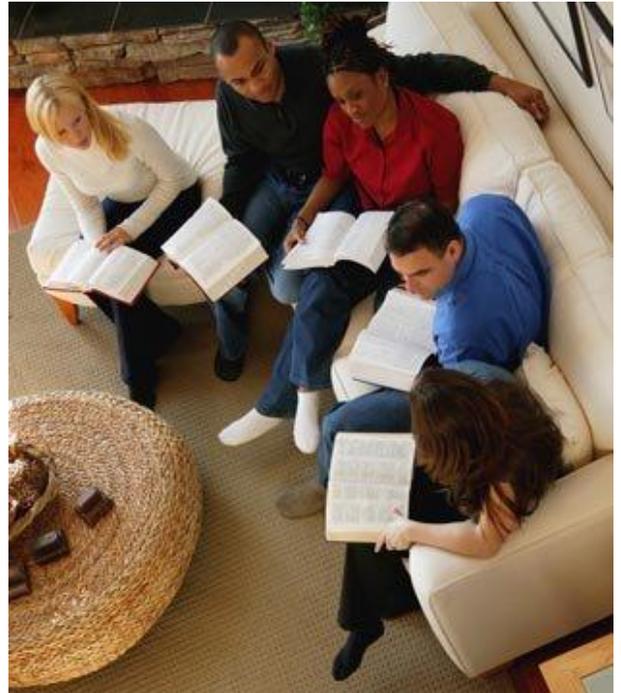
Everything that happens in the parish can become adult faith formation if we are intentional about it, taking the time to *make connections between faith* and donut Sunday, prayer gatherings, service experiences, etc.

For more help in planning for *Speak in the Light*, contact Kevin Prevou, Associate Director of Adult Faith Formation at kprevou@cathdal.org or 214.379.2848.

Small Group Faith-Sharing Hints

Consider when facilitating a Faith Sharing Group.

- **The environment should be conducive to faith-sharing.** Each week set up a prayer table with a purple colored cloth, a bible, a Cross and a candle. Arrange seating to allow for everyone to see and hear. Adequate lighting is essential. *Determine what kind of light refreshments you will offer.
- **Arrange for a facilitator for each small group.** The facilitator will prepare for each session, set up the prayer space, arrange seating and tables (if desired), set up the video prior to the start of the session, act as timekeeper during the session, and be ready to welcome everyone as they come in. Note: Any of these duties may be delegated to small group members except for the actual preparation and facilitation of the sessions.
 - Set a definite beginning time and an ending time.
 - The group may wish to consider rotating host sites if you are meeting in homes.
- **Make sure everyone is able to introduce themselves** and share something particular about him or herself. It is said that a **gathering doesn't really begin for a person until they hear their own voice.** Ask others to read aloud whenever possible. Give everyone a Bible or invite them to bring a Bible.
- **Make sure that no one dominates the sharing time.**
 - Discourage one person monopolizing the sharing.
 - Use the questions provided to keep the sharing on track. If someone drifts too far (such as a "life philosopher" or a "spokesperson for world issues"), ask the question again or ask, "Now, how were you connecting that to the original question?" Or, "Could you summarize that into a sentence or two?"
 - Be as concrete as possible in your responses to the questions. Avoid "I always ...," "I never ...," "My folks always taught me to" Encourage specifics by asking "Has there ever been a time when you ...?" or "Could you give us a (small) example of that?"
- **Gauge the group you are facilitating.** Though the time together is not a time for group therapy or group problem solving, it is important to gauge as well as you can who is in your group and why they are there. What do they need from this group? What are they able to bring to the group?
 - Do share when it is appropriate to share. Being the facilitator doesn't mean you can't share your experiences.
 - Invite the group to listen deeply to each person who is speaking avoiding cross talk or interrupting someone speaking.
 - Silence is a vital part of faith-sharing. Be comfortable with it.
- **Encourage sharing by everyone but do not insist that they share.** The leader may address each group member with an invitation to share, even if the response is only to say "I pass." As the group gets better acquainted, this may not be necessary.
- **It is not essential to get through all questions** during the sharing; what is essential is that people are encouraged to share.
- **Be joyful!** Yes it is Lent and we don't always equate Lent with joy, but what a great opportunity to get to know other people in your faith community. Show that you are happy to facilitate the group and look forward to being with them each week. Let the joy of the Gospel show on your face!



*You may consider asking participants to take turns each week to bring refreshments.