

# Homily Ideas

## **CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CONTRASTING REALITIES:**

- The Bible is the book of the church, the people of God. However, many Catholics do not feel comfortable using the Bible or read it on a regular basis.
- The Liturgy of the Word is essential to Catholic worship. However, many Catholics do not understand the background or context of the Scripture readings proclaimed at Mass.
- The Bible is at the heart of the Catholic tradition of faith. However, few Catholics are able to articulate the meaning of basic passages from the Bible when in dialogue with others.
- Scripture is a fundamental source of God's revelation and truth. However, few Catholics turn to the Bible for guidance and inspiration.
- Our church teaches that the Bible should be the foundation of religious education and formation. However, few Catholics have taken a course on the Bible or studied it seriously.

## **SOME IDEAS YOU MAY WISH TO DEVELOP:**

- Describe how the Lectionary readings have deepened people's understanding of God, challenged their actions, and formed them into community throughout salvation history. The Scriptures continue to have those effects in our lives, enabling us to experience the presence of God and the power of God's word more deeply.
- Emphasize that the foundation of our Catholic faith is the Scriptures. The Bible is the book of the church. The more we know the Bible, the more we are able to appreciate our faith.
- We believe that in the proclamation of Scripture we have the opportunity to encounter Christ in a personal and profound way.
- The church teaches that Bible reading is an essential part of our Catholic lives. If we study the Bible, we are better able to understand the readings at Mass, explain our faith to others, teach it to our children, and use it to form our lives.
- The constant challenge of Christian life is to live in such a way that our faith commitment is reflected in our daily living. The example of our ancestors in faith, along with the teachings of Christ and his followers in the early church, can help us to discover ways to witness that are effective and genuine.

- The Bible can give us understanding, hope, confidence, comfort, and challenge. The same Holy Spirit that has guided the church through the ages works in our lives as we read the inspired Scriptures.
- When we pay attention to the Scriptures, we discover that God's presence is available to us in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

