

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Speaker: Church worker

Time: Saturday 2:35 p.m.

Length: 20 minutes maximum

Purpose:

To introduce the spiritual dimension of the TEC weekend. The previous talk asked the TECites to begin identifying their ideals. The Sacred Scripture talk introduces the Scriptures as the guide for Christians in discovering our ideals.

God's ideal is life with Him, lived by the power of the Spirit, in Jesus Christ. We see the ultimate expression of God's ideal for us in the person and work of Jesus, whom we see and experience in the Word, the Scripture.

Outline: Begin Your Talk Here

Introduction:

Did you identify your ideals? A better question might be this one: Have you achieved your ideals? Or are they even achievable? As humans, true ideals are never truly achieved. God's ideal for us is a loving relationship with Him. The ideal life was lived by Jesus Christ. "If we say that we remain in union with God, we should live just as Jesus Christ did" (1 John 2:6). But how are we to find out about this ideal life lived for us? The Sacred Scriptures are the means by which God tells the story. Think about it. God's Word for us is a whole history of His relationship with us. We get that history in Sacred Scripture.

I. In the Bible, God presents to us . . .

- A. The story of God's promise of love for His creation throughout time. *(Use the following points as a guide to present the overview of the Bible as one flowing story.)*
 1. God creates the world in love and gives the first promise of a Redeemer to Adam and Eve even after they break their relationship with Him (Genesis 3:15). *(These Bible references need not be read aloud during the talk.)*
 2. God gives humankind a promise of salvation through the family of Abraham (Genesis 12:1–3).
 3. God delivers His people from slavery in Egypt through Moses, leading them into the Promised Land of freedom and blessing (Exodus 20:2).
 4. Even when God's people stray in their relationship (covenant) to God, God keeps His promise to His people through the word of prophets, such as Isaiah (Isaiah 43:1–2).
 5. At just the right time, God embodies His promise of total love in Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection show God's new way of being in the world (Luke 4:16–18; Galatians 4:4–7).
 6. Trusting God's promise, Jesus' followers live out God's new way of life in the world—a shared ministry of love and compassion that continues to this day (Acts 2:44–47; Ephesians 2:17–22).

7. God's promise is then finally expressed in a vision of hope, when God in Christ will make all things new at the climax of all things (Revelation 21:1–5).
- B. Jesus Christ is at the center of this sacred story. Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is the one ideal person.

II. What is the Bible? It is a book for today!

- A. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us.
- B. The Bible is the story of God's love and salvation for you. *(This may be personalized through selected passages expressing the speaker's faith.)*
- C. The Bible is God's special communication to you.
1. Smartphones are a way to stay in constant contact with those we care about. We are eager to hear news about them. We keep the friendship going.
 2. The Bible is God's constant communication to us (like a "love letter"). God is eager to talk with us and tell us what He has done and is doing for us. And He is eager to hear from us too.
- D. The Bible is different from any other book.
1. It tells us the story of how God keeps His promises.
 2. It gives us faith, which comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:14–17).

III. Our Use of God's Word

- A. Treat God's Word with honor and respect. *(Mention the "Entrance of the Word" ceremony.)*
- B. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to strengthen our faith.
1. Read it often. Keep it handy at your desk or by your bed. Make use of Bible apps, online devotions, and Bible-reading plans.
 2. Think about what you read. Identify one main point from each reading.
 3. Pray over what you read that you might understand God's truth.
 4. Reflect on the promises that you find in what you're reading.
- C. Spend time in personal reflection on God's Word at work in our own lives.
- D. Understand that God's Word is our final source of the truth. And since the Sacred Scripture comes from God, we can stake our lives on it. We know it's true. "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life" (John 6:68).

Conclusion:

God has given these words to us, and so we give to each of you your personal copy of God's Word. It's a gift!

(Bibles will be distributed to each TECite.)

QUESTION (asked by Lay Director following this talk):

Do you have a favorite account or passage in the Bible? What does it teach you about who God is?