

EUCCHARIST

DISCOVERING THE MASS IN THE BIBLE

LECTIO: EUCCHARIST FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS
MYSTERIES OF THE TABERNACLE SESSION 5

PARTICIPANT GUIDE



LECTIO

UNVEILING SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

USER AGREEMENT

Nihil Obstat: Dr. Joseph E. Burns, *Censor Deputatus*

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.,
Archbishop of Denver, May 2015

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Writers: Sean Dalton, Lucas Pollice, Randy Southern, Edward Sri

Media: Steve Flanigan, Jon Ervin, Justin Leddick, Kevin Mallory, Ted Mast, John Schmidt

Print Production/Graphic Design: Ann Diaz, Christina Gray, Brenda Kraft, Jane Meyers, Devin Schadt

Augustine Institute
6160 South Syracuse Way, Suite 310
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Formed.org

PART 1: THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT



OPENING PRAYER



"And he said to Moses, 'Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abi'hu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship afar off. Moses alone shall come near to the LORD; but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.' Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.' And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, 'All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.' And Moses took the blood and threw it upon the people, and said, 'Behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words'"

—Exodus 24:1-8

*To the weak he apportioned flesh.
To the mournful he gave his blood so dear.
He said: Accept this cup I give; All drink what you find here.*

*Thus, this sacrifice he founded, an act he willed then to allow.
To priests alone, for whom is fit all others to nurture and endow.*

*The Bread of Angels now is Bread of man.
Heavenly Bread fulfills what prophecies foreshow.
O wondrous thing! God is consumed by the poor, the humble, and the low.*

*You, threefold God and one, we pray:
Be present as we worship well.
Lead us on your pathways to live in glory where you dwell.
Amen.*

—St. Thomas Aquinas' Eucharistic hymn "*Sacris Solemniis Juncta Sint Gaudia*"
("Let Joys Be Joined to Solemn Feasts") from *The Aquinas Prayer Book*, Sophia Institute Press





DISCUSS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

» What struck you the most in Dr. Pitre's teaching on the events leading up to the establishment of the covenant in Exodus 24?

» Dr. Pitre notes that Moses is acting as a priest in Exodus 24, and that he uses specific numbers for various priesthood roles at Mount Sinai. What numbers does Dr. Pitre mention?

» As a new Moses, how does Jesus use these numbers in the priesthood he is establishing for the New Covenant?

» What does this repetition tell us about Jesus and the priesthood he is establishing?



» Dr. Pitre notes that the covenant ceremony doesn't end with the blood sacrifice at the bottom of Mount Sinai, but rather with the heavenly banquet at the top of the mountain. How does this background connect Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross with our celebration of the Eucharist?

» How do God's small actions in our own daily lives teach us to trust him?

GO DEEPER QUESTIONS

Susan grew up in an evangelical Christian church. In college she was invited by a friend in her dorm to a candlelight Mass at the Catholic Newman Center. The lit candles on the altar provided the only light in the church. She writes: "The church was dark except the altar and that night it became clear to me that for Catholics the focus of worship is what takes place on the altar. This was so different from my experience of worship growing up where I focused primarily on the sermon from our pastor and the songs of praise we lifted to heaven. This was the beginning of my journey to Catholicism. I had the desire to know what was so special about the altar."

» What do you think is so special about the altar?



» A parishioner approached her priest after Mass and asked: "Father, don't you think the Church should make some changes to the priesthood in order to solve the vocations crisis?" Father responded: "We don't have a vocations crisis: we have a faith crisis!" What was Father trying to say?



CLOSING PRAYER

God, Almighty Father,
we thank you for this time together to draw closer to you through studying your Word.
We ask that you continue to enrich our lives with your holy Presence.
May we come to a greater appreciation of your gifts,
especially that of the heavenly banquet
which you lay before us at each Eucharistic meal.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



PART 2: THE HOLY OF HOLIES



OPENING PRAYER



"Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up and they saw the God of Israel; and there was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. The LORD said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tables of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses rose with his servant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, 'Tarry here for us, until we come to you again; and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a cause, let him go to them.' Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. And Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights."

—Exodus 24:9-18

*To the weak he apportioned flesh.
To the mournful he gave his blood so dear.
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*Thus, this sacrifice he founded, an act he willed then to allow.
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You, threefold God and one, we pray: Be present as we worship well.
Lead us on your pathways to live in glory where you dwell.
Amen.*

—Closing stanzas of St. Thomas Aquinas' Eucharistic hymn "*Sacris Solemniis Juncta Sint Gaudia*"
("Let Joys Be Joined to Solemn Feasts") from *The Aquinas Prayer Book*, Sophia Institute Press





DISCUSS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

» The tabernacle finds its origins in the sacrificial rituals that established the covenant in Exodus 24. How is the tabernacle set up to be a portable Mount Sinai?

» Why does God want his people to remember this moment in their history?

» Why do you think God will place the tabernacle at the center of Israel's camp?

» What is God communicating through the layout, furnishings, and rituals in each court as the sacrifices move from bloody (outer court) to un-bloody (inner court)?



- » Within the tabernacle, God lays out three specific signs of his presence with the people. What are they, and how do they serve as a foreshadowing for the revelation of the Trinity?

GO DEEPER QUESTIONS

- » How would you respond to someone who says it is scandalous that the Church spends so much money on beautiful cathedrals, tabernacles, gold vessels, jewel encrusted robes, etc. when that money could be used to help the poor?

PART 3: THE BREAD OF PRESENCE



DISCUSS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- » What are some comparisons that Dr. Pitre points out between David and his men (1 Samuel 21:1-6) and Jesus and the Apostles (Matthew 12:1-6)?



- » Moses stays up in God's presence on Mount Sinai for forty days. He doesn't rush back to the people, but is completely available to God despite the demands of leading the people. How do you balance the demands of the world and giving God ample time to speak to you in your daily life?

GO DEEPER QUESTIONS

- » The Church teaches that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist: body, blood, soul and divinity. Why do you think the Church expresses Jesus' real presence in this way?



CLOSING PRAYER

*God, Almighty Father,
we thank you for this time together to draw closer to you through studying your Word. We ask that
you continue to enrich our lives with your holy Presence.
May we come to a greater appreciation of your gifts,
especially that of the heavenly banquet
which you lay before us at each Eucharistic meal.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.