

FULFILLED

Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism

PART ONE

Called into His Presence

SONJA CORBITT



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CONTENTS

FULFILLED

Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism

PART ONE

Called into His Presence

LEADER'S NOTES	iv
STUDY FORMAT	vii
SESSION ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
SESSION TWO: A HOME FOR GOD	5
SESSION THREE: KEEPING TIME WITH GOD	19
SESSION FOUR: A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS	33
SESSION FIVE: SACRIFICIAL LOVE	47
SESSION SIX: PERFECTED BY HIS PRESENCE	61
SESSION SEVEN: IMMERSSED IN HIS GRACE	73
RESPONSES	85

LEADER'S NOTES

FOR STUDY LEADERS

Welcome, study leaders and small-group facilitators. I congratulate you on your willingness and obedience to God in offering this Scripture study. I have prayed fervently for you!

Fulfilled is a faith-sharing crash course, a scriptural exploration of how the Old Testament Tabernacle relates to and foreshadows the Catholic Church and the individual soul.

These Leader's Notes are designed to help you facilitate a group study of *Fulfilled* in your own parish, home, or community.

Program Overview

Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism is a two-part fourteen-week Scripture study designed for individual and group work. The study set includes:

- Two workbooks (*Part One: Called into His Presence* and *Part Two: Drawn into the Divine Mystery*). Each workbook has seven sessions.
- The *Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism* book, which fully explores and explains the information covered in the study sessions
- Fourteen 30-minute video presentations, one for each session in the program

Following the layout of the Old Testament Tabernacle, the program is divided into a study addressing the Outer Tabernacle (*Part One: Called into His Presence*) and a study addressing the Inner Sanctuary of the Tabernacle (*Part Two: Drawn into the Divine Mystery*). These two parts can be done in any order, but both studies require the use of the *Fulfilled* videos and book, which are necessary to run the program.

Individual Study

As a study leader of *Fulfilled: Called into His Presence*, you should familiarize yourself with this workbook before distributing copies to the study participants. In addition to the workbook, each participant will need his or her own copy of the *Fulfilled* book.

Each session in this workbook includes an introductory prayer, a Key Scripture for possible memorization, Scripture passages and questions for study, and space for personal meditation and response to God. Beginning with Session Two, participants complete the reading and questions at home prior to the group meeting. Participants should not worry if they are unable to answer every question in a session. The *Fulfilled* book will fill in the blanks, and they can bring whatever questions they still have to the small-group discussion.

Group Sessions

Participants meet once a week for 60 to 90 minutes to view a 30-minute video and to discuss their individual responses to the Scripture readings and questions in the workbook and book during the previous week.

In the video for Session One, I introduce myself and the goals and themes of the study and talk about the Bible and the Church. For each of the remaining six sessions, participants watch a video of teaching that corresponds to the previous week's home preparation work. This video should be viewed before the group discussion (unless it has been assigned for at-home viewing, which is at the discretion of the leader).

After viewing the video, the study group splits into smaller groups (if necessary) to discuss the session content. Group discussions help reinforce and apply what has been learned. The small-group discussions provide accountability and a community in which participants share insights gleaned during individual study.

Leader Responsibilities

The beauty of this study format is that the only requirement to lead *Fulfilled* is a willingness to facilitate, an excitement to explore the tenets of the study, and a desire to help others share their faith and draw closer to God through Scripture. The most important elements to the success of your study will be your own commitment to Christ through the Church and doing the study work itself. After that, you will need to provide administrative leadership for the group by:

- Scheduling, promoting, and coordinating the study
- Ordering and distributing resources
- Greeting, encouraging, and communicating with participants
- Guiding (and sometimes charitably limiting) group discussion
- Facilitating prayer intentions, group prayers, and fellowship
- Arranging for simple refreshments or other forms of hospitality
- Encouraging completion of the course work

Suggested Study Schedule

No matter how you decide to schedule it, to get the most out of the study, you will want to follow this order: (1) complete the workbook session and book reading at home, (2) gather together as a group, (3) watch the session's video presentation (unless assigned for at-home viewing), and (4) discuss the session's questions in small groups.

Other Suggestions

Challenge and encourage participants to do the session work each week. You will inevitably run across those who come without their work completed. The group environment discourages that, since one cannot share something he or she has not completed, but you, as the facilitator, will have to discern if it could be helpful or harmful to limit discussion to those participants who complete the weekly work.

In some groups, one participant may dominate the discussion. This person is usually a natural leader. You will want to limit this person's comments as charitably as possible, so that the entire group can be heard.

You might want to arrange the chairs facing one another in a circle. Guide prayer intentions and sharing so that everyone who wants to is able to participate, but try to do so without pushing participants to respond or share. Nurture the fellowship between study participants, as this is a great help to learning and feeling as though one is an integral part of the Church. Be enthusiastic, but always start and finish on time, helping the last person speaking reach a point of conclusion if necessary. Follow up with participants if you discern a particular need.

Finally, remember that you are the leader. Your job is not really to teach but to facilitate sharing and discussion. Set boundaries, but also be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in his people. He has called you to this task, and he is personally involved in both you and your study group. Blessings, friend!

Not for Duplication

STUDY FORMAT

Each session of this study includes:

STEP 1: HOME PREPARATION

- **At-Home Study** – Beginning with Session Two, you will be asked to read the workbook material before meeting, which will engage you in your faith by asking you to turn to your Bible to explore and find answers to pointed questions regarding the topics. Write your answers directly into the spaces provided in the workbook so you will be prepared to discuss them with your group.
- **Review** – “Repetition is the mother of learning,” as they say, so we will spend a little time revisiting each session in a concise way.

STEP 2: VIDEO PRESENTATION

- **Video Presentation** – Dive deeper into each session’s topic with engaging videos that present insights to further your biblical understanding of the Catholic Faith and its relationship to your life.

STEP 3: SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION

- **An Invitation** – This section applies Scripture and the session’s insights to your life and helps facilitate small-group discussion. This is when you can discuss your answers from Home Preparation.
- **A God Prompt** – Here, I offer a LOVE the Word™ exercise, lectio divina without the Latin, to practice getting in touch with God directly and personally. These prompts can help facilitate further group discussion, while others invite you to reflect personally on a topic’s connection to your life.

YOU ARE NOW READY TO WATCH THE **SESSION ONE VIDEO**.

Session One

A detailed illustration of a hand holding an open book. The book's pages are thick and aged, with a warm, golden light glowing from the center where the pages meet. The hand is rendered with soft, realistic shading, and the background is a textured, greyish-brown with visible brushstrokes.

Introduction

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Session One: Introduction

- Sonja Corbitt introduction
- The Old Testament Tabernacle is a model for Catholic apology and the basis for Catholic faith-sharing.
- Road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-35
- Typology is the key to understanding the Church.
- Revelation 19:10: “Testimony of Scripture is the spirit of prophecy.”
- Biblical genres make a difference in how we study the Bible.
- Torah – first five books and the genre
- Exodus overview; God gave the plan
- John 8:32 – “Abiding” or “dwelling” in the Scriptures with the mind of the Church will help me take advantage of the opportunities (“pop quizzes”) the Holy Spirit will send me to help me practice sharing my faith.

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION

Because there is no home preparation to review in this introductory session, spend time getting to know the members in your group. Allow 10-15 minutes to go around the room and let each member introduce him- or herself.

Spend the remaining time in your small group answering these questions:

Why are you here?

What do you hope to get out of this study?
