

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT
CATHOLIC BIBLICAL SCHOOL – Year One

Introduction to the Bible: A Catholic Guide to Studying Scripture
Stephen J. Binz

Write short answers to the following questions and be ready to discuss them by **the first day of class**.

1. Five roadblocks/obstacles to reading and studying the Bible are given on pages 5–6. Which of the five roadblocks/obstacles do you fear most? Explain with your personal experience of the Bible.

2. Using the different but interrelated roles of the Holy Spirit in reading the Bible (pages 13–14), comment on the role of the Holy Spirit in your use of the Bible so far in your life.

3. Use pages 18–23 on this book along with Supplementary Reading #1 (page 65 in your Catholic Biblical School workbook) to answer the following:
 - a. Comment briefly on the value of using different translations of the Bible. Why might it be helpful to have two different translations of the Bible for your study?

 - b. What Bible will you use at this time? Why?

4. After reading pages 31–45, briefly comment on this statement: “God is the source of the truth contained in the Scriptures (40).”

5. Binz states that “there are many ways that contemporary Christians can fall into the trap of fundamentalism.” Briefly comment on which characteristic of biblical fundamentalism (pages 62–66) you might easily find as a trap. Why?

6. In chapter 11, Binz discusses various methods used by contemporary biblical scholars, dividing them into two categories: those that focus on what the text meant and those that focus on what the text means. Briefly comment on these methods and how they can be useful in interpreting the Bible.

7. On pages 88–90, Binz encourages group study of the Bible. Why and how might his comments, as well as any group Bible study in which you have participated so far, encourage you to study with the Catholic Biblical School at this time in your life?

8. What new or helpful insights into reading the Bible did you get from reading this book?