

## Praying the Scriptures

There are different ways to read the Bible. The following are some examples.

1. Sustained, reflective reading in which the reader is alert to both the context and the details of what is read
2. A quick overview of long passages or entire books to get a general impression
3. Meditation on a single verse or a few verses

Prayerful reading of the Word of God on a daily basis is important for catechists. The following guidelines may be helpful.

- Set aside fifteen minutes every day for Bible reading.
- Choose a translation of the Bible that is easy to read and to understand.
- Do not attempt to read more than you can easily assimilate.
- Pray spontaneously, and in your own words, before and after reading the Bible.

The catechist should try to learn more about what he or she reads and to personalize what he or she learns.

- Refer to Scripture commentaries and dictionaries of the Bible to discover why a particular passage or selection was written.
- Compare personal situations or experiences with those found in the Bible.

Whenever a person reads the Bible, he or she should keep an open mind and an open heart. The Bible should be read with reverence and awe.

Read aloud Mark 1:14-22, then answer the following questions:

- When did Jesus first call you?
- What was your response?
- How have you responded to Jesus' call today?
- Offer a prayer to Jesus about how you feel.

How can you pray the Scriptures in the classroom?