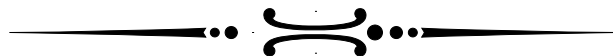


## GROUP FAITH SHARING GUIDELINES

As we listen to others share how God is speaking to them, God can also speak to us. We need to *listen attentively*, with our ears and eyes and hearts open, in order for us to *hear God speaking* to us through others.

1. See Jesus in every member of your group.
2. Love each member just as she or he is today.
3. Treat everyone as well as you want them to treat you (the “Golden Rule”).
4. Share only what God is revealing to you about yourself and your own life.
5. Allow each person equal time to share with the group, but don’t force anyone.
6. Be courteous of one another. Allow each person to speak without interruption.
7. Listening is even more important than speaking (we have two ears, one mouth).
8. Do not try to solve another person’s problems. Do not teach, preach, judge, condemn, or give advice. Just listen and offer support.
9. Do not share with others outside the group what you heard in the group. Confidentiality is essential for the trust level of a group.
10. All members of the group assume responsibility for these guidelines. Gently remind and lovingly encourage one another if anyone forgets.



## Catholic Bible Institute in the Diocese of Orange

### Philosophy

The Catholic Bible Institute offers an experience of encountering the Word of God that is **professional, prayerful, purposeful, participatory, pastoral, and personal.**

- It is **professional** in that the team and the instructors present an understanding of the study of the Sacred Scriptures through a variety of adult learning experiences using the most contemporary scholarship and methodologies available.
- It is **prayerful** in that the planning, preparation and presentation of each session is woven together with prayer. Also, a variety of liturgical expressions and rituals following the session theme or liturgical season enhance the Institute to give the participants a sense of the rich tradition of our Catholic heritage and to aid them in praying the Scriptures.
- It is **purposeful** in that each activity and process is designed to increase and enrich one's knowledge and understanding of Scripture by integrating the information with one's personal life experience and prayer.
- It is **participatory** in that it fosters community in small groups. Each participant is a significant and active part of a small group throughout the Institute. The membership of the small group changes annually. This opportunity allows the participants to reflect on one's experience and attitude of being Church. The Church is not a group of like-minded or related individuals; rather, it is a group of committed people where the unity of the Spirit is the bond that proclaims the presence of Christ despite our differences.
- It is **pastoral** in that the Institute strives to be pragmatic through modeling of various alternative means of presenting Bible Study Programs at a parish level. Multicultural concerns are respectfully addressed for men and women at various levels of experience, and a spirit of dialogue among all Christian groups around the theme of biblical studies will be promoted.
- It is **personal** in that each participant is challenged to grow in a deeper understanding and practice of the Word of God in the midst of the Church. Through an environment and attitude of prayerful reflection, all participants are invited to open themselves to being transformed by the Scriptures.