



# *Life in the Vine The Joyful Journey Continues*

## Book Group

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## Sample Letter to Participants

Greetings,

We are glad that you are able to join us for the group discussion of *Life in the Vine: The Joyful Journey Continues*. This letter is intended to provide you with the details about our gatherings and how to prepare.

If you have not done so already please order your book.

<https://app.etapestry.com/cart/CatechesisGoodShepherd/default/item.php?ref=628.0.1178214665>

The image that Rebekah uses to structure the book is that of the spiral. One of the introductory chapters explains the spiral method. Between now and the beginning of the book study you are



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invited to look for an image of a spiral to pray with in connection with our work with the book. You could find one in nature, take a picture of one you encounter somewhere, find an image on the internet, or create one (draw, paint, embroider, etc.). Please bring your item or image to our first gathering. Here are a couple of websites in case you need some inspiration:

- Spirals in nature: [Spirals in Nature](#)
- Drawing Spirals: [Geometric Design: Working With Circles](#)

We will meet (insert details about meeting location date and time)

- Session 1 - Preface, Chapters 1,2 and 3 Wisdom of Early Childhood; The Spiral Method; The Child of Six to Twelve
- Session 2 - Chapter 4 - The Mystery of Christ
- Session 3 - Chapter 5 - The Kingdom of God
- Session 4 - Chapter 6 & 7 - The Holy Bible, Moral Life in the Kingdom of God
- Session 5 - Chapter 8 - Living the Covenant through Daily Life, Prayer and the Sacraments
- Session 6 - Chapter 9 - Cosmic Education: And Education to Wonder, Humility, Dignity, Servanthood and Hope

We ask that you read the appropriate chapters prior to our gathering. As you read please reflect on the following questions:

- **What in the text resonated with me?**
- **What questions surface for me in reading the text?**

Kindly come to our gathering prepared to share one thing that resonated with you and one question that surfaced for you.

Our sessions will follow the following format:

- Introductions/ Check-in
- Opening Prayer
- Group sharing on the chapter/s
- Reflection - Considering next steps
- Closing Prayer

Following our time together you may choose to set aside some time to journal about the experience considering:

- **What questions remain for you? What new ones surfaced?**
- **Having read and reflected on this text, what actions am I being invited to take?**

God Bless,  
Book Group Team



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# Session Format

- Introductions/ Check-in
- Opening Prayer
  - Possibly based on a Scripture related to the reading
- Group sharing on the chapter/s -
  - **What in the text resonated with me?**
  - **What questions surface for me in reading the text?**
- Reflection - Considering next steps
  - **What questions remain for you? What new ones surfaced?**
  - **Having read and reflected on this text, what actions am I being invited to take?**
- Closing Prayer
  - Engage in Visio Divina with a piece of children's artwork, or Lectio Divina with a child's prayer.
    - Visio Divina questions:
      - What draws your eyes?
      - What feeling is evoked?
      - What is the invitation of the one who draws us?
    - Lectio Divina questions:
      - What word or phrase stands speaks to you?
      - What feeling is evoked?
      - What are you being invited to?

## Session 1

- Preface, Chapters 1,2 and 3 Wisdom of Early Childhood; The Spiral Method; The Child of Six to Twelve
- Opening Prayer Possible Scriptures
  - Isaiah 30:15 (Check out which translation is used in the book)
  - Hebrews 4:12
  - Psalm 8
- Closing Prayer Possible Art Images
  - [Child's Art from](#)
  - [#1 2017 Journal, Number 32, page 7; by Ben, age 10](#)
  - [#2 2018 Journal, Number 33, page 3; by Emily, age 8](#)
  - [#3 2018 Journal, Number 33, page 19; by Edith, age 10](#)



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- #3 2020 Journal, Number 35, page 21; by Lucy, age 8
- Closing Prayer Possible Children's Prayers
  - [Child's Prayer](#)
  - from 2018 Journal, Number 33 originally 1987 Journal - by Claudia Cecila, age 10
    - "I want to have a very bright light. I am part of the white page and my mission is to build invisible bridges with other people and with other people of other centuries..."
- Opening Prayer Leader:
- Discussion Leader:
- Closing Prayer Leader:

## Session 2

### Chapter 4 - The Mystery of Christ

- Opening Prayer Possible Scriptures
  - [Parable of the Good Shepherd](#) with added verses John 10:3b-5, 10b-16
  - [Parable of the True Vine](#) John 15:1-11)
- Closing Prayer Possible Art Images
  - 2015 Journal, Number 30, page 19; by Marshall age 7
  - 2014 Journal, Number 29, page 5; by Luke age 11
  - 2019 Journal, Number 34, page 27; by Mary Kate age 8
- Closing Prayer Possible Children's Prayers
  - 2018 Journal, 33, page 3, "He is a man of Hope...." by Luca age 8
- Opening Prayer Leader:
- Discussion Leader:
- Closing Prayer Leader:

## Session 3

### Chapter 5 - The Kingdom of God

- Opening Prayer Possible Scriptures
- Closing Prayer Possible Art Images
- Closing Prayer Possible Children's Prayers
- Opening Prayer Leader:
- Discussion Leader:
- Closing Prayer Leader:



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## Session 4

Chapter 6 & 7 - The Holy Bible, Moral Life in the Kingdom of God

- Opening Prayer Possible Scriptures
- Closing Prayer Possible Art Images
- Closing Prayer Possible Children's Prayers
- Opening Prayer Leader:
- Discussion Leader:
- Closing Prayer Leader:

## Session 5

Chapter 8 - Living the Covenant through Daily Life, Prayer and the Sacraments

- Opening Prayer Possible Scriptures
- Closing Prayer Possible Art Images
- Closing Prayer Possible Children's Prayers
- Opening Prayer Leader:
- Discussion Leader:
- Closing Prayer Leader:

## Session 6

Chapter 9 - Cosmic Education: And Education to Wonder, Humility, Dignity, Servanthood and Hope

- Opening Prayer Possible Scriptures
- Closing Prayer Possible Art Images
- Closing Prayer Possible Children's Prayers
- Opening Prayer Leader:
- Discussion Leader:
- Closing Prayer Leader:



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