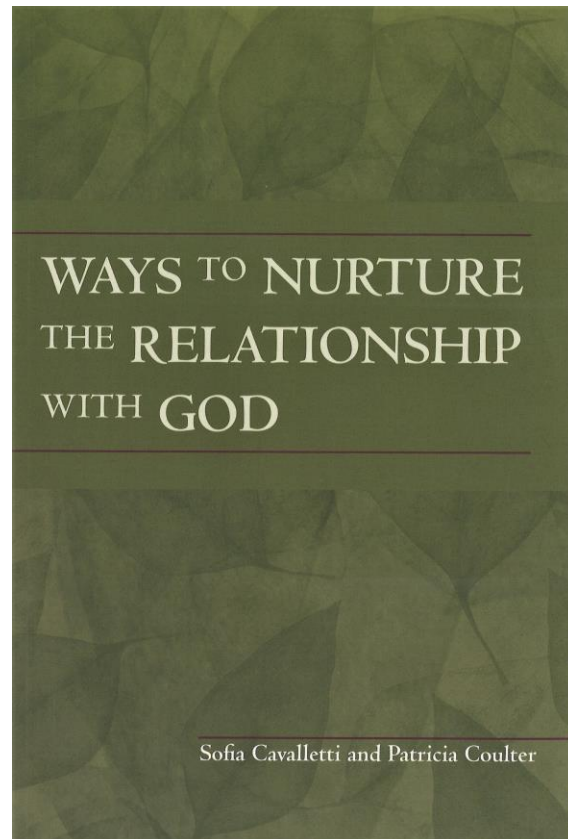




The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Ways to Nurture the Relationship with God

Book Study

Questions for Conversation



The United States Association of

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Ways to Nurture the Relationship with God Book Study

As we begin, let us pray:

Beloved Good Shepherd send your Holy Spirit, Giver of all good gifts, to us and fill our minds and hearts. Give us the gifts of knowledge and understanding and the grace to use them wisely. Send your Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and words as we seek you through the gift of your Word. Thank you for the gift of those who have come before us to see how beautiful and everlasting your Word is in our lives yesterday, today, and forever. Open our hearts, Lord, to whatever YOU want us to hear today. Bless our conversations and our friendships. All praise to you Lord, giver of abundant gifts. We ask you this in your Son's most Holy Name, Amen.

Introduction

The Good Shepherd and the Child Podcast Episode 89: Background of Ways to Nurture the Relationship with God with Patricia Coulter

- What resonated with you as you read the introduction?
- Have you ever pondered any of the four questions in bullets on page *vi*? Take a few minutes now to ponder one of the four that you are most drawn to and share your thoughts.
- Patricia shares how in the Word of God, there is only one Teacher, “the Holy Spirit... who will teach you everything” (John 14:26) God who is searching for us, calling us to respond to His great love for us. Has the Word of God ever made you feel this great love before? How do you feel now knowing that the Holy Spirit is your teacher as you read the Word of God guiding you to feel this great love?
- Have you ever engaged in “Sacred Listening” or *Lectio Divina*? Did you enjoy it? What parts did you enjoy or not enjoy”? Have you thought about it as a mutual

listening, both you listening to God but also God listening to our hearts? How does this make you feel?

Chapter 1: The Birth and Infancy of Jesus

The Good Shepherd and the Child Podcast Episode 53: The Birth and Infancy of Jesus with Ann Garrido

- What resonated with you as you read this chapter?
- Was there anything you read in the chapter that was new for you this time?
- Sofia speaks about an “immense grandeur and ordinary daily happenings” (pg. 14) What do you think about this? What does this tell us about Jesus?
- Which infancy narrative story do you think you will look in a deeper way after reading this chapter? Why?

Chapter 2: The Parable of the Good Shepherd in the Gospel according to John

The Good Shepherd and the Child Podcast Episode 88: Parable of the Good Shepherd with Dan Teller

- What resonated with you as you read this chapter?
- Was there anything you read in the chapter that was new for you this time?
- What do you think about the method of parables? How does this change the way you read parables and scripture? How does this effect the way that we convey the person and message of Christ?
- How has looking closely at Ezekiel 34 affected the way you look at the Good Shepherd parable? Psalm 23? What do these revelations help us understand about the person of Christ?

Chapter 3: The Roots of the Eucharist and the Easter Mystery

The Good Shepherd and the Child Podcast Episode 61: The Roots of the Eucharist and the Easter Mystery with Marty O'Bryan

- What resonated with you as you read this chapter?
- Was there anything you read in the chapter that was new for you this time?
- After reading about the Jewish Passover is there an aspect of our liturgy of the Eucharist today that speaks to you differently now?
- After reading about the Paschal Mystery (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday) is there an aspect of our liturgy of the Eucharist today that speaks to you differently now?
- What does this chapter reveal to you about who Christ is?

Chapter 4: The Parable of the True Vine in the Gospel according to John

The Good Shepherd and the Child Podcast Episode 90: The Parable of the True Vine with Patricia Coulter

- What resonated with you as you read this chapter?
- Was there anything you read in the chapter that was new for you this time?
- On page 88, Sofia says, "The Jews say the Messiah is coming and will come, with a strong sense of waiting. As Christians perhaps we do not have as strong a sense of waiting as we should" What do you think about this statement?
- On page 96, Sofia says, "To 'remain' is an attitude, a way of being; and this proportion of ten to five emphasizes the importance of being over doing. What is essential is to be, what we do depends on and flows as a consequence of our 'being' a part of the vine." What emotions come to the surface for you when you read about this? Is this easy or difficult for you?
- What does this chapter reveal to you about who Christ is?

Appendix: A Conversation with Sofia and Explanations of the Drawings

- What resonated with you as you read the Appendix?
- Was there anything you read in the Appendix that was new for you this time?
- What does the appendix tell us about the child's capacity to know God?