

Biblical Institute: Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. *How is this Bible Study different from parish Bible studies?*** The Biblical Institute is a book based comprehensive Bible study that covers all books of the Bible over a 4 year period making it unique among most Bible studies out there. Many parish studies cover a book, a theme or a person of the Bible. Additionally, there is both an academic component and a formation component to this study also – many Bible studies are one or the other.
- 2. *Do I have to have studied the Bible previously?*** There are no pre-requisites for this program. You can start without any background at all.
- 3. *Do I need to sign up for all 4 years?*** Students register a year at a time. New students enroll in either Year 1 or Year 2, after that, students will need to have a background in scripture.
- 4. *Where are classes held?*** Classes meet once a week for 2 hours mid-September through May and are held at one parish for an entire 4 year cycle unless other arrangements are made. Online classes allow students to meet using their computer at home. The Basic Brochure tells you where a given site is in the 4 year cycle.
- 5. *What books are required and how do I get them?*** A book list is sent to the student after they have registered. Books can be obtained from the publisher, from online sources (like Amazon) or at Wheaton Religious Bookstore where they can be purchased in person or over the phone.
- 6. *What is a typical class like?*** Students begin classes by praying the scriptures they are studying. Students spend the rest of the first hour discussing the scriptures they have studied using study questions to guide the discussion. The second hour is a presentation by the teacher about what scriptures the student will read for the next week's discussion.
- 7. *What if I miss a class?*** Teachers audio record their presentations for students to either listen again or to listen to a class they may have missed. A link is sent to the students in September that hosts all the teacher's recordings. Students are free to download those audios and keep them.
- 8. *Is there homework?*** Students read from the scriptures they are studying and learn to use study aids that most students of scripture learn to use in an academic setting (e.g., Bible Dictionaries, a Bible Atlas, Commentaries, etc.).The readings are used to answer 5-6 homework questions each week that will be used to facilitate class discussion.
- 9. *Who are the teachers in the Biblical Institute?*** Teachers are people who come from ministerial or academic settings who have advanced training in Catholic scripture scholarship and adult learning styles.

- 10. What is the tuition?** Tuition is \$550 per year (books are purchased separately) and can be paid up front or in 3 payments throughout the class through Mayslake Ministries. Many parishes offer scholarship funds to students who bring back their training to the parish in ways that suit the parish' needs. The Biblical Institute is also on the list of scholarship possibilities from The Catholic Education Foundation – ask your parish about this opportunity.
- 11. How do I register?** Call Mayslake Ministries at (630)-852-9000 to register over the phone or go to the website at www.mayslakeministries.org
- 12. What if I have additional questions about the program?** Call the Program Director, Dr. Joan Gorski, at 630-698-8961 or email her at jgorski@mayslakeministries.org