



The Stones of The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study (Essential Components)

Mission Statement

The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study strives to build, strengthen and deepen a personal and loving relationship with God and his people through prayer and the study of His Word.

The “Stones” of THE CORNERSTONE

There are ***essential*** parts of The Cornerstone that make this study unique. While these essential parts are presently considered the “Stones” of THE CORNERSTONE, as the Spirit of God continues to lead The Cornerstone, it will surely grow and change. If it appears that change is needed, the Shepherding Board, with prayerful input from the Branch Core Ministry Teams, will continually strive to discern God’s will.

The “Stones are as follows:

1. *“The cornerstone of The Cornerstone is prayer”* ...Prayer always comes before any decisions are finalized because direction for The Cornerstone in all things must come from God.
2. The Cornerstone is a Catholic Bible study and will adhere to Catholic teachings but welcomes people of all faiths.
3. A consensus must be reached among the members of the Shepherding Board before decisions concerning The Cornerstone are made. A consensus is reached when all or most agree. Everyone agrees they can live with the final decision. If a consensus is not reached, the Shepherding Board will continue to pray.
4. The Core Ministry Team of a Branch must be trained and commissioned by the Branch Facilitator(s) each year. Members of the Core Ministry Team are ***strongly encouraged*** to attend the Cornerstone Ministry Conference held during the summer
5. Each Branch of The Cornerstone will have its own Core Ministry Team which includes:
 - Branch Facilitator(s)
 - Branch Facilitator(s)-in-Formation (if any)
 - Branch Coordinator(s)
 - Small Group Facilitator(s) and Alternate Small Group Facilitator(s)

Other supporting ministries may include: Branch Treasurer, Child-Care Ministry, Audio/Visual Ministry, Retreat Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Focus Ministry, Proclaiming Ministry, Social Ministry, Mass Ministry, Set-up/Clean-up Ministry, Music Ministry and Greeters Ministry

6. There is a commitment on the part of the Core Ministry Team members and the members of the Branch to:
- Pray
 - Prepare the lesson each week
 - Presence
 - Participate
 - Support one another
7. Each Cornerstone Branch:
- Will run their sessions in a timely manner
 - Will not operate as an exclusive organization of any particular parish and the finances will be kept separate from parish funds
 - Will not be used for private or political solicitation
 - Will include prayer, song, proclamation, fellowship and the sharing of God's Word at the weekly sessions
8. All sharing in The Cornerstone is **CONFIDENTIAL**. Given the private nature of Focuses, Spiritual Reflections, Question responses and prayers, the contents of these Cornerstone elements are considered to be private and are not to be shared outside of Small Group audience or the Branch. The privacy of those who share is critical and considered to be a foundational value. Focuses or Spiritual Reflections may only be recorded with prior approval of the Shepherding Board and the Presenter for use.
- As a reminder, Study Questions and Commentaries are copyrighted and should not be duplicated or distributed outside of Branch membership without express permission from the Shepherding Board.
9. The Cornerstone seeks to:
- Foster a love of God through increasing knowledge of Scripture
 - Develop or enhance a personal habit of daily prayer
 - Provide a community for those on a journey of faith
10. The Cornerstone Method is integral to this Scripture study. Each Branch of The Cornerstone is required to incorporate the following 4 exposures to Scripture into their weekly studies:
- Individual Scripture Study
 - Written Commentary
 - Small Groups
 - Spiritual Reflection
11. The physical needs for a Branch of The Cornerstone include:
- A facility to accommodate The Cornerstone sessions once a week from September through April (Catholic facility preferred)
 - Ample parking
 - A large meeting room
 - Adequate meeting places for Small Groups
 - A room to be used for child care, if needed
12. In order to become a member of The Cornerstone, it is necessary to attend a Visitors' Session. Visitors' Sessions are held at the discretion of the Branch Facilitator(s).
13. The Cornerstone is a not-for-profit organization and there is no charge to participate in the study. However, each member is encouraged to make free-will donations after prayerful discernment