



## Participant Guide



© 2015 Michael Dopp, STL  
All rights reserved.

Published by ministry23, LLC  
2401 Harnish Dr. Suite 100  
Algonquin, IL., 60102  
ministry23.com

Scripture quotations are from The Catholic Edition of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1965, 1966 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission of the copyright owner. All rights reserved.

References to the Catechism of the Catholic Church are taken from the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for the United States of America, 2nd ed. Copyright 1997 by the United States Catholic Conference - Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any manner whatsoever, without prior written permission from the publisher.

The stories are based on actual events but details have been modified in order to protect anonymity of those involved.

Cover design: Joseph Marney

ISBN: 978-0-9916038-8-6

Printed in the United States of America

5 4 3 2 1

Written and Presented by  
Michael Dopp, STL

Filmed and Edited by  
Eric Groth  
Outside da Box Studios

Produced by  
ministry23, LLC

Director of Development  
Douglas J. Venne Jr

Production Development  
Juliana Michelotti

Special Thanks to Joseph Marney,  
The Catholic Word LLC Staff,  
Linda Dopp and Thérèse Dopp

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You are about to embark on an incredible journey! There is nothing more exciting, lifegiving, and joyfilled than coming evermore into communion with Christ. He is indeed the Way, the Truth, and the Life (cf. John 14:6) and communion with Him alone fills the deepest desires of the human heart and leads the soul to heaven.

*relit* has one purpose: to help you deepen your friendship with Christ by living out more fully your baptismal vocation to evangelize. For almost a decade I have had the immense privilege and joy of helping fellow Catholics learn how to effectively share their faith with other people. Thus *relit* is drawn from not only the Scriptures, Catholic history, and Church teaching, but also from working with thousands of Catholics who also wanted to be God's instruments in leading other people into friendship with Christ.

Perhaps some of you are afraid to evangelize. Others may be uncertain of your call to do it. Some of you may wonder what it is and how to do it. Over the 18 sessions, all of these issues and questions will be addressed. *relit* is designed to specifically give you all that you need to begin to live out your evangelical vocation. A lot of learning will happen afterward as you continue your own formation and learn from experience. But for right now, *relit* will give you the foundations that you need in order to respond to the great commission of Christ to take the Gospel to all nations (cf. Matthew 28:19).

Come Holy Spirit. Send us out to bring the Gospel into the world. May many people come to know and love You and one day reach the promise of eternal life. Fill us, we pray, with ever more of your Divine Fire and Love.

St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for us.

Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us.

God be with you,

Michael



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Session Name	Page
Session 1: The Great Story	7
Session 2: Evangelization	11
Session 3: New Evangelization	15
Session 4: Witness	19
Session 5: Family & Friends	25
Session 6: The Ultimate Relationship	29
Session 7: Why Evangelize? Part I	33
Session 8: Why Evangelize? Part II	37
Session 9: The Heart of the Evangelist	43
Session 10: Proclamation	47
Session 11: Testimony	51
Session 12: Conversion, Discipleship, & Mission	57
Session 13: Thresholds	63
Session 14: Postmodern Culture	67
Session 15: Holy Spirit	73
Session 16: Transcendentals	77
Session 17: Parish	81
Session 18: A Mission Entrusted	87





reLit

# SESSION 1: THE GREAT STORY

## SUMMARY

God created us out of love and for love. Although our communion with Him has been broken, by His cross and resurrection we are invited once more to live in communion with God forever.

*“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.”*

*JOHN 3:16 (RSV)*

## THE BEGINNING

- › God existed as a Trinity of love for all eternity.
- › Love, by its very nature, wants to be given away.
- › God pours out His love within Himself and in creation.
- › Love wants to be received and returned, but nothing in creation could receive and return the love of God.
  - So, God makes us so that we can be loved by Him and love Him in return.

*LOVE, BY ITS VERY NATURE, WANTS TO BE GIVEN AWAY.*

## NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

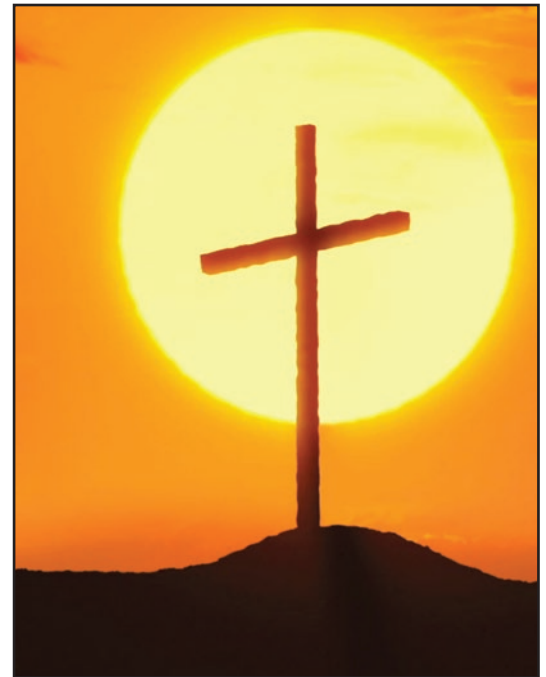
## THE CHOICE

- › God allows us to choose whether we will say “Yes” to His invitation to communion.
  - When Adam and Eve said “No” by disobeying God, they committed the first sin.
  - We have echoed that sin with our own. In doing so, like Adam and Eve, we have said “No” to the offer of God.
- › The “No” of Adam and Eve led them out of Eden.
  - It led to the rupturing of friendship with God.
- › In our life, sin does not bring the happiness it promises and separates us even further from God.
- › Since we are made for God, there is an ache within us when communion with Him is absent.

## RESTORATION

- › We try to “build a tower” back up to God in an attempt to fix the problem.
  - It is impossible for us to restore our broken relationship with God.
  - The problem is that any offense against God (sin) is an infinite offense.

- As finite beings, we cannot “make up” for an infinite offense.
- Doing a lifetime of “good things” cannot make up for even the smallest venial sin.
- › Restoring relationship with God
  - The heart of God the Father longs for communion with us even more than we long for it with Him.
  - This is the story of Israel – God always sought after Israel, even after they had rejected Him.
- › God the Father sends His Son to reunite God and man.
  - Thus, in the Incarnation, redemption begins – God and man are reunited
  - In His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ conquers sin and death and once more makes communion between God and us possible.
- › We must say “Yes” to what Christ did on Calvary, for He will not force His salvation upon us.



### THE RESPONSE

- › Even though God offers us everything we need for this life and eternity, we pause and wonder, “Is God good? Is His invitation worth saying ‘Yes’ to?”
- › How we can say “Yes” to God
  - Primarily through the sacraments, especially Baptism.
  - Since many of us are baptized as infants, we are called to echo throughout our life the “Yes” that was said on our behalf.
  - For those that have been away from the Church, the “Yes” can be given by returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- › Often the “Yes” seems to be muted, even if we have done all the “Catholic things.” In other words, there often has not been a deep and willful engagement of the heart.
  - We can ask ourselves: Do I love God?
- › Each of us is called to give this “Yes” of love to God both once and forever, initially and continually.
  - It could begin anywhere: at a retreat, during a parish mission, or in the silence of our room.
  - It can then echo through our regular, willed response to grace, saying “Yes.”
- › Every Easter Vigil, we renew our baptismal promises.
  - This can be our definitive “Yes” or a renewal of the “Yes” that we have already made.
- › Our “Yes” should be clear and specific.
  - It is like the vow at a wedding. It doesn’t just happen by accident.
- › We are in deep communion with God because we live a holy and sacramental life and because we choose, with our will and heart, to say our “Yes.”
  - This “Yes” of love is called to be renewed daily.

### NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Knowledge Questions

Why did God choose to create?

---

---

---

Why can we not fully make up for our sin?

---

---

---

To what response are we called in light of the death and resurrection of Christ?

---

---

---

## Reflection Questions

Have you ever believed that your salvation depends on you making up for your sin? Why?

---

---

---

How has this meditation informed a new way of viewing who you are in the eyes of God?

---

---

---

What has the "Yes" to Christ's invitation looked like in your life or in the life of someone you know?

---

---

---

## Application Questions

If a co-worker said that “Catholics think they can earn their salvation,” what would you say?

---

---

---

What parts of the Great Story do you think the people in your life need to hear the most?

---

---

---

How could the Great Story better inform how you choose to live your life?

---

---

---

### Session 1 Activity

For 5 minutes each day for 4 days, prayerfully reflect on the 4 main parts of the Great Story: The Beginning, The Choice, Restoration, and Response.

Ask God the Father to reveal ever more deeply the truth of it in your heart. Pray earnestly that He may help you to fully believe any parts of it with which you struggle (e.g. God’s love, your goodness, Christ’s offering, our capacity to respond).

### Further Reading

Decree *Ad gentes* (on the mission activity of the Church)

Paragraphs 10-18  
(Chapter II – Mission Work Itself)

Available at: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

### PRAYER

*HEAVENLY FATHER,*

*YOU HAVE MADE US OUT OF YOUR HOLY AND DIVINE LOVE.*

*OPEN OUR HEARTS THIS DAY SO THAT WE MAY KNOW YOUR LOVE EVER MORE.*

*FILL OUR MINDS WITH YOUR TRUTH AND OUR SOULS WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT.*

*MAY OUR “YES” TO YOU ECHO IN OUR HEARTS EVERY DAY, AND MAY WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO SHARE THE GREAT STORY WITH OTHERS.*

*AMEN.*