

**The Acts of the Apostles**  
***The Church's Journey from Jerusalem to Rome***  
**Part 1**

Some of my hopes for this Lenten series are:

- to foster a deeper appreciation of our Catholic approach to the Bible
- to heighten an awareness of God's presence in the midst of history
- to help participants feel comfortable reading and discussing the Bible

In this session we will discuss: the Catholic overview of Scripture and St. Paul  
It would be helpful if for the next two sessions you could bring a New Testament.

**Is the Bible true?** the short answer is "yes!" ... the longer answer ...

Truths:           Scientific Truth  
                      Historical Truth  
                      Geographic Truth  
                      Religious Truth (e.g. Genesis Chapter I and 2: "creatio ex nihil")

Why do we believe? fact, gut, experience, "on the testimony of others"

**"to believe" is an essential part of daily living.**

**The nature of language:**

- language is experience based
- every language uses cadence, slang, and idioms
- many passages in the Bible were Oral Traditions before they were written down
- the victors/survivors write the story

**Fundamentalism:** the belief that the Bible must be taken literally. "Inerrancy"

Catholics are NOT fundamentalists.

**Form Critical approach - Pius XII**

**Blessed John Henry Newman - "evolution of doctrine"**

**Dei Verbum (On the Word of God) - document of Vatican II**

**"Every text has a context." "text" = EVERY document, event, and person**

## **The world of Saul of Tarsus**

The Roman Empire  
- the cultural influence of Greece

The four major Movements within the Judaism of Jesus' time (first century):

**Sadducees:**

**Pharisees:**

**Zealots:**

**Essenes:**

... four different hopes for the Messiah.

Saul of Tarsus is a hellenistic Jew, a Pharisee, and a Roman citizen