



# JESUS IS

# the SOURCE

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD  
ALL THINGS CAME TO BE THROUGH HIM

JOHN 1:1-3

a six-part Catholic  
small group series



# the SOURCE



a six-part Catholic small group series



*from the*  
Archdiocese of Washington  
*in collaboration with*  
Something Greater Ministries

The Archdiocese of Washington decided to partner with Something Greater Ministries to develop The SOURCE series after many conversations with pastors and parish leaders. They asked for a shorter small group series that would fit into the seasons of Church life. A series featuring uniquely Catholic content that would help people who are seeking truth to reflect on the big questions of faith and life. What is the purpose of life? Who is Jesus? How can I find connection and fulfillment?

In response, we asked six local priests to give compelling reflections on those questions accessible to anyone. Paired with each priest's talk is a witness video where regular people share how they found God as the source of all truth, beauty, and goodness.

Whether you're a pastor, small group leader, or just someone looking for answers we hope you find these talks and this reflection guide helpful in finding God and discovering His love for you in small group community.

In Christ,



Jonathan Lewis

Assistant Secretary for Pastoral Ministry  
Archdiocese of Washington

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The SOURCE is the basics of the Catholic faith, presented in six Ted-style talks paired with six faith-based testimonies giving witness to how the truth explained has been instrumental in transforming daily life for real people. The SOURCE wonderfully explores how all that we seek ultimately leads us back to the True Source, God, through His Holy Church.

We hope that you find this series refreshing, engaging and relevant, and that if you do, you will pass it along and share it with your friends.

God bless you and thank you!



Melissa Overmyer

Something Greater Ministries

[www.somethinggreater.net](http://www.somethinggreater.net)



The image on the cover of this guide is of a hot spring in Yellowstone National Park. Springs are one example of a water source. In John Chapter 7 Jesus says, "Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'"

"We used this theme of 'finding the SOURCE' because Jesus is our source of living water who quenches our thirst for life, truth, peace, joy, love, and hope.

This reflection guide corresponds to six talks by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington as well as six witness videos from lay people.

These videos can be found for free on the Archdiocese of Washington's YouTube channel at WashArchdiocese. Search "the Source" or look for "the Source" playlist.

### Each session in this guide contains:

- The title for the session and name of the priest speaker
- An explanation of the image chosen for each theme
- A proclamation statement
- Questions for discussion or reflection
- A closing prayer
- More reading on each topic

Use this series with a small group at your parish, in your home, in a classroom, for personal prayer or pass it along to a friend or co-worker.

To download a digital copy of this guide go to [adw.org/living-the-faith/evangelization/resources](http://adw.org/living-the-faith/evangelization/resources)



# LIFE

## Is this all there is?

Fr. Bill Byrne



Pictured is the fossilized form of one of the oldest life-forms on Earth, the Chambered Nautilus. This creature's structure allows it to grow in the deepest oceans under incredible conditions of great pressure by keeping it connected to its very core. When Jesus is at our center we can grow while staying secure in the one who is the source of our life.

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Nothing but God will bring fulfillment  
He is the source of abundant life.

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1. What one thought stood out or most impressed you as you watched this video? .

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2. Fr. Bill describes sin as our “Wanting to be like God”. What are your thoughts on this? What one solution did God propose to repair our sinful tendencies—to bridge the gap between God and ourselves? How does this truth make you feel?

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That's what brings us peace,  
when we line ourselves  
up with God - Fr. Bill Byrne



3. Fr. Bill also talked about the gifts Jesus gives us through Baptism: membership into His family, His indwelling, some guiding principles to live by. Which of these gifts most resonates with you? Why?

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**4. Would you say you are living the “Abundant Life?”  
Why or why not?**

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**5. If what Fr. Bill said is true, that Jesus is the Source of abundant life, how would getting to know Him better affect your daily life?**

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## Witness Video: Hunter | Chasing Life

**Hunter talks about an emptiness he felt before pursuing relationship with Jesus. Have you ever felt a similar emptiness? How is God offering to fill that space?**

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Lord,

Thank you for giving me this time of reflection. I realize that I have sometimes chased after things in this world that I thought might fulfill me or give me life. Still, I have often felt empty and unfulfilled with more questions than answers. I know that you have offered many gifts and abundant life through Baptism, the Church, and an ongoing relationship with your Son Jesus.

Help me to continue to unwrap those gifts and find the courage to follow you and live life to the full!

Amen



To read more about how to live an abundant life consider  
**Rejoice and Be Glad:**  
**On the Call to Holiness in Today's World**  
by Pope Francis - find it online for free!



# HISTORY

## Just the facts

Fr. Alec Scott



Jesus is the Rock of our Salvation—the solid ground on which to build our life, our chief corner stone. This photo is of one of the foundation stones of an ancient structure, a house that still stands due to its firm foundation.

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The historical evidence of the  
Christian faith is factual and compelling  
Jesus is the SOURCE of TRUTH

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1. What one thought stood out or most impressed you as you watched this video? .

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2. What speaks most clearly to you about who Jesus is? Reading about Him and what He said in the Gospels? Historical evidence? Witness of the martyrs and Saints throughout history? Church teachings, i.e. the Catechism or something you learned as a child? Something else?

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We have a God  
who reveals to us what we're  
destined for. - Fr. Alec Scott



3. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Way, the Truth and the Life, it should have an impact on your life... and your death. How much thought have you give to this teaching? What difference has believing or would believing make in your life?

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4. What have you seen in other people's lives that gives witness to the truth of Christ's claims?

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5. If what Fr. Alec Scott said was true, that the Bible is a reliable, highly respected, historic document, that the words of Jesus are TRUTH, how should this affect your daily life?

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## Witness Video: Dale | Decoding the Divine

Dale reflects on his journey of coming to understand God's word for him in the Bible. What has your experience been with the Bible? How might you dive deeper?

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Lord,

Thank you for human reason. Thank you for our desire for truth. Thank you for revealing yourself to the world.

We ask you to guide us in our search for truth. As we come to understand the reliability of Scripture, may you inspire us to enter more deeply into its beauty and hear the message you're speaking to our hearts today.

Amen



To learn more about the reliability of Scripture and the claims of Christianity consider:

**Jesus and the Eyewitnesses** by Richard Bauckham

**The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple** by Richard Bauckham  
and **Jesus of Nazareth** by Pope Benedict XVI



# FORGIVENESS

## the road to freedom

Fr. Mario Majano



The bark pictured here is representative of the tree from which the Cross of Christ was made, the source of our forgiveness and reconciliation to God. Much of the oxygen we breath on planet earth is produced by trees which is very much akin to forgiveness, a breath of life-giving fresh air.

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We find peace when we receive & extend  
the forgiveness Jesus first offered us.  
Jesus is the SOURCE of PEACE.

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1. What one thought most stood out or impressed you as you watched this video? Discuss.

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2. No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus. Know peace. How does knowing Christ's forgiveness help us to live peace daily?

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Sometimes we try to fix things  
instead of heal them.  
Fr. Mario Majano



3. Share an experience of forgiveness –either forgiving or being forgiven—where you felt Christ at work in your life. OR an experience in which you need help in finding forgiveness.

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4. Fr. Mario Majano shared that he had drifted away from the Church, not “physically” but in other ways. Share ways you may have experienced drifting in your own life.

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5. If what Fr. Mario said is true, that Jesus and experiencing His forgiveness is the source of PEACE, what steps can you take this week to “rest” in His peace?

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## Witness Video: Zou | Choosing Forgiveness

Zou shares about a time she changed her approach to forgiveness to be more like the Lord. Is there a relationship where choosing forgiveness will help you find freedom?

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Lord,

In a world where pain, suffering, and injustice are ever present in our conversations and on our screens, we need to rediscover peace more than ever.

Thank you for giving us the gift of your forgiveness. Help us to share that gift of forgiveness with others and so doing, find a rich and lasting peace.

Amen



To learn more about finding forgiveness and peace consider:

**The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen**  
**or Forgiveness: A Catholic Approach by Fr. Scott Hurd**

# CONNECTION

## prayer made easy

Msgr. Charles Pope



The stone pictured is Rainbow Fluorite. The multi layers of color bring to mind the twelve foundational layers of the stones of the walls of heaven mentioned in Revelation 21. The multi-colored luminosity echoes the "rainbow around the throne of God" with Whom we are connecting to in prayer.

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Prayer, Scripture study, worship and the  
Holy Spirit connect us to God the Father.  
He is the SOURCE of JOY

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1. What one thought most stood out or impressed you as you  
watched this video? Discuss.

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**2. Recalling Msgr. Pope's one rule for prayer, "Show up," what obstacles do you experience when you try to pray?**

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Prayer, at its heart, is  
paying attention to God.  
- Msgr. Charles Pope



**3. Msgr. Pope describes prayer as "paying attention to God."  
Share an experience you've had paying attention to God in  
your daily life or in prayer.**

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4. What is one thing you're thankful for today? This week try the ACTS prayer at home: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

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5. If what Msgr. Pope said is true, that connecting to God through His word, the Sacraments and prayer is the source of JOY, how might this affect your daily routine this week?

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## Witness Video: Sara | Hearing a Call

Sara shares how her experience of prayer led her to hear God calling her to give herself to a particular call. What "forks in the road" or areas of uncertainty might you bring to prayer?

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Lord,

Thank you for the great gift of prayer. Thank you for teaching us to pray. We so often struggle to communicate with each other and we can bring those same wounds into our relationship with you.

Grant us a renewed spirit that cries out to you in praise and in need, confident in your love and abiding presence.

Amen



To learn more about how  
to connect to God in prayer consider:  
**Thirsting for Prayer** by Jacques Phillippe

# LOVE

## food for the soul

Fr. Chris Seith



Pictured is an abundant offering of life-producing goodness, gifted to us from God, best enjoyed in community. The Church, in all that she offers, is a feast for our souls. Come freely take, eat, and be strengthen and encouraged on your journey. Christ's Church is the **SOURCE** of love and life needed by the world.

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The Church, its Sacraments, and community  
strengthen us on the spiritual journey.  
Jesus' Church is the **SOURCE** of **LOVE**.

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1. What one thought most stood out or impressed you as you watched this video? Discuss.

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2. Fr. Chris shared an experience about running a race and being encouraged by a group of Marines in order to finish strong. Tell about an experience of encouragement you may have had in the Church to help you along your race.

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Through our baptism...  
we become visible expressions  
of God's love. - Fr. Chris Seith



3. The Church believes that the Lord showers us with grace through the Sacraments. How might you be transformed by understanding and embracing the sacraments in a deeper way?

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4. Fr. Chris says when we make God's love visible in concrete actions, we become the "sacraments" (means of God's grace coming to earth) to others. How can we do this?

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5. If what Fr. Chris claims is true, that the Church is the Body of Christ and the source of LOVE, how could this affect your daily life?

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## Witness Video: Rijo | Sharing the joy of love

Rijo reflects on how, as his faith deepened, he became more joyful and wanted to share about his love for Jesus with others. Who can you share your spiritual journey with?

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Lord,

Thank you for the gift of your love. Thank you for understanding our humanity and giving us the sacraments to keep us fed on our spiritual journey.

Continue to sustain us with your grace and give us a deeper understanding and desire for your sacraments. And through them, give us strength to respond when we see others hungering and thirsting for your love.

Amen

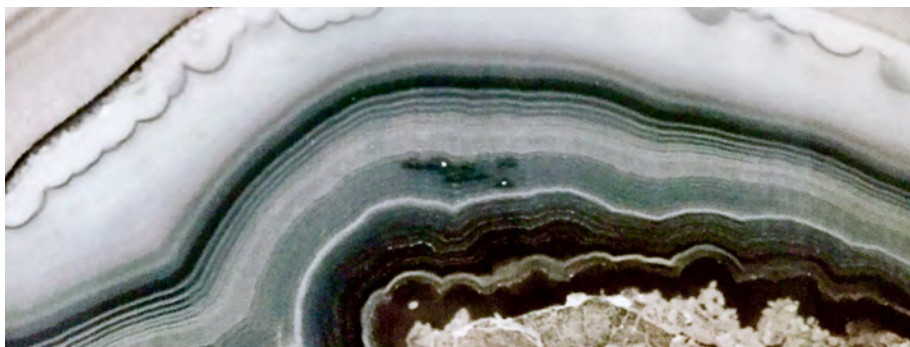


To learn more about  
God's love in the Sacraments consider:  
**The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1210-1666**  
or **The Sacraments We Celebrate** by Fr. Peter Vaghi

# HOPE

## community in mission

Fr. Pat Smith



The stone pictured is a greatly magnified portion of Fortification Agate. This stone has a unique way of forming. It fills in voids. This particular section shows the concentric circular bands representing the "ripple effect" of our mission.

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Christ sends his disciples to share his  
Good News with the world.  
Jesus is the SOURCE OF HOPE.

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1. What one thought most stood out or impressed you as you watched this video? Discuss.

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2. The Church is a community in mission, sent by Christ. This community of believers is a conduit of Christ's love to the world. Can you give an example of a friend or neighbor who has been Christ to you?

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Jesus didn't create the Church  
just to be fed, but to go out  
and feed. - Fr. Pat Smith



3. Fr. Smith said he needed adult reasons to “eat vegetables” as well as for his faith. Discuss adult reasons why you believe, (or don’t believe) not simply because you “grew up that way.”

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4. Identify ways in your life that you could share the light of Christ to others.

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5. If what Fr. Pat Smith said is true, that the Church is the source of HOPE for the world, how could this affect your daily life? Make a plan as a group (or even as an individual) to be the difference—to share the HOPE the world needs.

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## Witness Video: Paola | Serving God's Word

Paola reflects on how she felt unprepared to share God's light with others. What do you fear when considering sharing God's Word? How might you ask God for help?

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Lord,

Thank you for calling us a mission. Sometimes we can feel lost and without direction. You have given us your Word, your sacraments, and your Church to equip us for that mission.

Help us to remember our identity as your hands and feet. Help us remember your confidence in us. With your grace, help us be the difference, the hope the world needs.

Amen



To learn more about responding to God's mission for you consider:

**Redemptoris Missio** by John Paul II







Archdiocese of Washington

