

Base Community Approach

Many of the base communities in Latin America have Bible study as an important part of their life together. The two basic elements of the base community approach are explication and application.

It would be helpful to use *The Gospel in Solentiname* by Ernest Cardenal or *We Discovered the Good News: Brazilian Workers Reread the Bible* alongside of this method. One translates the Bible studies done by the people of Nicaraguan fishing villages; the other does the same with Brazilian workers.

Explication

- Step 1. **Hear** the word.
- Step 2. **Understand** the political, social, and historical context of the text.
- Step 3. **Reread** the text with the context in mind.
- Step 4. **Share** comments and reflections on the text.

Application

- Step 5. **Reflect** on the similarities and differences between the world of the text and our own world.
- Step 6. **Share** our problems as they are called forth by the discussion of the text.
- Step 7. **Decide** how the text may be relevant to our reality.
- Step 8. **Create** our own prayers.
- Step 9. **Decide** as a group what tasks need to be done. Set a time for follow-up so the group can report on what has happened as a result of the action taken.

*One of the Bible or lectionary study guides contributed by the members
of the North American Association for the Catechumenate.
www.catechumenate.org*