

STUDY

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

Study is the first rollo of the second day. The principal appeal of this rollo is to the intellect; it should include some personal examples of study. However, this is not meant to be a rollo which is heavy in witness.

The rollo should build upon previous rollos, especially the **Ideals**, **Grace**, and **Piety** rollos. For example, we were told in the **Ideals** rollo that we needed to have one or more ideals in life. In the **Grace** rollo, God's plan for salvation was explained and it was pointed out that for Christians, the way Jesus Christ lived His life is the ideal for us to follow. In the **Piety** rollo, it was conveyed that living a life in piety (pious life) is our response to God's love for us through Jesus Christ - - and something we should strive to achieve. Now in this **Study** rollo, it should be communicated that one way to learn how to live a life in piety is to study the Holy Bible. This is the first and best source of information to learn more about what God has revealed, and accordingly, how we might please Him.

Study is a way to grow, change, and mature in our Christianity. When studying the Bible, the Christian brings his/her whole self to see life from the perspective of a person who has faith in God and for the purpose of discerning God's plan for his/her life.

While the rollista is primarily responsible for a list of suggested reading materials, it may be well to receive recommendations from the rector, spiritual directors, and other team members. If your local community uses a book table, consult with the Secretariat leadership for standards and guidelines for items which may be on the "book table". At a minimum to be included on the "book table" - - - should be several translations of the Bible, Bible commentaries, Bible Handbooks, and Bible dictionaries. Optional books which may be included on the "book table" (subject to local guidelines) are Christian classics, current Christian novels, biographies of Christians, diaries and/or journals of Christians, hymnbooks, Christian poems, books on Christian living, etc. Christian newspapers and magazines may also be included, as well as Christian CD's and tapes. Finally, a listing of local Christian radio stations and Christian TV programs may be helpful, especially to new Christians.

It is important to provide to the rector and the spiritual directors before the Weekend, a list of all selected materials and other items planned to be included on the "book table".

Time objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes

STUDY OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

- **Definition of Study: Study is bringing the whole self to the task of learning.**

II. WHY STUDY?

- A. To know God**
- B. To learn if we have misconceptions**
- C. To know ourselves**
- D. To know God's purpose for our lives**
- E. To learn how to handle life's problems**

III. WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO STUDY?

- A. Overcoming obstacles - laziness, busyness and pride**
- B. Developing good habits, including prayer**
 - **Desire**
 - **Discipline**
 - **Determination**
- C. Resources:**
 - **The Bible**
 - **Other written, spoken or visual**

IV. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF STUDY?

- A. Faith is strengthened**
- B. Actions are God-directed**
- C. It is a means to holiness/piety**
- D. It assures us of God's purpose for our life**

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Piety is reinforced by study.**
- B. Study without Piety may become merely an intellectual exercise.**

(The second leg of the Christian life tripod should be inserted at the beginning, during or at the end of the rollo.)

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COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

I. INTRODUCTION

This rollo should begin with a definition of study which according to the dictionary is:

- **“the acquiring of knowledge, as by reading, etc.; careful examination of a subject; treating a subject in great detail; earnest effort or deep thought.”**

Study is bringing the whole self to the task of learning. For a Christian to study, we need to use all of our senses, including the intellect, so that we may keep on growing in our ability to know and do God’s will, as it is revealed in Jesus Christ. In Matt. 22:36 and 37 (NIV), we read: *“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

The rollista should emphasize to the candidates the **“all your mind”** part. This is especially important since when we love the Lord our God with all of our mind, we will use our mind to study God’s Word, the Holy Bible.

II. WHY STUDY?

- A. The first reason for Christians to study is to seek **to know God** more fully as Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Friend. So, we study His Word to know Him better.
- B. The second reason to study is **to learn if we have misconceptions** regarding who God is, what He has done and is doing, and about our relationship with Him.
- C. A third reason to study is to come **to know ourselves** as God’s special creation; to understand that He wants us to live a life of piety and to better understand how we might achieve that ideal.
- D. Another reason a Christian should study is **to know God’s purpose** for our life. In studying, we learn to see the world as the object of God’s love and as His gift to us. We also learn to draw closer to Christ in our daily discipleship.
- E. Yet another reason to study is **to learn how to handle life’s problems**. The best solutions come when, as we are told in Luke 11:9, we have learned to ask, seek and knock. For unless we seek God’s advise about our problems, He will not force Himself upon us.

III. WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO STUDY?

- A. Before being able to study, we need to overcome the obstacles of laziness, busyness and pride.

B. In order to study well, we first need to pray for help in developing the good habits of desire, discipline, and determination; **the three D's**.

- **Desire:** While some are eager to study; others need to ask God to give them the motivation. Once the desire is in us, the remaining habits come easier. Some of us will find the desire to study will come naturally, as we move into the areas of piety and action; such may be the case, for example, with a hunter as he realizes the need to learn more after going hunting for the first time or with a traveler when he or she is planning a trip into unfamiliar territory. The point is, the rollista should emphasize that the process of (Christian) study is a natural progression following living a life of piety; study should not be viewed as a laborious task, but rather as a real hunger to learn more about God and His love for us.
- **Discipline:** The world has many distractions which can keep us from fully knowing God. Find the proper time and place each day when you can devote your full time and attention to the personal study of God's Word. We need to be studying His Word, praying to discern His will for us, and observing Him at work in the world. In other words, our daily lives need to be totally focused on God.
- **Determination:** We need to be unwavering in our determination to learn what God wants to teach us. Knowing our Christian faith touches every aspect of our lives; we must be willing to learn that which can be applied to our lives and keep searching for new truths from God. Thus, study keeps us open to God's possibilities and opportunities.

C. Resources

- **The Bible:** The Holy Bible should be the primary resource for our study in learning how to live a Christian life. It has sometimes been lovingly referred to as: "The Manufacturer's Handbook". Study of the Bible should be accomplished both through personal and group situations; a specific time should be set aside each day for our personal study.
- **Other Resources:** Multiple other resources include: Devotionals, Christian books and magazines, CD's and tapes (both of the Bible and of Christian songs), Christian films, Christian radio stations and Christian TV programs and discussions with other Christians. In addition, God's creation is visible all around us; so we are being awakened to His truth as we see, hear, taste, smell, and touch the world He created.

IV. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF STUDY?

A. Through study, **our faith is strengthened** and our piety nurtured. As we apply ourselves to learning more about God, we are confirmed in our Christian beliefs and grow in our Christianity by accepting broader concepts which challenge our former thinking. We become more open to change and growth as a result of study and maturity in our Christianity.

- B. Our Christian actions are influenced by learning what God wants us to do-they become God directed.** Study is not an end unto itself; rather, it is a means to live the Christian life in all of its fullness. To live the Christian ideal, i.e., to direct one's whole life to Christ, requires a conversion of mind and heart.
- C. Study is a means to piety (holiness)** in that it increases our sense of devotion and belonging to God, while allowing the Holy Spirit to reorder our lives in relationship to Jesus Christ and the example He established and provided.
- D. The Holy Spirit, through study, gives us the assurance of God's purpose for our life.** In reading and studying His Word, sharing in it with our Christian friends, and using the many Christian resources available to us, we can see how God guides our lives and shows us His plans and the part He wants us to play in them.

V. CONCLUSION

When studying, it is appropriate to spend most of your time on the "best" books; the Holy Bible is the very best one of all.

Study gives direction and growth to our Christian maturity by helping us to discern the will of God in our lives.

Without piety, study may become merely an intellectual exercise. As we learn more about piety and study, we will realize how they work together. The desire to study grows out of piety; likewise, piety is reinforced by study. Together, piety and study form the focus for a Christian's actions.

(The second leg of Christian life tripod/stool should be inserted at the beginning, during, or at the end of the rollo)

Note to the rollista: *There is far more subject matter in this "Commentary . . ." than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.*

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BIBLE REFERENCES

(These Bible references are included here to help the rollista understand some of the biblical background of the rollo. The list is neither complete nor is it intended to become part of the rollo. Read the references and listen for the Word of God.)

Rom.	15:4	The Scriptures were written to teach
I Timothy	4:13	Reading of the Scriptures
2 Timothy	3:14-17	Knowing the Scriptures
Rev.	1:3	Joy to those who read the Scriptures
Acts	17:11b	Search the Scriptures daily
1 Peter	3:15	And always be prepared to explain the difference Jesus has made
Jeremiah	9:24	God delights in our knowing Him
John	15:7	Abide in Christ and His Word
	8:32, 33	Continue in His Word and experience freedom
	14:15, 21-24	Love for Jesus is expressed in obedience to His Word
Joshua	1:8	Meditate on the Word
Psalm	1:1-3	Walk in His Word and meditate on it
Psalm	119:9, 11	Memorize and live the Word
James	1:22-25	Receive and do the Word