

# Knowing God: Reason and Revelation

## Lesson 2 Summary

### Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will gain insight into the Catholic Church's understanding of Revelation and its transmission.
- The participants will understand how Catholics come to know the truth about God and why that has meaning for their lives.

### Content Summary

1. The Church makes frequent appeal to human reason in teaching us about the religious truths God has revealed. But reason can take us only so far. Ultimately we must trust that God has revealed to the Church what he wants us to know for our salvation.
2. Revelation is God's self-communication and disclosure of the divine plan to humankind through creation, events, people, and most fully, Jesus Christ.
3. The Church teaches everything that we need to know about God.
4. God has provided for this by giving us two sources for coming to know Jesus Christ: Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture.
5. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles handed on everything they knew about Jesus to the first Christians and to the generation who followed them.
6. We speak of Scripture and Tradition as two sources of Revelation, but they are closely connected, and together they form a single sacred Deposit of Faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They can never be in conflict, and each one helps us to understand the other.
7. It is the responsibility of the Church, through her teaching, her worship, and her ministries, to transmit to every new generation all that God has revealed.
8. As the successors of the Apostles, it is the particular and exclusive responsibility of the bishops in union with the Pope—who are also called the Magisterium—to faithfully teach, interpret, and preserve Scripture and Tradition for all believers until Christ returns in glory.
9. The Holy Spirit inspired the Scripture writers to write what God wanted us to know for our salvation.
10. The Bible is without error in communicating what God wants us to know for our salvation and is not meant to be read as historically and scientifically accurate.

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