

**Preview Sheet  
Old Testament 1 and 2  
Msgr. Michael Tierney**

The Old Testament is composed of 46 individual books filling hundreds of pages. How can we internalize its contents in two sessions? Obviously, the answer is that we can't. But we can initiate this lifelong process of understanding the Old Testament in such a way that it no longer will seem so overwhelming and can become an indispensable tool in our spiritual arsenal of God's word.

In our introductory class we will address rudimentary yet important questions: What is the Old Testament? How was it written? When was it written? How does a believer come to understand its difficult narratives? How do these accounts relate to my personal and community worship? We will also concentrate on a few critical Biblical texts that help us understand the Exodus and the Covenant – two foundational experiences that form the thematic nucleus of the entire Old Testament.

**In preparing for this session,**

**please read the Book of Exodus, chapters 1 through 24.**

**please read paragraphs 11-16 in the Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*)**

**(This document was given to you in previous session)**

**and please read paragraphs 101 to 120 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.**

**please bring your Bible to class.**

As you prepare for this initial class on the Bible, please spend some quality time reflecting not only on the above readings, but on your honest responses to these three questions:

**How important has the Bible been to your spiritual development?**

**How do you relate, in general, to the Old Testament?**

**List three areas /problems which make reading and understanding the Old Testament difficult for you.**

I look forward to being with you as we explore this “storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life” (Catechism 122).