



**ORDINARY LIVES**

**EXTRAORDINARY**

**MISSION**

**5 Steps to Winning the War Within**

**JOHN R. WOOD**

# **ORDINARY LIVES** EXTRAORDINARY **MISSION**

FIVE STEPS TO WINNING  
THE WAR WITHIN

JOHN R. WOOD

 **DynamicCatholic.com**  
Be Bold. Be Catholic.®

## READING SCHEDULE

### *Session One*

#### **PROLOGUE, INTRODUCTION & STEP 1: KNOW YOU ARE IN A WAR**

Read pages 5-32

### *Session Two*

#### **STEP 2: KNOW YOUR ENEMY**

Read pages 33-78

### *Session Three*

#### **STEP 3: FREE YOURSELF**

Read pages 79-110

### *Session Four*

#### **STEP 4: HAVE A SHIELD**

Read pages 111-150

### *Session Five*

#### **STEP 5: HAVE A SWORD**

Read pages 151-174

### *Session Six*

#### **FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT**

Read pages 175-187

## Introduction

Books change our lives. The reason is because what we read today walks and talks with us tomorrow, so in many ways we become what we read. We hope this book will change your life and the lives of the people you are gathering to discuss it with.

At DynamicCatholic.com we believe that if Catholicism is to thrive in these modern times, then we as Catholics need to become continuous learners.

Spiritual reading has been a crucial part of the Catholic experience for centuries, but with the growing demands and distractions of modern life people are reading less and less. This is tragic, because so many people have so many questions about Catholicism at this time, and unless we are feeding our minds with great Catholic thought we will not be able to share our faith in a way that is articulate, bold, and inspiring.

One of our goals at DynamicCatholic.com is to encourage Catholics to start reading great Catholic books. Each year we will make great Catholic books available through the Dynamic Catholic Book Program. The books are made available for just two dollars per copy to dioceses and parishes so that they can be distributed to everyone who attends Christmas or Easter Mass.

Our strategy is very simple. Encourage every Catholic in America to read two great Catholic books each year. We believe this would be a game changer for the Catholic Church in America.

We hope you enjoy *Ordinary Lives Extraordinary Mission* and pray this study guide is a useful resource as you explore what God is saying to you at this point in your spiritual journey.

May God bless you with a prayerful spirit and a peaceful heart,

The DynamicCatholic.com Team

## *Study Guide Purpose And Format*

The purpose of this study guide is to help readers delve further into the book by exploring personal reaction and application. While it has been produced primarily for use in small faith groups and book clubs, it can also be used by individuals for personal reflection.

The study guide comprises six sessions. These sessions could take place once a week or once a month, at the discretion of the group. Each session follows the same format:

Opening Prayer  
Discussion Questions  
Closing Prayer  
Announcements

We recommend that a group meet for sixty to ninety minutes, but that the group agree upon a fixed length of time and adhere to that time.

It is assumed that participants will have completed the reading assignment before attending each session.

*Session One*

# **PROLOGUE, INTRODUCTION & STEP 1: KNOW YOU ARE IN A WAR**

*Reading:*

Prologue, Introduction and Step One

*Opening Prayer:*

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,

and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self

in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward

them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

### *Discussion Questions:*

1. Do you see any correlations between the problems our culture is facing and the problems the Catholic Church is facing?
2. What is your mission in life?
3. How would you describe your relationship with God? Do you see him as Father, King, Tyrant, Master, Dictator, or a combination of these? Has your relationship with him evolved over time?
4. Have you ever thought of yourself as a saint in the making? Why or why not?
5. What are some ways you have held yourself accountable to making good choices? How do you think the mission at the end of Chapter 1 will change your life if it is implemented?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Loving Father,  
I invite you into my life today  
and make myself available to you.  
Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself  
by seeking your will and becoming a living example  
of your love in the world.  
Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.  
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are  
dynamic and engaging.  
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.

Make our community hungry for best practices  
and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church  
to become all you imagined it would be  
for the people of our times.

Amen.

*Announcements:*

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is, Chapter Two.
- Let your family and friends know they can request a FREE copy of *Ordinary Lives Extraordinary Mission* by visiting [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com).
- Our next gathering will be... (date, place, and time).

*Session Two*

## **STEP 2: KNOW YOUR ENEMY**

*Reading:* Chapter Two

*Opening Prayer:*

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds  
and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,  
and wisdom to live all the good things  
we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream  
for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,  
and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self  
in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,  
the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward  
them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

*Discussion Questions:*

1. Do you believe Satan is real? Why or why not?
2. Reflecting on Genesis chapter 3, what do you think is the root of all sin?

3. If you were the enemy, how would you want humanity to view God?

4. How have hedonism, individualism, and minimalism affected your life? What are some ways they have affected the culture around us?

5. How does suffering help us accomplish our mission?

6. Describe one way God used the enemy's own weapon against him, and one way the enemy tries to use God's own weapon against him.

### *Closing Prayer:*

Loving Father,

I invite you into my life today  
and make myself available to you.

Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself  
by seeking your will and becoming a living example  
of your love in the world.

Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are  
dynamic and engaging.

Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.

Make our community hungry for best practices  
and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church

to become all you imagined it would be  
for the people of our times.

Amen.

*Announcements:*

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is Chapter Three.
- If you are enjoying learning more about your faith you will love the *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality*. Visit [DyanmicCatholic.com](http://DyanmicCatholic.com) and request a FREE copy for yourself, or order six copies for \$18 and share them with your family and friends.
- Do something bold this week. Invite someone to come to the next gathering.
- Our next gathering will be... (date, place, and time).

*Session Three*

## **STEP 3: FREE YOURSELF**

*Reading:* Chapter Three

*Opening Prayer:*

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,

and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self

in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward

them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

*Discussion Questions:*

1. What are some things or habits that you can't seem to do without?

2. In the story of the Exodus with Moses and the Israelites, do you think it was a greater challenge for God to get the Israelites out of Egypt, or Egypt out of the Israelites? Why do you think the Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt after they were free? Do you have any “false gods of Egypt” in your life that you keep going back to?

3. What are some ways our American culture is in bondage?

4. Do you think God is after your mind or your heart? Do you trust God enough to allow him to change your heart?

5. Why do you think the Catholic Church still recommends the practice of fasting? What value does it have in our modern world and in our country?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Loving Father,  
I invite you into my life today  
and make myself available to you.  
Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself  
by seeking your will and becoming a living example  
of your love in the world.  
Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.  
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are  
dynamic and engaging.  
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.  
Make our community hungry for best practices  
and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.  
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church  
to become all you imagined it would be  
for the people of our times.  
Amen.

*Announcements:*

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is Chapter Four.
- Every relationship improves when we really start to listen. If you are ready to really start listening to the voice of God in your life, visit [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com) and request a FREE Mass Journal. It will change your life.
- Our next gathering will be... (date, place, and time).

*Session Four*

## **STEP 4: HAVE A SHIELD**

*Reading:* Chapter Four

*Opening prayer:*

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,

and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self

in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward

them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

*Discussion Questions:*

1. What do you believe is the mission of the Catholic Church?
2. How is Catholicism relevant to your everyday life?

3. Do you believe the Catholic Church is the Church founded by Jesus Christ? Do you believe it is guided by the Holy Spirit? Are there teachings in the Church that prevent you from putting all your trust in her? What are some ways to overcome those challenges, or help others overcome those challenges?
4. Do you have any patron saints who walk with you on your journey? How can the saints help us accomplish our mission?
5. Do you feel comfortable in silence? How would your life change if you took more time each day to spend in silence?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Loving Father,

I invite you into my life today  
and make myself available to you.

Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself  
by seeking your will and becoming a living example  
of your love in the world.

Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are  
dynamic and engaging.

Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.  
Make our community hungry for best practices  
and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church  
to become all you imagined it would be  
for the people of our times.  
Amen.

*Announcements:*

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is Chapter Five.
- Did you know that 10 minutes a day in the classroom of silence could change your life? This week set aside 10 minutes each day and just talk to God.
- Our next gathering will be... (date, place, and time).

*Session Five*

## **STEP 5: HAVE A SWORD**

*Reading:* Chapter Five

*Opening Prayer:*

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,

and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self

in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward

them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

*Discussion Questions:*

1. As Catholics, what are our “weapons of mass construction” and how can we master these weapons?

2. What do you think of when you hear the word evangelization?  
Do you see evangelization as part of your mission? What are some ways we can accomplish this mission?
3. What are some practical steps you can take in your life to become the saint you were created to be physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually?
4. What are some “unseen sacrifices” that you can make each day to bring souls to Christ?
5. Do you believe you have the power to help save souls? Why or why not?
6. How do you picture the end of the race of life? What do you want your legacy to be? What is your deeper yes that will help you keep focused on your mission?

*Closing prayer:*

Loving Father,  
I invite you into my life today  
and make myself available to you.  
Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself  
by seeking your will and becoming a living example  
of your love in the world.  
Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.  
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are  
dynamic and engaging.  
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.  
Make our community hungry for best practices

and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church  
to become all you imagined it would be  
for the people of our times.

Amen.

*Announcements:*

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is Chapter Six.
- If you want a simple and powerful way to share the faith with other people, visit [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com) and order six copies of this book for just \$18 (including shipping) and pass them around among your family and friends.
- Our next gathering will be... (date, place, and time).

*Session Six*

# **FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT**

*Reading:* Chapter Six

*Opening Prayer:*

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds  
and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,  
and wisdom to live all the good things  
we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream  
for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,  
and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self  
in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,  
the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward  
them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

*Discussion Questions:*

1. Do you still have faith in our church and in our country? Why or why not?
2. How do you see your role in God's plan for salvation?

3. What are some ways we can help awaken the sleeping giant called the Catholic Church?

*Closing Prayer:*

Loving Father,  
I invite you into my life today  
and make myself available to you.  
Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself  
by seeking your will and becoming a living example  
of your love in the world.  
Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.  
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are  
dynamic and engaging.  
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.  
Make our community hungry for best practices  
and continuous learning.  
Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.  
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church  
to become all you imagined it would be  
for the people of our times.  
Amen.

*Announcements:*

- If you enjoyed *Ordinary Lives Extraordinary Mission*, the next titles we recommend for you are; *Confessions of a Mega Church Pastor* by Allen Hunt, *Jesus Shock* by Peter Kreeft,

*The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* by Matthew Kelly, *Made for More* by Curtis Martin, and *In His Spirit* by Richard Hauser. These titles are all available through the Dynamic Catholic Parish Book Program at [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com).

- Ninety percent of Catholics don't read Catholic books. We would encourage you make spiritual reading a habit in your life and to share great Catholic books with others.
- Thank you for taking part in our study of *Ordinary Lives Extraordinary Mission*. We hope it has ignited your faith in a new way, and that you will share some of what you have learned here with others in your circle of influence.