

St. Mary's
Old Photographs
Small Groups, Week 2

1. What are your initial thoughts/reaction to Bishop Barron's presentation on violence in the Bible?
2. Bishop Barron states that early on there was a movement to ignore the Old Testament as a solution to trying to reconcile the Old Testament to the New Testament. Besides the issue of violence in the Old Testament, what are the struggles you have with the Old Testament?
3. Are there aspects of the Old Testament you find spiritually fruitful?
4. Origen, one of the earliest theologians in Christianity, taught that we should read the Bible as a whole and through the lens of Jesus Christ. If our reading of the Scriptures leads us to say that "God is hateful or violent", we have misread it. How does this help us in reading or praying the Old Testament?
5. Luke presents us with John the Baptist this weekend as the last of the Old Testament Prophets. Matthew presents John the Baptist in the image of Elijah. His appearance and message attracted the attention of great crowds. Luke uses Isaiah to announce his arrival: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"
 - a. What about Christmas gives you hope for the future?
 - b. How can you 'prepare the way of the Lord'...
 - i. for the coming Christmas celebration?
 - ii. the Lord's return?