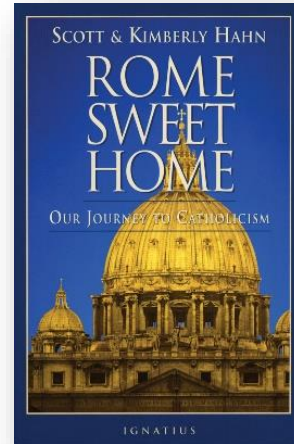




Rome Sweet Home by Scott and Kimberly Hahn

(Special Thanks to: Women of St. Ignatius [MCCW-Fort Leavenworth, KS]
for the use of the Supplement of their Study for Fall 2010)

Facilitator Preparation: Women love to learn and fellowship through sharing stories. Consider your journey of conversion to “Rome Sweet Home.” If you are comfortable doing so, consider sharing a brief testimony of your faith journey through Catholicism. The testimony can focus on a specific event that may be appropriate for the liturgical year, or an aspect of your faith walk that seems particularly relevant to the group. If time allows, invite another participant to share her story as well by inviting her to reflect and prepare her story ahead of time.



Program Set Up: Ask each lady to carry to the book club an item, image, book, or prayer card, etc that he been instrumental in their journey to Rome Sweet Home or faith journey. Ask the ladies to place these items on a table runner at the book club.

Hospitality and fellowship (10 min): Given the timing of your book club, consider incorporating potluck breakfast, refreshments, coffee/tea, and prayer requests.

Icebreaker: Invite each participant to introduce themselves by sharing about the item that they brought to contribute to the centerpiece. If a lady does not have an item, encourage her to share through an image on her phone, song, or story. (This is a no-pressure exercise.) Offer an opening prayer after sharing.

Discussion Questions (40-60 min):

Chapter 1:

“If you are tempted to treat the love of God lightly, look again at the Cross.” How is the cross a symbol of love? How have you experienced the cross of Jesus as love? (page 3)

What is a covenant and why do you think this story may never have been written had Scott not been interested in this concept?

Saved by works, saved by faith alone (sola fide). What does the Church really teach?

How does the hypocrisy of his friend, Dave, affect his perception of Catholics and the Church?

Kimberly follows in her parents’ footsteps—[The power of parents in the children’s religious formation]. Did you do the same? How do you foster the Faith in your children?



Chapter 2:

One of Scott's concerns as a "Bible Christian" was "Infant Baptism." What does the Catholic Church teach?

Scott's continues to study the Covenant as underlying theme of the bible (pg 17). What does this mean?

Kimberly says she enters a "Spiritual slump" (pg 18) at this point in her life and work. When are you closest to God in faith? In good times or bad? What is the best medicine for a "spiritual slump?"

What are some effective ways of communicating the gospel and witnessing that you have experienced? (pg 20)

We mentioned the role of parents in faith formation, what is the role of her father in her wish to become a minister. (pg 21) Who in your life has drawn you closer to God?

Reflect on the beginnings of your marital relationship. What are the differences or similarities with the Hahn's? What can we learn from them? What is the Church's answer to prepare engaged couples to join in matrimony as a sacrament?

Chapter 3

Scripture purpose of children. What is the significance of looking at marriage as a sacrament, not just an act? (pg 25)

Chapter 4

Scott says that: "Raising my own family created within me a longing for the unity of God's family, deeper than I had ever known before." If you are a parent, has having a family changed our view of God and your role as a Christian? How and in what ways?

Scott begins to wonder about the Eucharist as a symbol vs. as the Real Presence of Christ John 6:52-68

Scott's conversion and Kimberly's resistance show an example of having conflict without sin. How do they work through their conflict? How in your relationships do you address conflict with the avoidance of sin?

"The Jews in his audience would not have been outraged and scandalized by a mere symbol." (pg 50)

Chapter 5

Scott claims the Rosary and Mary as key in his conversion. Why was it a big step for Scott? His



belief comes in the last paragraph page 68-69. What does the rosary mean for you?

One of Kimberly's challenges is the role of Mary in Catholic faith: (pg 78) She felt we substitute devotion to Jesus with devotion to Mary. What do you think?

Kimberly was comfortable in her faith and "never aware of need to search." (pg 81) Does that signify people you may know?

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6 there is a greater notice of divide in Scott and Kimberly's faith...where do you see this? Regarding Scott and Kimberly's marriage, what struggles occurred with one being in the Church and one not?

How has the Bible come alive for you in the Mass? When?

What was noticeable about Scott's first Mass (pg 87)

Chapter 8

Kimberly says: "I could not always figure out where my convictions ended and my obstinacy began." (pg 138) Can this apply to certain issues of the Church in your personal life? What lessons can we take from this?

Chapter 9

Scott talks about being home in his church. Do you feel "at home" in your Catholic parish? What makes this so?

How can our Faith community do better to make everyone feel at home?

In this chapter, Kimberly writes of preparing for Mass? How do we prepare to attend Mass and prepare our families?

Prayer and Announcements

In the closing prayer, consider praying specifically for converts and for the Hahn family.