

Module: H04 The Carmelite Charism: Exploring Biblical Roots

This module focusses on the *Carmelite charism* and explore its riches in the light of the scriptures, especially the gospels. The Order of Carmel is deeply rooted in the Land of the Bible. As the name suggests, the Order originated on Mount Carmel itself – in the wadi 'Ain es Siah near the 'Fountain of Elijah'; the first hermits of Carmel had come together just before the end of the 12th century and were given a rule by St Albert, Patriarch of Jerusalem (1206-1214). So, it was here in the Holy Land that Carmelites learnt their first lessons in prayer.

The module is designed for those who wish to understand, pray and live the scriptures in the spirit of Carmel. It takes as its guide what the Church proposes in its approach to the scriptures as outlined in Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum* chapters 3-6, #11-26, with special emphasis on #19.

The module considers the following five topics:

1. Praying with the Gospels: 'In Spirit and Truth' (4 units)
2. The Heritage of Elijah: Introducing Carmelite Spirituality (4 units)
3. The Carmelite Rule: A Gospel Approach (4 units)
4. Rediscovering Saint Joseph: A Gospel Portrait (2 units)
5. Mary – Woman of Prayer: A Gospel Exploration (2 units)

By the end of the module the student will have developed:

- A greater appreciation of the place of the bible in prayer
- A greater appreciation of the biblical basis of the Carmelite Rule and Carmelite spirituality
- A biblically based approach to Carmelite devotion to Mary and St Joseph and their place in Carmelite spirituality