

STUDY SESSION 9

BCA GROUP TOUR NOV 2025

Italy Highlights

Beyond Paul



ASSISI

THE LEGACY OF ST. FRANCIS



- St. Francis of Assisi (1181–1226) was known for his humility, devotion, and care for creation.
- Founded the Franciscan order, emphasizing poverty, simplicity, and service.
- The Basilica of St. Francis houses stunning frescoes by Giotto depicting his life.

FLORENCE

The Cradle of the Renaissance

- Florence was the center of the Renaissance, where faith, art, and intellect flourished.
- Key sites:
 - The Duomo (Florence Cathedral) – A masterpiece of Gothic and Renaissance architecture.
 - Michelangelo's David – A symbol of strength, beauty, and biblical inspiration.
 - Uffizi Gallery – Home to world-famous religious paintings.



PISA



The Iconic Leaning Tower

- Pisa's **Leaning Tower** (built 12th century) symbolizes architectural wonder.
- The **Piazza dei Miracoli** (Square of Miracles) includes:
 - The **Cathedral of Pisa**
 - The **Baptistry** (renowned for acoustics and sacred music).

VERONA



A City of Romance and History

Verona is known for its rich Roman and medieval history.

- Key highlights:
 - The Arena of Verona – A remarkably preserved Roman amphitheater.
 - Juliet's Balcony – Inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.
 - Verona Cathedral (Duomo di Verona) – A stunning example of Romanesque architecture.

VENICE

Beauty, Faith, and History

Venice is a city of canals, cathedrals, and cultural depth.

- Key highlights:
 - St. Mark's Basilica — A stunning example of Byzantine architecture.
 - Grand Canal & Gondolas — A unique and timeless experience.
 - Murano glassmaking — A tradition passed down for centuries.



ITINERARY TOP SITES INCLUDED



ROME AND FLORENCE

- Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel
- St. Peter's Basilica Holy Door
- Major basilicas: St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls
- Catacombs of San Sebastiano & San Callisto
- Colosseum and Forum
- Florence's L'Accademia Gallery
- Orientation tour of Florence



OTHER CITIES

Pisa: Cathedral & Baptistry

Verona: Arena, Piazza delle Erbe, Juliet's House

Venice: Doge's Palace, Basilica di San Marco (external), Gondola Ride, Correr Museum

FREE TIME OPTIONS



ROME AND FLORENCE

- [Rome's Pantheon](#)
- Florence's [Uffizi Gallery](#)
- Florence's [Mercato Centrale](#)
- Florence's [Santa Croce Interior](#)



OTHER CITIES

- Pisa: [Leaning Tower Climb](#)
- Verona: [Juliet's Tower Interior](#)
- Verona: [Arena di Verona interior](#)
- Venice: [St. Mark's Basilica interior](#)
- Venice's [Secret Itineraries Tour](#)
- Venice's [Murano and Burano boat trip](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does art and architecture inspire worship?
- Which city are you most excited to experience?
- What aspects of faith do these places reflect?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION



GOD'S PRESENCE IN CREATIVITY

Italy's spiritual and artistic heritage reminds us of God's presence in creativity.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Challenge:

How can we cultivate beauty, service, and faithfulness in our own lives?



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Q & A TIME

<https://bcachurch.com/walking-in-the-footsteps-of-the-apostle-paul/>