

## Family Formation Home Lesson



# The Bible: Our Book of Faith

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Week of October 11, 2015

### **MEMORIZE:**

**Grades K-3:** "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching." 2 Timothy 3:16

**Grades 4-6:** "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **MONTH OUTLINE:**

Lesson 1: The Bible: Our Book of Faith

Lesson 2: 2 Timothy 3:16

Lesson 3: The Four Evangelists

### **FOCUS:**

The Bible is a book written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, but God Himself is the true Author.

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

Bibles, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, scissors, glue, colored pencils, markers, or crayons

### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN:**

Light a candle as a reminder that Jesus is there with you. Begin your time with prayer, thanking God for the incredible gift of His Word, and ask Him to bless your lesson time.

### **BRIGHT IDEA:**

Here are some suggestions for special ways you can take part in this lesson:



\*Collect all the Bibles you have in your home, including picture Bibles.

\*Set an example for your family, and create enthusiasm by memorizing the books of the Bible with them.

\*Lead the opening prayer.

### **What are the Bible's Origins?**

Originally, the Old Testament was written almost entirely in Hebrew. Parts of Daniel, Ezra, Jeremiah, Esther, Tobias, Judith, and the Gospel of Saint Matthew were written in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus. The book of Wisdom, 2 Maccabees, and the rest of the New Testament were originally written in Greek.

The Bible, as we know it today, is divided into chapters and verses. The chapter divisions were made by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1228, and the verse divisions were made by a printer in Paris in 1551.

For centuries, the Bible has been translated from its original languages to the languages of the people. Two translations are especially important: the Septuagint and the Vulgate. The Septuagint translation of the Old Testament was made in the third century B.C. to teach Greek Jews living in Alexandria, Egypt. This version gave many Greek-speaking people a knowledge of God and, in this way, prepared them for the preaching of the Gospel. The Vulgate (Latin for "disseminated") was a Latin version of the New and Old Testaments made by Saint Jerome in the fourth century. At the time, there were several Latin versions of the Bible in use, but because they were unsatisfactory, Pope Damasus asked Jerome to begin work on a revision. Eventually, the Vulgate became the only Latin version of the Bible used in the Western Church. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) declared the Vulgate to be the official version and the one to be used in public.

### ***The Interpretation of the Heritage of Faith***

*"The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ."<sup>47</sup> This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 85*

47 DV 10 § 2.

You can learn more about Sacred Scripture in CCC 101-141.



## Quiz Answers

### Younger Saints

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. a
6. c

### Older Saints

1. There are 46 books in the Old Testament.
2. There are 27 books in the New Testament.
3. b
4. c
5. b
6. a
7. a
8. b
9. a
10. Both a and b are correct.



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### MISSION:

*Family Formation* is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost educators of their children"\* and to help families grow in the transforming love of God by understanding and living the Catholic Faith.

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\*Gravissimum Educationis, 3

# THE BIBLE: OUR BOOK OF FAITH

LITURGICAL CONNECTION: "... the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart." Hebrews 4:12



When you look at the outside of the Bible, you may think you see a book, but what you really see is a whole library! In fact, the word Bible comes from a Greek word that means "the books." Open your Bible and look inside to see the titles of some of these books. [See *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* 134.]

There are 73 books in a Bible; 46 of them were written before the time of Jesus, and the other 27 were written after the time of Jesus. It took about 1,600 years and over 40 men who lived in different parts of the world to write all the books, but when you read them, you will see that they all tell parts of the same story! (See CCC 120, 134, 138.)

## How can that be?

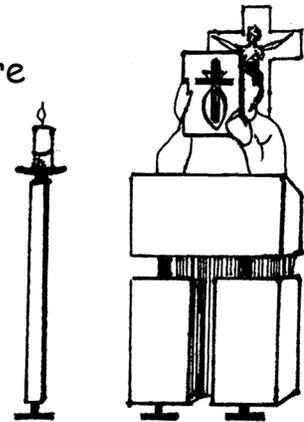
How can a book make sense when it has many different authors who have never even met each other? The answer is easy, once you know that they all had a secret Helper.

## Can you guess Who it is?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that God is the author of Sacred Scripture. God, the Holy Spirit, was the secret Helper Who worked in the lives of these very holy men. They wrote the words that we read in the Bible under His direction. This is called "*inspiration.*" (See CCC 105.) Each human author used his own writing

style and language, but their minds and hearts were so full of the Holy Spirit that He was able to use them to do this job.

God made sure that all of the ideas He wanted them to write about were written, with nothing extra added. (See CCC 136.)



We remember this at every Mass, after the reading of the Bible, when the lector says, "The Word of the Lord," and we all reply, "Thanks be to God."

## Bible Basics

PARENTS: You may want to have your saints do the activity on Page 4 while you are reading about the parts of the Bible in this section.

The Bible is the true story of God's relationship with His people. It is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament, which tells us about life before Jesus was born; and the New Testament, which tells us about the life of Jesus and the beginnings of His Church.

## The Old Testament



In the first five books of the Old Testament, we can read about creation and about how sin began in the world. We can read that God chose a group of people to be an example of His love and holiness to the whole world. The rules that God gave to the Israelites to live by are written down in these books. *Genesis*, *Exodus*, *Leviticus*, *Numbers*, and *Deuteronomy* are called the

books of the Law. They are also called the Pentateuch, from the Greek words for "five books."



The next group of books tells us the history of the Israelite people. The good and the bad things they did are written down in these books for us to learn from. Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, and 1 and 2 Maccabees are called the books of History.

After the books of history, you will find the books of Wisdom. These books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, and Sirach, are some of the best-loved in the Old Testament. Many of the songs that are sung at Mass come from the poetry of the Psalms.

The last group of books in the Old Testament is the Prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, and Daniel are called *major* prophets, not because their works are greater than the minor prophets, but simply because their books are longer in length. The *minor* prophets, whose books are shorter, are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The prophets were all holy men that God sent as messengers and teachers to the people of Israel. Some of the messages were warnings for the people to change their sinful ways, and some were messages of good news that told about the Messiah to come. (See CCC 122.)

# The New Testament

The New Testament begins by telling the historical facts of Jesus' life and the beginnings of the Christian Church. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the book of Acts are the New Testament books of History.

The next group of books we will find are the Epistles. "Epistle" is a very old word that means a letter meant to be read to a large group of people. Most of the Epistles (14 of the 21) were written by Saint Paul.

The last book in the Bible, Revelation, is a Prophetic book. In it, we can read about a vision that God gave to the Apostle John. It tells us about the final battles of good versus evil. In it, we learn the good news that God will be victorious over all evil!



## **ACTIVITY:** The Bible is God's Library

### **Objective:**

To familiarize your saints with the major divisions of Sacred Scripture (Old and New Testaments) and with the different types of books contained within each division.

### **Materials Needed:**

- ⇒ "Books of the Bible" (provided)
- ⇒ "God's Library" (provided)
- ⇒ scissors
- ⇒ glue
- ⇒ colored pencils, markers, or crayons

### **Instructions:**

Color the books of the Bible. Cut out each *group* of books (not each individual book) around the outline, and glue them in the correct place on the "God's Library" page. This project can be done while you read the "Bible Basics" section of this lesson as a hands-on reinforcement for the lesson, or it can be completed as a quiz after reading the lesson.

# Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition

*for older saints*  
(See CCC 97.)

Many of the things that Jesus did and taught are written in the Bible, but if everything about our Lord was written, it would fill many, many books. Saint John tells us that Jesus did many things that were not written about. (See John 20:30.) Were the other things about Our Lord unimportant? **NO!** How could anything about Jesus be considered unimportant?

Actually, the Church has always believed that there are two sources that work together to teach the truths that God has revealed to us. The one that we are studying this month is **Sacred Scripture**. In the Bible, we have the truths of God written down for anyone to read and learn from. (See CCC 80-81.)

There is another source that God has provided to teach us those truths of the Faith that are not written about, and this is called **Sacred Tradition**. Tradition refers to things passed on from one generation to the next by telling or doing. In the early Church, no one had a Bible to read. Sacred Tradition began with the teachings of Jesus and includes the teachings of the 21 ecumenical councils of the Church and the teachings of the Church Fathers.

When the apostles taught, they did not hand out copies of the New Testament—they told people about Jesus. It was many years before any of them wrote about Jesus, and when they did write, they only told a part of the whole story. The Bible itself is Tradition that has been written down.

According to Catholic teaching, Scripture and Tradition are the two ways that the Church hands on the Gospel. Together, Sacred

Scripture and Sacred Tradition are known as the *Deposit of Faith*. Both are the Word of God and must never contradict each other. (See CCC 81-82.) The Church can never teach something that is not in at least one of these sources, and both deserve the same reverence and respect. In many ways, they fit together. Tradition can tell us about a truth of our faith that is not written about in Scripture, or it can explain something in Scripture so it is clear to us. Tradition is also the way through which the Holy Spirit teaches the Church to pray. (See CCC 2661.) In this way, Tradition always complements the Bible.

Saint Peter, talking about the writings of Saint Paul warns us:



*"In them there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures."*

*2 Peter 3:16*

Fortunately, we have the infallible authority of God's Church to help us understand what the Scriptures mean. This is one of the reasons why it is important to read a Bible that is approved by the Catholic Church.

Giving credibility to Sacred Tradition is one way that the Catholic Church differs from Protestant churches. Most Protestant churches claim that God's complete revelation is contained in the Bible and that there is no one on earth who has the ultimate authority to interpret Scripture.

# What Did You Learn About The Bible: Our Book of Faith?

for younger saints

1. How many books are in the Bible?
  - a. 66
  - b. 73
  - c. 2
  
2. What are the two main parts of the Bible?
  - a. the Gospels and the Epistles
  - b. the Bible and the Scriptures
  - c. the Old Testament and the New Testament
  
3. Where in the Bible can we read about what Jesus said and did?
  - a. the Old Testament
  - b. the Gospels
  - c. the Pentateuch
  
4. Who is the "Helper" of all the men who wrote the Bible?
  - a. the Holy Spirit
  - b. the computer
  - c. the president
  
5. Which part of the Bible was written first?
  - a. the Old Testament
  - b. the New Testament
  
6. Who is the true author of Scripture?
  - a. Moses
  - b. Saint Peter
  - c. God

# What Did You Learn About The Bible: Our Book of Faith?

for older saints

1. How many books are in the Old Testament?
2. How many books are in the New Testament?
3. Where in the Bible can we read the words of Jesus?
  - a. in the books of Wisdom
  - b. in the Gospels
  - c. in the books of the Prophets
4. What are the two sources that we have for learning the truths that God has revealed to us?
  - a. the priest and our parents
  - b. stories and songs
  - c. Scripture and Tradition

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Where can you find the following books?

5. The Gospels
  - a. in the Old Testament
  - b. in the New Testament
6. The Pentateuch
  - a. in the Old Testament
  - b. in the New Testament
7. The Prophets
  - a. in the Old Testament
  - b. in the New Testament
8. The Epistles
  - a. in the Old Testament
  - b. in the New Testament
9. The books of Wisdom
  - a. in the Old Testament
  - b. in the New Testament
10. The books of History
  - a. in the Old Testament
  - b. in the New Testament