

St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)
Week 1 Lesson Plan
(Home Study Version)



Bible Literacy Lesson

Essential Question ("EQ"): *Why and how do Catholics read the Bible?*

PARENT CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Establish a dedicated time and comfortable learning space for your family discovery session.
- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a special corner of your home. Keep your family Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks.
- Prepare your adult heart and mind ahead of the lesson by watching [WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE](#) by Fr. Mike Schmitz. Also, be sure **you understand why the Catholic Canon of the Bible is different from that of our Protestant brothers and sisters**. Contrary to some Protestant teaching, Catholics *did not add* books to the Bible, but rather *Martin Luther removed* them from the Protestant Canon at the time of the Reformation. For more on this subject, check out [THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON](#) or [WHY DO CATHOLICS HAVE 7 MORE BOOKS IN THEIR BIBLE?](#)
- The goal of this lesson is for your learners to understand what the Bible is and to practice how to navigate through and read it. Review the [CATHOLIC LEADER'S BIBLE GUIDE](#) for tips on understanding why this is important to us as Catholic Christians. Other helpful resources include: [NAVIGATING THE BIBLE](#), [HOW TO TEACH SCRIPTURE TO CHILDREN](#) and [10 REASONS WHY KIDS SHOULD READ THE BIBLE](#).
- Reflect upon a favorite Bible passage that you would like to share with your children and why it is important to you, or consider any one of the following:
[GENESIS 9: 8-17](#), [ISAIAH 41:10](#), [JEREMIAH 29:11](#), [JOHN 16:33](#), [PHILIPPIANS 4:6-9](#)

Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:

- A *Catholic* family or children’s Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the [ST. MARY’S PRESS CHILDREN’S BIBLE](#), but any Catholic children’s or family Bible will suffice.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed
- (*Optional*): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson



OPENING PRAYER

Begin your discovery session today with your child or children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#) or sing [I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS](#) together. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

ENGAGE

(Mental warm-up)

Say, “Today, we are going to learn about the Holy Bible, which is God’s inspired Word. I want to begin by sharing with you one of my favorite scripture passages from the Bible...” (*Read your favorite passage from the Bible and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage*)

EXPLORE

(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Hold up your Bible and Ask/Discuss, “What do you know about this Sacred book, the Holy Bible, the Word of God?”

- ❖ As your child or children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your discovery space. (For younger children, you may act as the ‘scribe’). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what your child or children already know or don’t know. This will be helpful as you move along in your lessons.
 - ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion use some of the following questions: What is the Bible? Who wrote it? What’s in this book – who is it about? What does the Bible tell us? How is the Bible organized/divided? When do you see and/or hear people reading in it or from this book? Why is this book important for us who believe in God? How do we treat the Bible? *Plus, any others you can think of...*
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[EQ “Essential Question”](#)

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for your child or children – i.e., it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented)

Share and post a physical representation of the lesson’s EQ in your study space:

[Why and how do Catholics read the Bible?](#)

[EXPLAIN](#)

(Either guided with your assistance or working independently, have your child or children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities. *Empower older children by allowing them to mentor younger siblings*):

- Kinder:** *Call to Faith*, Chapter 8: pg. 78 (*Jesus Teaches*) + Scripture Story, pgs. 109-112 (*Paul’s Message*)
- Grade 1:** *Alive in Christ*, pages K3, 4 & 5 plus Chapter 6 (*About the Bible*)
- Grade 2:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 4 & 5 plus Chapter 3 (*The Word of God*)
- Grade 3:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 4 & 5 plus Chapter 7 (*The Good News*), pages 122-123
- Grade 4:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 4 & 5 plus Chapter 1 (*God’s Providence*), page 57
- Grade 5:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 4 & 5 plus Chapter 1: pg. 54 (*God’s Plan for All Creation*); Chapter 8: pgs. 132-133 & 136 (*Proclaim the Kingdom*) and Chapter 17: pgs. 236-238 (*Liturgy of the Word*)
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[EXTEND](#)

(As a family, gather back together and have each child share, in turn, what they learned about the Bible. Remember: The Bible is like a *library*. Have the children use one or two of the [BIBLE CHALLENGE WORKSHEETS](#) to practice navigating through the Bible by finding certain passages. Then, *extend the lesson by completing at least one of the activities provided below*).

Lower Elementary

- Video [JESUS HEALS THE BLIND MAN](#)
- Craft ["MY BIBLE" CRAFT DEMONSTRATION](#)
- Game [CLASSIFYING THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE GAME](#)

Upper Elementary

- Video [SKETCHY CATHOLICISM: THE BIBLE , WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM?](#) or [WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?](#)
 - [WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM?](#)
 - Craft [BIBLE BOOKMARK](#)
 - Game [BOOKS OF THE BIBLE RACE](#)
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[EVALUATE/REFLECT](#)

Restate today’s Essential Question (EQ) – *[Why and how do Catholics read the Bible?](#)*

- **Say**, “Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. What do you think it tells us about God?” (*Discuss together, affirming and reinforcing appropriate answers/teaching points*).
- **Summarize what’s been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above.**

Say, “In today’s lesson, we learned about the Bible. The Bible expresses the *Word of God* in words that humans can understand. It is one way that God reveals Himself to us. Each time we learn about Jesus and God in our coming lessons, we will read from this Holy Book which we should respect and revere. Remember also that every time we attend or watch Mass, we will hear people read or sing scripture from the Bible.”

- **Separately reflect on these questions:** What are three new things that I learned today (or were surprised) about the Bible? What do I think that others should know about the Bible and why it is important to Catholic Christians? (*After some reflection time, turn and share your answers with another family member*).

CLOSING PRAYER

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite prayer, choose one from the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#), or ask the children to offer up their [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#). Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).



BONUS (optional)

- **Focus for Listening:** Ask your child or children to listen to a verse read by you and then be ready to share what it makes them think of and see in their minds.
 - **Grades K-2:** Read [John 8:12](#) out loud and prompt your child to share what they think of or see in their minds when they hear the reading; then, flip the room’s light switch on and off several times – What’s the difference between the light being on and the light being off? Encourage responses. Answer: The Bible tells us that Jesus is the light of the world and that if we love and follow him we will never be alone in the darkness. Have your child share what they think about this...
 - **Grades 3-5:** Read [John 14:1-6](#) out loud and prompt your child to share what they understand from the passage AND what questions about it they still have. Reread the verse and have your child share their ideas and ask questions. Optional: Ask your child to explain “Jesus is the WAY”, “Jesus is the TRUTH,” “Jesus is the LIFE” – Remember, this lesson occurs at the beginning of the year and informs you of your child’s understanding at this time.
- **Saint of the Week:** Saint Jerome is a Doctor of the Church and known as the Patron Saint of Librarians and Translators. Research the life of Saint Jerome or watch [SAINT JEROME](#). Why do you think he is known for saying, “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ” and what does that mean to you?

Want to extend your family's formation about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Parent Catechist's discretion, if desired: **

- **Parent Preparation Videos/Resources:** [WHY CATHOLICS USE SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION](#), [WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE](#), [HOW TO READ THE BIBLE BY BISHOP BARRON](#), [WHY DO CATHOLICS HAVE 7 MORE BOOKS IN THEIR BIBLE?](#), [BOOKS OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLE](#), [CATHOLIC ANSWERS](#), [DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION ON DIVINE REVELATION](#), [WHY DO CATHOLICS HAVE A DIFFERENT BIBLE THAN PROTESTANTS?](#)
- **Lesson Plans:** [BOOKS OF THE BIBLE](#), [LEARNING THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE](#), [WHAT IS THE BIBLE?](#), [NEW TESTAMENT](#), [OLD TESTAMENT RESOURCES](#)
- **Videos:** [CATHOLIC KIDS MEDIA: THE BIG BIBLE STORY!](#), [CATHOLIC BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SONG](#), [BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SONG](#), [GOD'S STORY: THE BIBLE](#), [THE BIBLE: CATHOLIC CENTRAL](#), [FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE](#), [10 BIBLE VERSES EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW](#), [HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE?](#), [WHY DOES THE CATHOLIC BIBLE HAVE MORE BOOKS?](#), [HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE AS A CATHOLIC](#), [WHAT IS THE BIBLE?](#), [WHAT IS THE BIBLE ALL ABOUT?](#), [HOW IS THE BIBLE DIVINELY INSPIRED?](#), [WHAT IS DIVINE REVELATION?](#), [HOW TO READ THE BIBLE BASICS](#), [WHY THE BIBLE IS ACTUALLY A CATHOLIC BOOK](#), [HOW DO YOU PRAY WITH THE BIBLE?](#)
- **Games/Activities/Crafts:** [CATHOLIC ICING](#), [CATHOLIC BOOKS OF THE BIBLE GAME](#), [BOOKS OF THE BIBLE RACE](#), [BEST BIBLE CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES](#), [BIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS](#), [BIBLE DETECTIVE](#), [BOOKS OF THE BIBLE FLASH CARDS](#), [GOSPELS HANDPRINT CRAFT](#), [BOOKS OF BIBLE ACTIVITIES](#), [LOOK TO HIM & BE RADIANT](#), [CLASSIFYING THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE GAME](#)

**** Don't forget to adapt any craft, game or activity to correspond with the Catholic Canon for the Books of the Bible (i.e., 73 rather than 66 Books, the difference being 7 books in the Old Testament)**

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