

Learning About the Bible

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Learning about the Bible* to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

The Bible, also called Sacred Scripture (or simply Scripture), is the written record of God's loving action in the world. Its divine author is God himself—as well as the many human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to use their own words and expressions in sharing God's revelation and truth. Thus we say that the Bible is the Word of God. As Christians, we believe that the living reality of the Word of God is Jesus Christ.

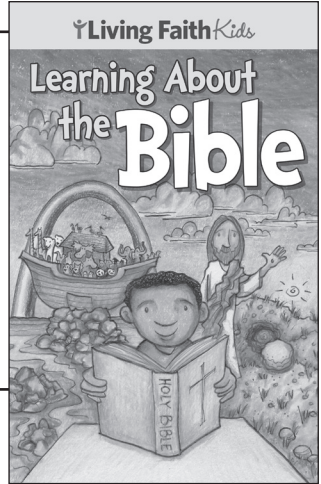
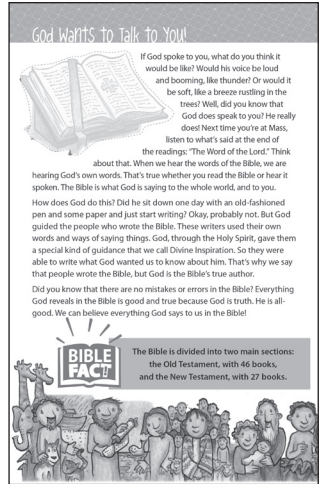
The Church teaches that Scripture should be frequently read, prayed, studied, taught and lived. While children may not be able to grasp all of its theological and moral depths, we can help them make Bible connections to their own lives and prayer (especially to our greatest prayer, the celebration of the Eucharist), so that throughout their lives, they can grow in appreciation for the Bible as an experience of a living, loving God, present and active in our own world.

Opening Prayer

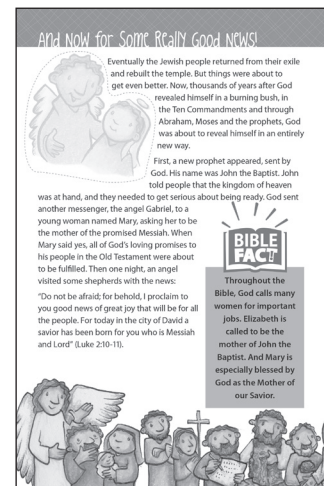
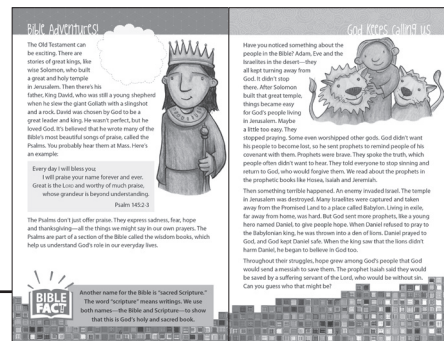
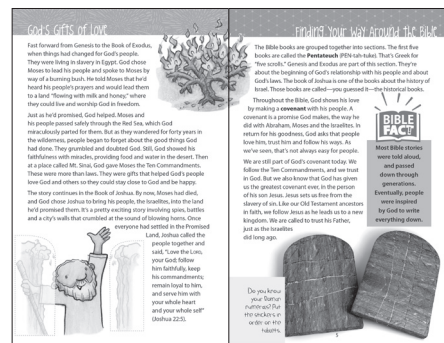
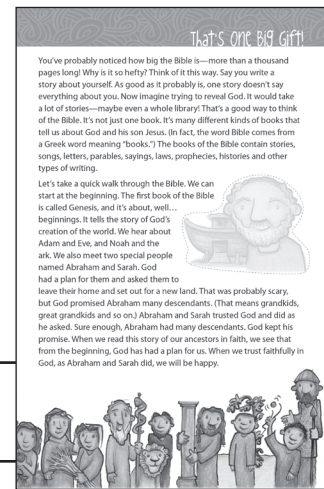
Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Loving God, you give us many ways to know you better. Help us each time we read the Bible to grow in love for you and for all of your children. Amen.

Teaching Steps

Page(s)		
COVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Say, <i>We will be learning about the Bible, and how it is one of God's greatest gifts to us. Even though the stories in the Bible are from long ago, God still speaks to us today through the Bible.</i> Discuss the art. Point out how the child is reading the Bible and also part of the entire picture. Invite the children to share what they know about the pictures. (Noah's ark and the risen Jesus) 	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud the head and first three sentences. Pause to allow the children to share what they think God's voice would be like. Finish reading the paragraph. Ask, <i>Where is one place we can go to hear God speaking to us through Scripture?</i> (The Mass) Ask, <i>What are the words said at the end of the readings we hear at Mass?</i> (The Word of the Lord.) Read the next paragraph. Point out the word <i>Divine Inspiration</i>. Ask, <i>Who inspired the people who wrote the Bible?</i> (The Holy Spirit) Read the remaining text and Bible Fact. Ask, <i>Why do you think the Bible is the most widely read book ever?</i> If you have access to Bibles, invite the children to briefly explore them. Invite observations. Look at the picture together. Ask, <i>Can you tell who any of these people are?</i> As you meet some of them on the following pages, encourage the children to find them here. (From left: Noah, Isaiah, Jonah, Joseph and his brothers, Sarah and Abraham, Adam and Eve, Naomi and Ruth, Moses, Daniel, Lot, Elijah, and David) 	

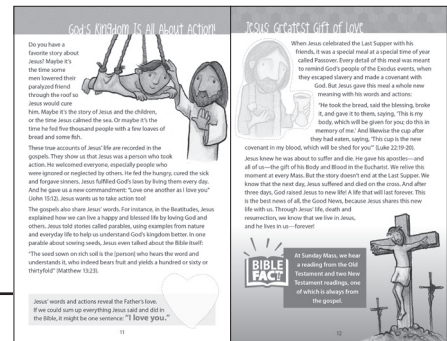
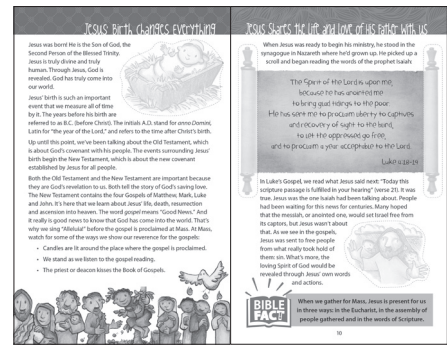
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the head and the first paragraph. Ask, <i>How would you tell someone about you? With a story, song, picture, or something else?</i> Ask, <i>What are some things found in the Bible books? (Stories, songs, letters, parables, sayings, laws, etc.)</i> • Read the remaining text. If you have access to Bibles, help the children find the Book of Genesis. Read Genesis 1:1-5 aloud. Invite the children to briefly explore the chapters and search for the names: Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah.
4 through 7	<p>For each page from 4 through 7 follow these steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud the text and Bible Facts as children follow along in their booklets. Pause after key Biblical terms, phrases, people, or places. Repeat them, and ask the children to underline them in their booklets. Have the children underline no more than five terms or phrases per page, focusing on faith words and core concepts. • Discuss. After each paragraph, ask clarifying questions such as: <i>Why wasn't it easy for people to keep God's covenant? Why did God send prophets to his people?</i> • Look deeper. If you have access to Bibles, show the children how to find some of the stories highlighted on pages 4-7 and read them together, for example: Exodus 3:1-6; Joshua 6:1-20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; or Daniel 6:5-24.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud the head and first paragraph. Ask, <i>Can you guess what God has planned?</i> • Read the remaining text. Ask, <i>Who was the new prophet God sent?</i> (John the Baptist) Ask, <i>What did Mary say to the angel?</i> (Mary said yes to being the mother of the promised Messiah.) • Look at the picture together. Ask, <i>Can you tell who any of these people are?</i> As you meet some of them on the following pages, encourage the children to find them here. (From left: Gabriel, Zechariah and Elizabeth, followers of Jesus, Luke the Evangelist, John the Baptist, Peter, Jesus, Mary and Joseph (with baby Jesus), Stephen, Zacchaeus, the Woman at the Well, and the disciples at Pentecost with the Holy Spirit.)



**9
through
14**

For each page from 9 through 14, follow these steps:

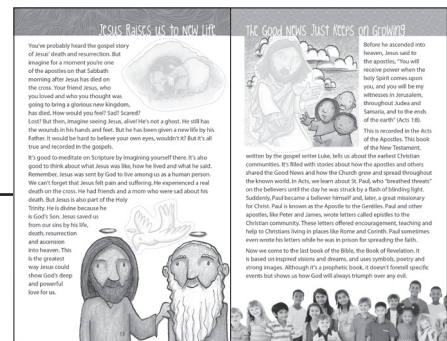
- **Read aloud the text and Bible Facts as children follow along in their booklets.** Pause after key Biblical terms, phrases, people, or places. Repeat them, and ask the children to underline them in their booklets. Have the children underline no more than five terms or phrases per page, focusing on faith words and core concepts.
- **Discuss.** After each paragraph, ask clarifying questions such as: *How do we show that Jesus' birth is important? Why do we sing "Alleluia" before the Gospel at Mass?*
- **Look deeper.** If you have access to Bibles, show the children how to find some of the stories highlighted on pages 9-14 and read them together, for example: Matthew 5:1-12; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 8:22-25; John 19:25-30; John 20:1-18; Acts 1:6-11; Ephesians 1:1-6.



15

Read aloud the text and Bible Fact.

- **Have the children look at the picture on pages 14-15.** Invite them to compare it to the pictures of the Bible people on previous pages. Ask, *Thinking about this picture, what does it mean that the Bible is a living book with meaning for us today?*

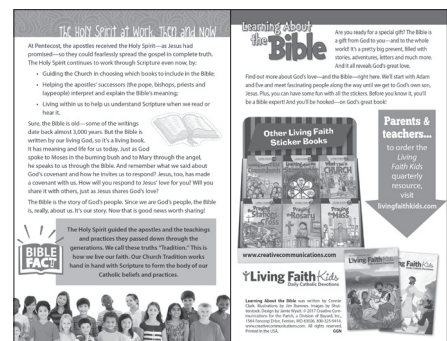


Closing Prayer

Lead the children in prayer. Close with "Amen. Alleluia."

After the prayer, have the children find and paste the last sticker.

Jesus, help me find quiet time each day to read and pray the Bible. Show me how to share your Good News and live your Holy Word every day of my life. Amen.



Living Faith Kids

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