

Fifth Grade: Lesson 4: Praying with the Bible

Lesson Objective:

This lesson helps the children become more familiar with the Bible.

Understanding the structure of the Bible will help them look up passages for the subsequent lessons on the sacraments. Children should be reminded that God speaks to us through the Bible. He reveals His plan of salvation and He also speaks to us in a personal way through lectio Divina. Catechists should encourage children to pray with the Bible daily so that they can be immersed in God's love and truth and nurture their relationship with Him.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss that “God is the author of Sacred Scripture because He inspired its human authors” (CCC136).3-5
- Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer, as God speaks to us through the Bible.
- Categorize the books of the Bible as 46 books in the Old Testament (Law, History, Wisdom, Prophets) and 27 books in the New Testament.
- Find Scripture passages and reference them by citing book, chapter, and verse.
- Understand that lectio Divina on Sacred Scripture is a way that God can speak into his/her heart.
- Maintain a plan for personal daily prayer.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, pencils, crayons,
- Copies Needed: true/false activity (if choosing to do it), Copies of the activities you are choosing to do; the game will need to be prepared ahead of time.

As Students Enter Class:

- Have the students work on the True/False activity. They can work alone or with partners. Do NOT let them use a Bible; just their brains. The purpose of this activity (called an Anticipatory Set) is to get students thinking about the Bible, the different books that are in the Bible, and where they are located.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to gather around your prayer space. Pull a student's name from a small basket or bag and ask that student to select a prayer for you all to say together.
- Review the answers from the True/False activity.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Chapter 4 video	<p>This video is 2:12 in length.</p> <p>If you are not showing the video, here are the highlights:</p> <p>The Bible is the living word of God. God truly speaks to us through the stories in the Bible. God also reveals His plan of salvation for all of us. We can use the Bible for personal prayer as well. This is called Lectio Divina.</p> <p>The Bible is a library with 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. These books are ordered with</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Book Name 2) Chapter Numbers 3) Verse Numbers <p>For example, let's find Matthew 28:19-20. If you know how to find this book, you would go either to the Old Testament or the New Testament. However, if you are not sure, then look in the front of the book in the Table of Contents. There, you will see that Matthew is in the New Testament. Look for Chapter 28 and notice the chapters are larger print and often in bold print. Then you will look for verses 19-20. If you are using the Bible from St. Mary's Press, this is on page 1522.</p>
The Bible Video	<p>This video is 8:24 in length. Carla reviews the books of the Bible and their purposes and significance. She has a wooden display that</p>

See the attachments at the end of this lesson with all the names of the books in the OT and NT, for your reference.

opens up to show all the books of the Bible; the OT is in red and the NT in Green.

Highlights: The Bible is one book that contains a whole library of books on the inside. Each book is written in a different time in history with a different human author, who worked with God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to bring it about.

The Old Testament has 4 sections. It was written nearly 3,000 years ago! It is inherited from our Jewish brothers and sisters in the faith. The first 5 books are called the Pentateuch (Torah). It tells how God called them to be His people and how he entered into a covenant with them. God promised the early people: I will be your God and you will be my people. This section also tells the stories of the earliest days of their covenant relationship with God. The journeys they took and the lessons that were learned along the way.

Historical books tell the history of the people of the early Church. We read about building of temples, coming of Kings, and rising of prophets in Israel.

The Wisdom books are written by our Jewish ancestors in the faith and helps us learn what it means to live a really good life. It contains the messages they wanted to share with their children and future relatives.

The Prophetic books gives us messages about the Kingdom of God, particularly, what the Kingdom of God would look like in its fullness, especially after all of God's dreams have been realized.

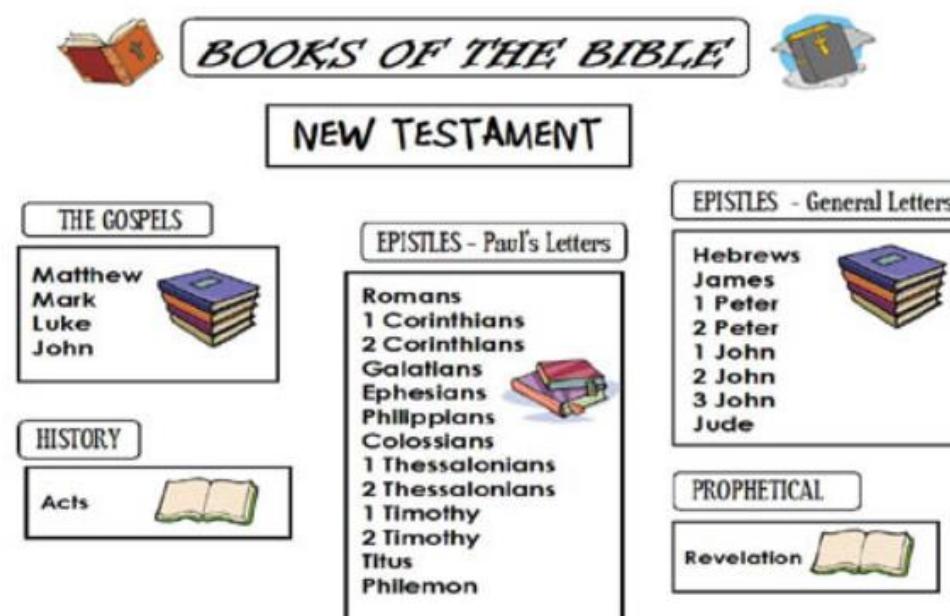
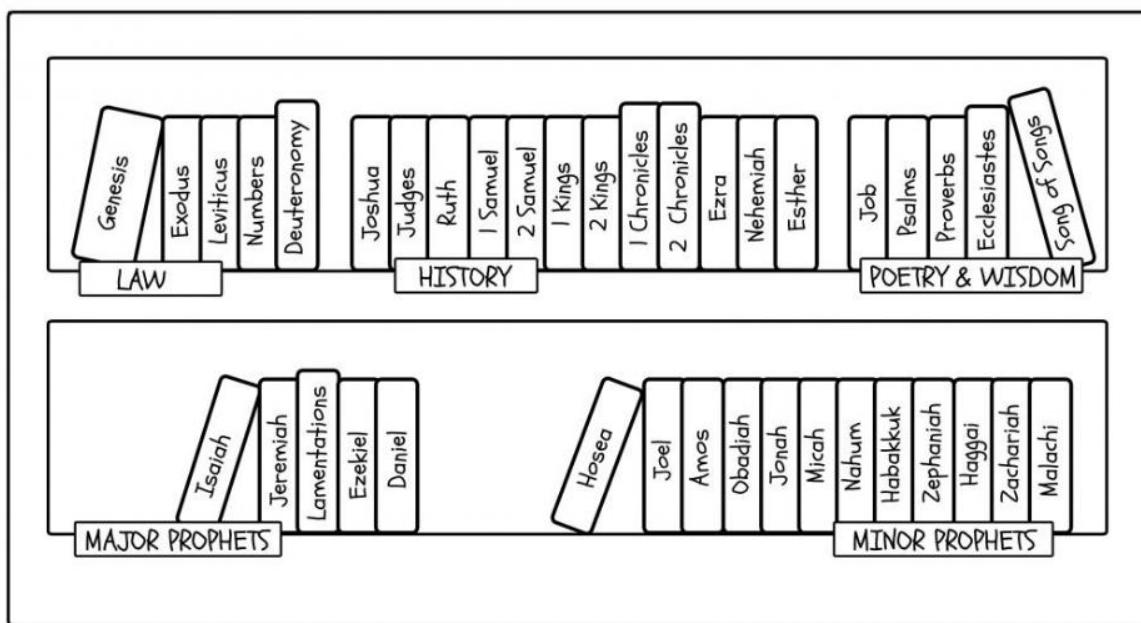
Next, Carla discusses how our Jewish brothers and sisters keep the OT books on scrolls and treat them with reverence. There are nice visuals that accompany this.

	<p>The green section is the New Testament, which is after the time of Jesus and then after his death. The New Testament is especially treasured by those of us who follow Jesus, called Christians. The New Testament has 4 sections. The 4 Gospels are foundational texts, and contain stories of how our earliest ancestors lived their faith with Jesus and what they learned and discovered along the way. There is 1 historical book called Acts, which teaches us how the earliest Christians lived the covenant with God after Jesus died on the cross.</p> <p>The Letters/Epistles share the passion, wisdom, knowledge, and advice on how to live a good life.</p> <p>There is 1 prophetic book called Revelation, which depicts, in a coded way, what the Kingdom of God will look like. It gives us a picture of Parousia, the time when Jesus returns to Earth. Our Bible is a great treasure that we all need to appreciate.</p>
The Books of the Bible Video	<p>This video is 4:03 in length. It is a hip-hop song that delineates all the books of the Bibles with a brief description of their purpose. It's a fun video.</p>
Lectio Divina Video: How to do it.	<p>This video is 2:45 in length. A young man explains what Lectio Divinia is and how we can use it in our everyday prayer life. It has good graphics that accompany each part of Lectio Divinia. The purpose is to go deeper into our prayer lives. There are 5 parts of Lectio Divinia.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lectio – read passages a few times; what stands out? 2) Meditatio – reflect; What is this passage saying to you? 3) Oratio – pray with the passage; express your thoughts to God. 4) Contemplatio – rest in God's presence.

	<p>5) Actio – take action; How is God challenging you? Is there a good thing God is calling you to do? Is there something he is asking you to stop doing?</p> <p>This is a nice video and explains the process well.</p>
Practice Lectio Divina	<p>This video is 5:38 and is very good. A Deacon narrates the video and there is a picture of a tree that lasts the entire video. The narration is very calm, clear, and prayerful. It is the next step from the previous video.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Pray to invite the Holy Spirit. Listen to scripture passage twice (1 John 4: 7-8). Take a deep breath and listen a third time as it is read slowly. Then there is a minute of silence. Followed by the last reading of scripture with an encouragement to think about what is God telling you today.</p>
Lesson 4 Reflection	<p>This video is .57 in length. Remind students that when we hold the Bible in our hands, we are reading the Divinely inspired truth from God. Even though it was written thousands of years ago, the Bible is still the living word of God. Lectio Divina is a time of quiet reading and reflection on the word of God. We are not just reading the Bible, but reading and thinking about the meaning of the words and asking God to open our hearts to hear His word and take it to heart, which helps us grow in His love.</p>
Activities	<p>There are several activities for today's lesson. The coloring of the books of the Bible may be too young for 5th grade. It is a good handout that can be reviewed with your students.</p> <p>Draw a picture of the Bible being breathed into existence by the Holy Spirit.</p>

	<p>Try Lectio Divina with the traditional Catholic prayers using the handout.</p> <p>Play the Books of the Bible game.</p>
Closing Activity and Prayer	<p>Ask students what stood out to them today? How did God speak to them during class today?</p> <p>Invite students to the prayer space and end class with a prayer of thanksgiving. Invite students to share something they are thankful for, based on today's learning.</p>

The Old Testament



Books of the Bible

Beginning of Class Activity

Directions: Read each sentence and decide if it is True or False. Do not look in a Bible for answers. Just use your own knowledge!

1. The Book of Revelations is the first book in the Bible. _____
2. The first 5 books in the Bible are known as The Torah. _____
3. The Bible is divided into two sections, The Old Testament and The New Testament. _____
4. The Old Testament tells us all about the life of Jesus. _____
5. The book of Mark is found in the New Testament and is one of the Gospels. _____
6. The book of Psalms is found in the Old Testament. _____
7. The Letters or Epistles are found in the New Testament. _____
8. The book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible. _____
9. The Bible is really old and doesn't apply to today's world. _____
10. The Bible is the living word of God. _____

Answer Key:

1. False
2. True (also called the Pentateuch)
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. Ture
9. False
10. True