

Year 1 – Session # 2
Family Faith Formation
“Bible in a Nutshell”
(Scripture)

Resource for Adults

- The Bible Blueprint, Joe Paprocki; please use the New American Bible; recommended Bible for children/families is from St. Mary’s Press; ask each family to bring a Bible and have extras on hand

Objectives for Adults:

- Introduce what the Bible is, how it is structured, and what it contains
- Foster ease and comfort in reading, hearing, and applying God’s Word in their lives

Objectives for Children:

- Teach how and why the Bible is God’s library and how to “use” that library
- Foster confidence and interest in exploring the Bible

Objectives for Family:

- Provide the necessary tools for families to explore and read the Bible together
 - Teach that God’s word can be applied to each family’s modern life
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Welcome / Introduce Theme: (5 min.) Families begin together

Welcome to all of you! Today we will take a field trip into God’s Library...the Bible! We will explore what the Bible is, what it contains, and how we can read it in a way that lets us know God’s messages to us. But first, we will begin with a prayer to ask God’s blessing on our gathering today.

Opening Prayer (10 min.)

Sign of the Cross

Scripture Reading: Let us hear what St. Paul says tells us about “good news” and where it comes from.

A reading from St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians 1:11-12

“I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.” **The Word of the Lord.**

All Respond: Thanks be to God.

Sharing

Gospel means “good news” and St. Paul tells us that Jesus himself teaches us ways to really love God with our whole heart. The Bible helps us to learn those ways. Ask these 2 questions and use 5-6 shared examples from the group. What is good news to you? What is an example of good news in the Bible?

Glory Be . . .

*Children are dismissed to their session.

Parents/Adult Presentation (30 – 40 min.)

If anyone wants a copy of this Power Point presentation, please contact Judy at judy.michaud@portlanddiocese.org.

These notes accompany the power point presentation of 34 slides.

Slide #s and descriptions:

1. Title – Bible in a Nutshell (this is an introduction to the Bible)
2. Blueprint for...
3. Blueprint for Salvation (God has a plan for us!!)
4. Bibliophobia!! (What are our fears or reservations about reading the Bible? Let people share their thoughts here!)
5. Revelation – from Latin root meaning “unveiling” (God unveils/reveals Himself to us...slowly...in His time...a bit at a time...His greatest revelation was Jesus because Jesus reveals who God is!)
6. Stacks of Books (The Bible is a collection of 73 books in all – 46 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament)
7. Oral tradition...the passing on of information or stories through word of mouth; reliable form of communication before written records were kept
8. Parchment (dried animal skin)
9. Papyrus (dried stems of water plants...not so gross!) Now show the printed Bible to illustrate how far we have come!
10. Bible Timeline
11. Lands of the Bible
12. What were/are the languages of the Bible? Hebrew (the language of prayer for the Israelites)
13. Aramaic (ancient language that Jesus would have spoken with his friends...local language)
14. Greek (the worldly language of the time, for trade, commerce, travel, culture; Jesus know some)
15. Latin (Roman Empire influence)
16. French
17. Anglo-Saxon (English now...but 50 % of our modern English language comes from Greek and Latin!!!)

18. 1 Pt 2:1-4...What does THIS mean? This helps us find Bible verses. Citations always use the same format, no matter what Bible translation or edition we use. Here is an example: New Testament, First Letter of Peter, Chapter 2, verses 1-4.
19. IS 42: 5-10.....HG 2:6-11.....Mk 9: 8-15 (look them up!)
20. Old Testament & New Testament
21. God's Library (indicate the OT and NT books)
22. CDs and Sadducees: footnotes & Cross References in the Bible...enormous change over 30 years...no wonder parts of the bible seem unfamiliar; but we know the bible is for us, our story, it speaks to us today...to you and me!; explanations are found right in the Bible in the form of footnotes and cross-references
23. Treasure...to be found under centuries of dirt! The footnotes help us clear away the dirt, signs of time, to make it real for us today and to impact our daily living.
24. The Greatest Commandment & the Good Samaritan passage in Luke's Gospel, chapter 10... a familiar story which teaches about God's love for all. Point out the "w"(cross-reference) and the asterisk (footnote) on this slide.
25. The Greatest Commandment & the Good Samaritan Footnotes & Cross-References (cf)
26. The Good Samaritan art piece...footnote for the characters in the story: the priest, Levite, Samaritan: another level of meaning to the parable
27. Numbers: people, places, things change over time; it's nice to know some things, like numbers, stay the same; 3 has always and still does come after 2!!
28. **40**...200x in the bible, that's a clue, a symbol – significant period of time during which faithfulness may be tested – indicate the examples on the slide
29. **3**...God saves on the third day; examples are: Abraham & Isaac; Paul regains his sight, Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple, Jesus feeds the crowd; **7**...symbol for fullness, perfection, more than enough; examples are: day of rest, forgiveness, # of churches cited in Revelation, sacraments, etc.
30. Symbols...what are they? TRUTH VS. FACT (see Ch. 6 of Poprocki's book). We need to know WHEN symbolic language is used in the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true but not necessarily fact. To illustrate this point, read out loud the story on pg. 61. Today, in our society, myth is seen as a lie but in other cultures, especially a long time ago, it was sometimes a way of understanding and gaining insight and knowledge even though not all the facts are evident! Examples: Noah's ark, Creation, Jonah, etc. (see Poprocki's notes, pgs. 61-66)
31. Sermon on the Mount (Gospel of Matthew)...Matthew' Jewish audience needed to know that Jesus had authority...so he is portrayed in this Gospel as a stunning figure on the mountain!
32. Sermon on the Plain (Gospel of Luke)...Luke's Gentile (non-Jewish) audience needed to know that Jesus came for all, not only the Jewish people...so Jesus is portrayed as someone they could approach, someone on the same "plain" as them who could understand and love them!
33. Jesus' tomb...was it light? In Mark's Gospel, the women come to the tomb very early in the day when the sun had risen.

34. Or...was it dark? In his Gospel, John describes the women as arriving at the tomb, early in the morning when it was still dark, because if it had already been light, he could not have stressed as deeply that Jesus came to bring us out of darkness and that He is the "Light of the World". Wow! That's so cool! The **truth** of the resurrection does not change but the **facts** seem a bit different in each story.

THE END of the slide presentation!

Children Presentation (30-40 min.)

Use a lesson from the children's faith formation program/curriculum or adapt this lesson accordingly.

Sharing and Action Plan – Children and Parents together (15-20 min.)

- Ask the families to form small circles of chairs (3-4 kids and 3-4 adults).
- Ask them to share their thoughts, within the circle, as you ask these questions:
 - Parents, what is/was one story you love to read out loud to your child now or when she/he was younger?
 - Children, which story do you like your parents to read out loud to you now or when you were smaller?
 - Do you have a favorite Bible story?
- Time for a scripture hunt using the children's Bible!! They may remain in the circles and the adults can help the children search for passages. The facilitator will assist. This is not a race. The more they practice, the easier the hunt will get.
 - Old Testament, Esther 8:9: This is the **longest** verse in the Bible. It is part of the story of Queen Esther who saves the Jewish people from danger and death.
 - Old Testament, Genesis 7:6-7: in this 1st book of the Bible, Noah builds an ark in preparation for a great flood.
 - Old Testament, Daniel 6:23-24: Daniel is saved from the lion because of his trust in God.
 - New Testament, Letter/Epistle of Paul to the Romans 12:4-5: Paul explains that we are all the body of Christ and that we each have an important part to play in life
 - New Testament, John 11:35: In this gospel, find the **shortest** verse in the Bible.
 - New Testament, Acts of the Apostles 10:40-43: After Jesus' death and resurrection, Peter, in the name of Jesus, brings Tabitha back to life.

Make a Family Action Plan: Read a children's Bible story at bedtime.
Read a Scripture verse with grace at the evening meal.

Closing Prayer and Ritual (10-15min.)

- Explain: The Bible is full of amazing stories of God's people and we are also God's people and our faith stories are important to tell. When we read the Bible stories, we find that these people have had similar experiences as us. From the Bible stories, we can learn lessons, how to solve problems, and how to live our lives as God wishes us to. Scripture helps us to know that God loves us and understands what we are going through. This is why we read scripture. Now, let us find a very special verse:
- New Testament, Matthew 6:9-13: The disciples have asked Jesus how they should pray. Jesus teaches them and us to pray *The Lord's Prayer*. **Let us pray this together.**

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