



RCIC PROGRAMME

Unit 8 - THE HOLY BIBLE



God's Written Word

AIMS

1. To recognise the Holy Bible as the written Word of God.
2. To look more closely at the various sections of the Bible and be able to identify books in both the Old and New Testaments.
3. To understand why reading the Holy Bible is so important for Christians.



KEY WORDS

- Books
- Holy Bible
- Scriptures
- Inspired
- Revealed

INTRODUCTION

- Introduce the main theme by looking at books in general. Using Part A of the Worksheet, invite volunteers to talk about a favourite book and say why they think it is a special book.
- Move on to Part B to illustrate how as Christians we too have 'Our Special Book' (as do people of other Faiths too). Say that we call this Book the Bible or Scriptures. Have a short brainstorming session to find out what children already know about the Bible. Say that the Holy Bible should be regarded as a unique book that is so important for our Faith for a number of reasons.

RESOURCES

- Copies of the Bible
- Big poster with books of the Bible
- Worksheet 8

MAIN

- Go through the discussion points as shown in the four circles in Part B. Ensure children are clear about the main points such as:
 1. The Old and the New Testaments are the two main parts of the Bible. The former is about creation and all that happened before Jesus was born. The latter is about the life and message of Christ, and the early Church.
 2. Although so many people wrote different parts of the Bible, e.g. prophets, gospel writers, St Paul etc., God is to be regarded as the main author of the Bible as it is him who inspired all writers about the message he wanted to convey.
 3. Not everything in the Bible is 'literally' true. The Bible makes use of several genres of writing using parables, metaphors etc. What matters is that each piece of writing gives a true and faithful message from God himself.
 4. We read the Bible in order to understand what God's message for us is and then to put it into practice in our daily life.
- Introduce Part C. Show how although the Bible seem to be just one book it is made up of 73 smaller books (46 in the Old and 27 in the New Testament) Suggest that children look at the full list on copies of the Bible if available. (It may be useful also to explain that non-Catholic versions of the Bible only contain 66 books rather than 73 [only 39 in OT and same 27 in the NT]. The reason for this is that they do not regard the other 7 as inspired by God.)
- Go through the eight sections in Part C. Using the Contents page of the Bible, discuss each set of books and invite children to make brief notes about the number and the nature of books in each section.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Create a prayerful atmosphere. Place a copy of the Holy Bible in a prominent place and light a candle.
- Lead a prayer about 'Listening to God's word' and our response to it.
- Alternatively read the parable of the wise and foolish builders from Mt 7:24-27, and spend some time of reflection on it.

ACTIVITY

- Another activity that can be done in this session is to talk about the Sunday Mass Readings. One way how to do this is to give children a copy of the Sunday Mass missalette and help them locate it in the Bible. This can also be an opportunity to talk about some of the abbreviations used for names of different books.

NOTES

Also see the PowerPoint Presentation on the Holy Bible on www.sdc.me/resources.