

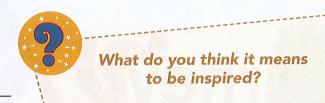
# The Bible

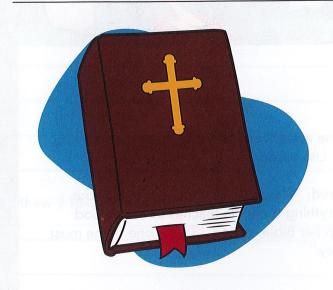
"I get that Jesus was a real person. But how do you know he actually did all those things people said he did in the Bible? Isn't the Bible just a bunch of stories?" Lisa asked.

"The Bible isn't like a history textbook," Mrs. Evans answered. "We can't flip through it to pick out certain historical facts. But it's not a storybook, either. Everything the Bible teaches us about God and about how to live our lives is truth." Mrs. Evans held up her Bible, saying, "This is one of the most important things you can take with you on your faith journey."



List two or three things you know or have heard about the Bible.





### What Is the Bible?

The **Bible** is a collection of books about God and God's people. It begins when God created the world and all living things. The Bible tells about history and travels, victory and failure. There are stories, songs, blessings, and rules. It tells us how Jesus came into our world and how God wants us to live our faith.

# Who Wrote the Bible?

It took hundreds of years and a lot of people to write the Bible we use today. But that doesn't mean the Bible is made up. The Bible is like a collection of memories people had about God, and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit they were able to share those memories with the people who would come after them.

Because all those memories came from God, and because God is Truth, we know we can trust the truths in the Bible. The Holy Spirit **inspired** the biblical authors to write down their experiences and wisdom so everyone could hear God's word.

### What's in the Bible?

There are different types of writing in the Bible: historical stories, poems, songs, and messages from God's prophets. We can't read a book of poems like a history book because they each have a different purpose. Poems use images to teach us about life or the world. History books give us facts about people, dates, and events. When we understand the kind of writing we're reading, we understand the Bible better.

The Bible has two main sections: the Old
Testament and the New Testament. The Old
Testament is about God's people before Jesus.
It tells us about God's laws, how God helped his Chosen People, and even about the coming Messiah, Jesus. The New Testament tells us about Jesus and the things he taught when he was on earth. It also tells us about the early Church.

# The Old Testament

The Old Testament took almost a thousand years to write. The first five books are called the **Pentateuch** or the **Torah**. These books explain the promises and laws between God and his people, the Israelites. God told his people he would send them a Messiah, a Savior. But the people didn't know who Jesus was. They waited, wondered, and prepared.



### The New Testament

The New Testament starts when Jesus was born. The four Gospels teach us about Jesus' life on earth. Each Gospel is a little different because different people wrote each one. Each Gospel writer wanted to share a unique picture of Jesus so we could learn more about him. When we read the Gospels we hear, in Jesus' own words, what God and heaven are like. We read about Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. We learn how to live like Jesus.

Later, some disciples wrote letters to help build the first Church. These letters are called epistles. The first Christians loved Jesus so much they were willing to die for their faith.

## How Do I Know What God Is Saying?

Sometimes the Bible might not make sense to you. Or it might seem like it doesn't have anything to do with your life. This makes it hard to believe God is speaking to you. When you read the Bible, please remember three things:

- 1. God loves you and wants to talk to you. Every story in the Bible is like a message from your best friend. God has something special and important to say just to you.
- 2. Everyone needs help reading the Bible. Listen to the people God sends to teach you, and ask all the questions you have.
- 3. Prayer can open your mind and heart to new ideas. If you're confused and no one is there to help you, just pray, "God, help me understand."

### **LOOKING UP VERSES**

Tanya raised her hand. "So we have to read the whole Old Testament before we can learn about Jesus?"

Mrs. Evans shook her head. "No. The Bible isn't like a regular book. You don't have to read it from the beginning to the end. That's why when we talk about Bible passages we say, for example, Matthew 15:10. It's like a code.

"First comes the title of the book. Then the chapter number, then a colon, and finally the verse number. Most books have numbered chapters. When you look in that chapter for the verses, you'll find tiny numbers inside the paragraphs. When you find one that matches the verse number, that's what you read. We can look up Bible passages for anything. To learn when we have a question. For help when we're scared. Or even to pray."

the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> At once [Jesus] spoke to them, "Take courage, it is 1; do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup> Peter said to him in reply. 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> Je said. 'Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> \*\* But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became fright-ened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out. "Lord, save mel" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him. 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> After say 'Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God." The Healings at Gennearted. <sup>34</sup> F After making the crossing, they came to land at Genneared. <sup>35</sup> S When the men of that place recognized him, they sent word to all the surrounding country. Seepole brought to him all those who were sick sade and begged him that they might touch only aft were healed.

CHAPTER IS

### CHAPTER 15

CHAPTER 15

The Tradition of the Elders 15 \*Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2c\*\*Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They do not wash [their] hands when they eat a met of not wash [their] hands when they eat and the command-in reply, "And why do you break the command-ment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4d For God said, "Honor your father and your mother; and "Whoever curses father or mother shall die." 5\* But you say, "Whoever says to father onther, "Any support you might have had from me is dedicated to God," 6 need not honor his father." You have nullified the word of God for the sake of your tradition, ? Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said:

se "This people honors me with their lips,

s e' This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; 9 /in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts,"

precepts: "

10 KHe summoned the crowd and said to them.

"Hear and understand." It is not what enters one's mouth that deflies that person; but what comes out of the mouth is what defiles one."

12 Then his disciples approached and said to him.

"Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13 He said in reply, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 he tet them alone; they are blind guides [of the blind]. If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a

### **MATTHEW 15, 39**

pit." 15 'Then Peter said to him in reply. "Explain [this] parable to us." 16 He said to them. "Are even you still without understanding! 17 Do you not realize that everything that enters the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled into the latrine! 18 He stomach and is expelled into the heart, and they defile, 19 'For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. 20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, latse witness, blasphemy. 20 These are what defile a person but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

The Canaanite Woman's Faith 21. Then Jesus went from that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, so I bavid! My daughter is tormented by a demon." 23 But he did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him. 24 His dasid in reply, "I was early a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him. 24 He said in reply, "I was early," 25 But the woman came and did him homage, so the woman came and did him homage, saying," Lord, help me. "26 " He said in reply, "I is not right to take the food in children and throw it to the dogs." 37 She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their master." 281 "Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was hed from that hour.

The Healing of Many People 29 Mowing on from there lesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there, 30 " Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. 3! The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel.

The Feeding of the Four Thousand 32n Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with me now for three days and," My heart is moved with me now for three days and, "My heart is moved with me now for three days and who nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." 3! The disciples said to him. "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?" 34 Jesus said to them, "How many loaves doy are them to the disciples, who i



# **EXPLORING THE GOSPELS**

Find these stories in your Bible and read along. Then answer the questions below. If you need help, ask your group leader or a parent.

it might seem like it doesn't have anythings.	
2. How do people in the story feel?	
3. What does Jesus do?	
4. How does God show his love for you?	
Matthew 3:13–17 (The Baptism of Jesus)	
1	
2.	3 .5
3.	N.
4.	1 . 5
green as also so reach the control of help and	El
Matthew 9:18–26 (The Official's Daughter)	
1.	
2.	
3. CL at William house the bound of the district of the bound of the b	tional sub-
4.	dy 6 to 47 6 No. 1958 5 Applicable 100 Blooks
Ch.	Q

# In Short • The Bible is unique and historical.

- Scripture is the sacred and inspired word of God.
- Scripture should be read carefully and thoughtfully.

# Mark 4:35–41 (Jesus Calms the Storm) 1. 2. 3. 4. Mark 6:45–52 (Jesus Walks on Water) 1. 2. 3. 4. John 2:1–11 (The Wedding at Cana) 1. 2. 3.

### Journey of Faith for Children, Inquiry, Q5 (826351)

The process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic faith throughout the United States is now called the OCIA—the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. "Order" is a clearer translation of the Latin term for the process formerly known as the RCIA—the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. People preparing for baptism and reception into the Church celebrate several rites as part of the order to which those rites belong—an order whose mission is to journey in the faith. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted the name change in 2021, with American dioceses introducing the name thereafter. For more information, please contact your local diocese.

 ${\it Imprimi \ Potest:} \ Stephen \ T. \ Rehrauer, \ CSsR, \ Provincial, \ Denver \ Province, \ the \ Redemptor ists.$ 

Imprimatur: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish has been granted on May 3, 2017, by Bishop Mark S. Rivituso, Vicar General, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication, nor is any liability assumed by this permission."

Journey of Faith © 2000, 2017 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057.

To order, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, stored, transmitted, or posted in any form by any means without prior written permission.

### © 2023 Liguori Publications. Photocopying prohibited

Editors of the 2017 *Journey of Faith for Children*: Theresa Nienaber-Panuski and Pat Fosarelli, MD, DMin.

Design and production: Wendy Barnes, Lorena Mitre Jimenez, John Krus, and Bill Townsend. Illustration: Jeff Albrecht.

Unless noted, Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2000, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C., and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Excerpts from the English translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church for the United States of America © 1994 United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana; English translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica © 1997 United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Compliant with The Roman Missal, Third Edition.

Printed in the United States of America. Third Edition



4.

