

Invest in your spiritual health: *The B-I-B-L-E*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Bible? ➤ Where did the Bible come from? ➤ Why is the Bible important to believers? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Bible is a collection of writings about God’s activity, promises, and commandments. The author of Holy Scripture is God. Human beings, whom the Holy Spirit inspired to this purpose, wrote down what God revealed. (Catechism Q&A questions 12- 13) ➤ The biblical writings were collected over the course of centuries through the will of God and human contemplations. (Catechism Q&A question 15) ➤ Jesus is the center of Scripture. For a believer of Jesus Christ, Scripture comforts and edifies, provides orientation and admonition, promotes knowledge and faith. (Catechism Q&A questions 25-26) <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible ➤ Catechism Q&A ➤ Chart paper or whiteboard ➤ Something to play a video (TV, computer, tablet, projector, etc.) ➤ “What is the Bible?” video <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ako6MSETeo4 <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: John 21: 25, 2 Timothy 3:10-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 4:11-13
PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
	<p>Have you ever wondered about God? About Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit? Where did you go to learn more about the Triune God? This week we will be talking about the Bible. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.</p>
POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the “I wonder...” questions are about the Bible and its importance. The Bible is a gift from God to us so that we can learn about Him. This week consider having a discussion with your student about what the Bible teaches and how important it is to us as believers. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday’s sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
HOOK (up to 10 minutes)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. • Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ako6MSETeo4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? ➤ Play the video, “What is the Bible” by The Bible Project. ➤ Do you know what the Bible is and why it’s so important for disciples of Jesus?
SET THE STAGE (1 minute)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preview the “I wonder” questions with the students. 	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Bible? ➤ Where did the Bible come from? ➤ Why is the Bible important to believers?
LESSON (up to 25 minutes)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider writing the student’s answers on a whiteboard, and supplement or summarize with the bullet points. 	<p>Student Question #1 How would you explain what the Bible is to a friend?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Holy Scripture – The Bible – is a collection of writings about God’s activity. ➤ Holy Scripture attest to the revelations of God. ➤ It consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament. ➤ Through its pages, God teaches us about Himself – His nature and His plan of salvation. ➤ It is a testimony of the revelation of God without claiming to be a complete account of all of God’s deeds. ➤ The Bible is the foundation for the doctrine of the New Apostolic Church.

- Read the **White Hot Topic – 2 Timothy 3:16-17** on page 1274 of your IGNITE Bible together.

Student Question #2 Who is the author of the Bible?

- The author of Holy Scripture is God.
- Human beings, whom the Holy Spirit inspired to this purpose, wrote down that which God revealed.
- The Biblical books bear the mark of their respective authors as well as the worldview and experiences of their time.
- God is the author of the Bible. He has seen to it that the texts of the biblical books have remained untainted over the centuries.

Student Question #3 How was the Bible put together?

- The biblical writings were collected over the course of centuries.
- The Christian canon of the Old Testament is based on Hebrew canon of Judaism, the writings of which are presumed to have come into being over a timespan of about 1,000 years.
- The writings of the New Testament came into being over the time of approximately 70 years.
- In order to preserve and hand down these original accounts of Christian faith, they were compiled into a collection that ultimately came to be certified as “canonical” in the course of various synods.
- Later writings of the Old Testament contained in many editions of the Bible as also known as “Apocrypha”. These are an important binding agent between the Old and New Testaments. In the New Apostolic Church these later writings of the Old Testament are just as binding for faith and doctrine as all other writings of the Old Testament.

Student Question #4 What does God teach us in the Old and New Testaments?

- The Old Testament contains vivid accounts of the creation and the first human beings, as well as texts concerning the origins and history of the people of Israel. It also contains songs of praise to God, as well as admonitions and promises to people.
- The Old Testament is comprised of seventeen historical books, five doctrinal books, and seventeen prophetic books.
- In the New Testament, the four gospels and the Acts of the Apostles give an account of Jesus Christ, His Apostles, and the early Christian congregations. It also contains letters from the Apostles, which were written to congregations as well as individual persons. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, the only prophetic book of the New Testament deals with the return of Jesus Christ and other events of the future.
- The New Testament consists of five historical books, 21 doctrinal books, and one prophetic book.

Student Question #5 How does spending time in the Bible help you INVEST in your spiritual health?

- Holy Scripture is of great significance in the life of the believer: it comforts and edifies, provides orientation and admonition, and promotes knowledge and faith.
- The Bible focuses your life on Jesus Christ. The central element of Holy Scripture is Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prepare the way for the arrival of the Messiah and the New Testament teaches of Jesus' activity in the present and the future.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

• **Hebrews 4:12:** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Wrap up the lesson with this question: Did you see how valuable the Bible is to your life as a follower of Jesus Christ? What should we be doing with our Bibles? Are you willing to spend time reading God's Word?

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God in belief and obedience.

I wonder...

- What is the Bible?
- Where did the Bible come from?
- Why is the Bible important to believers?

I believe...

- The Bible is a collection of writings about God's activity, promises, and commandments. The author of Holy Scripture is God. Human beings, whom the Holy Spirit inspired to this purpose, wrote down what God revealed. (Catechism Q&A questions 12- 13)
- The biblical writings were collected over the course of centuries through the will of God and human contemplations. (Catechism Q&A question 15)
- Jesus is the center of Scripture. For a believer of Jesus Christ, Scripture comforts and edifies, provides orientation and admonition, promotes knowledge and faith. (Catechism Q&A questions 25-26)

Point to Ponder...

- How does the Bible affect my relationship with God?

A Call to Action...

- Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God what He is teaching you in the Bible.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

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1. How would you explain what the Bible is to a friend?

2. Who is the author of the Bible?

3. How was the Bible put together?

4. What does God teach us in the Old and New Testaments?

5. How does spending time in the Bible help you INVEST in your spiritual health?

Point to Ponder: How does the Bible affect my relationship with God?

Call to Action: Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God what He is teaching you in the Bible.