

Faith Lesson Plan and Faith Activity

Chapter 3 - The Word of God

Grades 1 & 2

Doctrinal Content

- God tells us about himself through the Bible. (CCC, 104)
- The Bible is God's Word written down by humans. (CCC, 105)
- Jesus tells stories that help us know and love God the Father. (CCC, 546)
- The Old and New Testaments are the two parts of the Bible, also called Scripture. (CCC, 120)

Invite - Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader's prayer. Proclaim the verse from Psalm 119:89 together. Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.



Let Us Pray

Leader: Your Word, O God, teaches us each day.

"Your word, LORD, stands forever,
it is firm as the heavens." *Psalm 119:89*

All: Thank you, God, for your Word. Amen.

Say: God's Word is what we hear and read in the Bible.

Guide the young people through the process of Scripture reflection below.

Invite them to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in this passage.

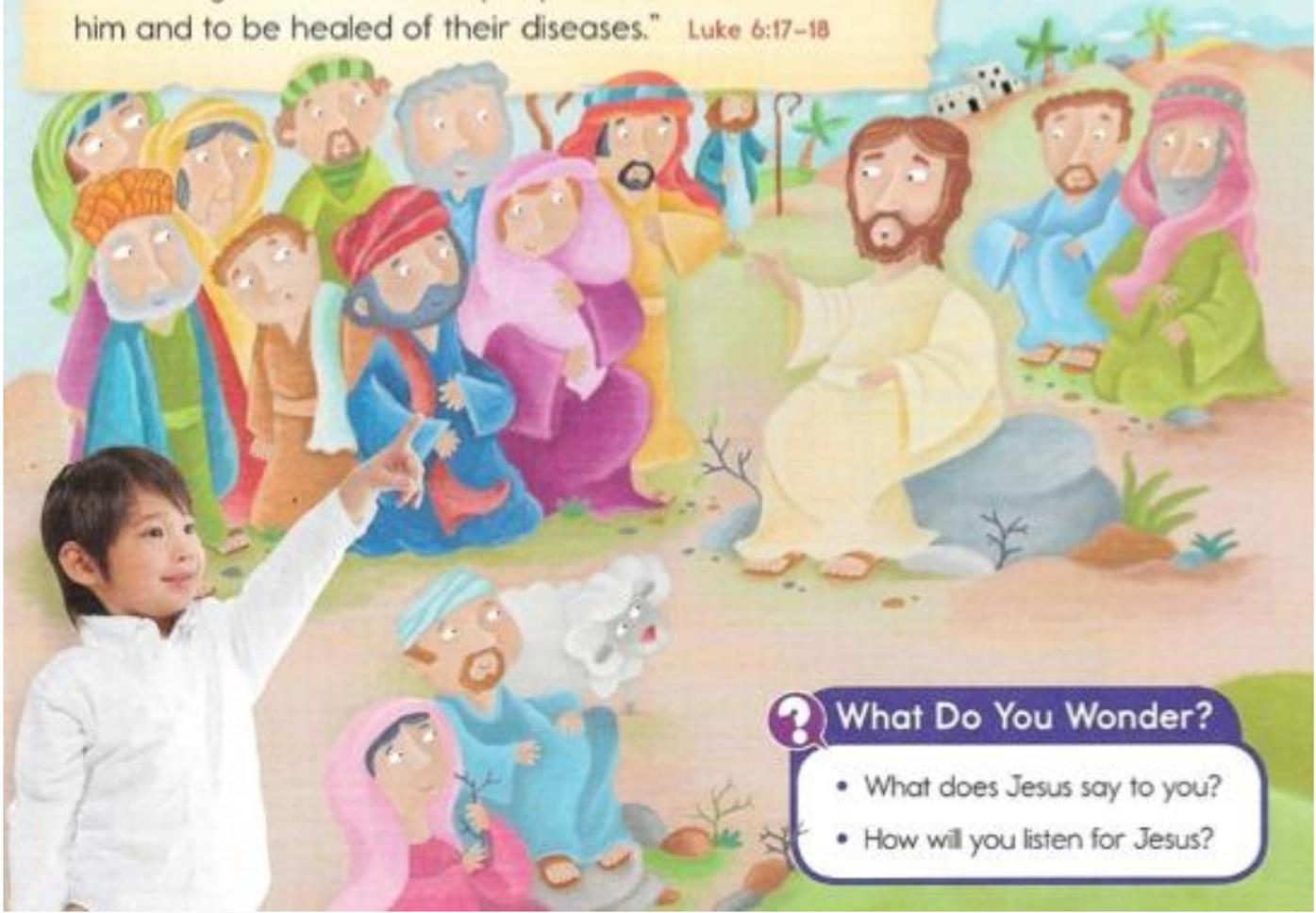
Proclaim the Scripture.

Maintain several moments of silence.

Display and Read the following.

God's Word

"And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people ... came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases." Luke 6:17-18



Ask: What did you hear God say to you in the Sacred Scripture reading? Engage the children to respond.

Say: Jesus spoke to the people that were around him and told them how to live. Jesus speaks to us; we only need to listen and to follow. Let's respond to the questions below.

Ask: What else they might wonder about God's Word and what it means to us today. Engage the children to respond.

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Recognize that God tells us about himself through the Bible.
- Relate the words *Bible* and *Scripture*.
- Identify the Bible as God's Word written down by humans.

Say: The Church teaches that the Bible is the Word of God (see CCC, 109).

Faith Activity

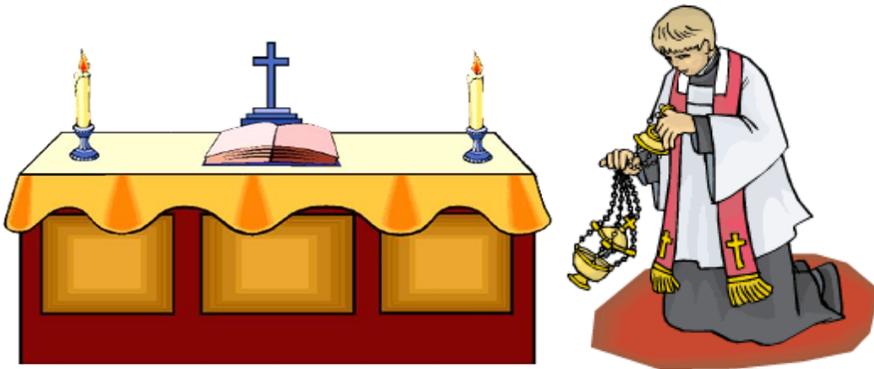
Gather the children around the Bible. Place an unlit candle by the candle.

Ask: Why is the Bible special? (Accept all reasonable responses.) **Emphasize that the Bible is God's Word.**

Say: There are many stories in the Bible. Some stories are from the time before Jesus was born; some are about his life. Some of the stories are about other people. What is most important about this book is that it is God's Word! Because it is God's Word, we honor the Bible and we reverence it.

Ask: What are some of the ways we honor the Bible? (Accept all reasonable responses.)

Say: Sometimes the priest or altar server will honor the Bible by bringing incense to it.



Switch on or light the candle.

Say: Sometimes we light a candle as we read the Bible because God's Word is light for us. (Bow before the Bible.) Sometimes we show reverence with our bodies. (If you wish, you may have the children come up individually and bow before the Bible.) We do all of these things because the Bible is the Word of God, written in human words.

Say & Ask: In fact, the last two weeks we have been talking about Creation and Adam and Eve. How do we know about these things? Where do we find the story? **(Bible)**

Say: The Bible is not just any book. It is a very special book because it is God's word. The Bible is one way that God talks to us about Himself and his love for us.

Ask: What Bible stories do you know? (Accept all reasonable responses.)

Say: Let's watch the following video about a very popular Bible Story.

Video: The Great Flood

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/yCLRcA9mlQE>

Print out the following page for each child beforehand and provide each child with crayons or colored pencils.

Display and Read the following.

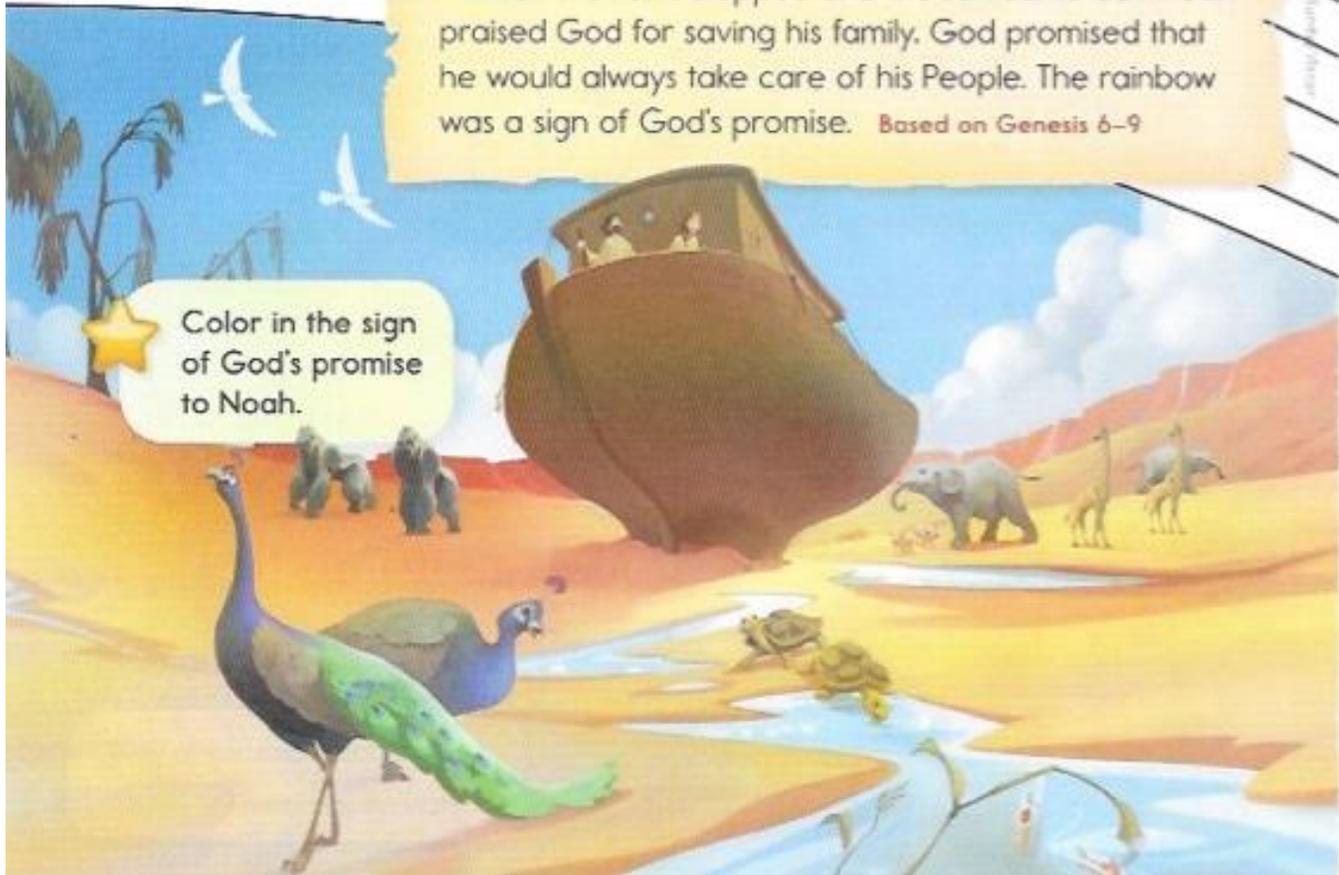


God's Word

The Great Flood

Once God told Noah to build a large boat called an ark. He told Noah and his family to put all different kinds of animals on the ark, too. A great flood came, and the rains poured down for forty days. Noah's family and the animals were safe on the ark.

Then the rains stopped and the sun came out. Noah praised God for saving his family. God promised that he would always take care of his People. The rainbow was a sign of God's promise. *Based on Genesis 6-9*



Ask: What did you hear God say to you in the Sacred Scripture reading? Engage the children to respond.

Ask: What does the rainbow represent? **God's promise to Noah that He would not destroy the world with water again.** (Have the children color in the sign of God's promise to Noah.)

Say & Ask: The Bible is often referred to as Scripture or Sacred Scripture. Did you notice that I referred to the Bible story about Noah's Ark as **Sacred Scripture**? I could have also referred to the story as Scripture because these three terms mean the same thing - Bible, Scripture, Sacred Scripture - they are all stories through which God talks to us about Himself and his love for us.

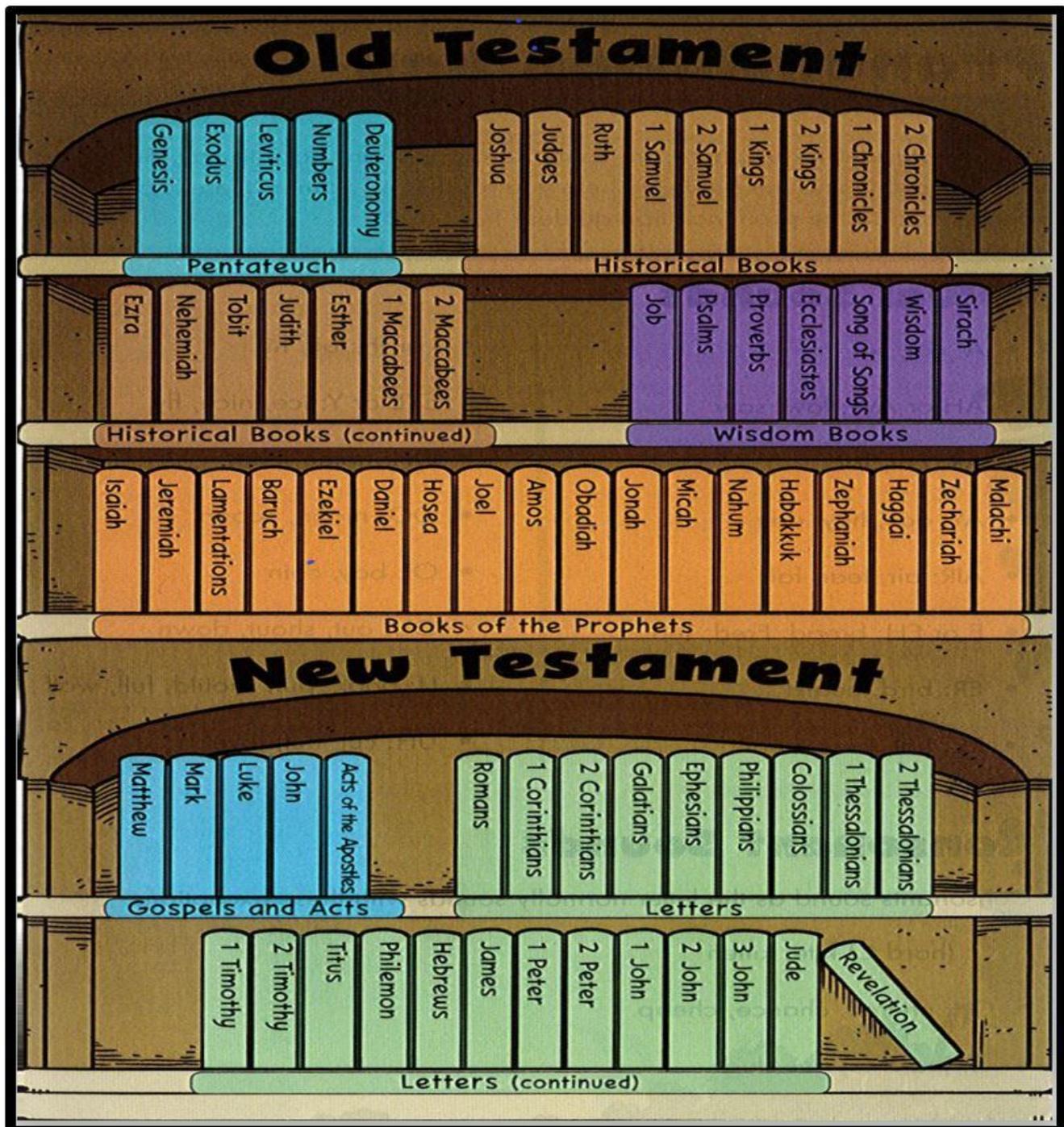
Quick Review - The Bible is also known as Scripture, and is God's Word to us. The Bible was written by humans, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament is about God and his People before Jesus was born.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Learn that Jesus tells stories that help us know and love God the Father
- Distinguish between the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Begin to develop an understanding of the need for the Word of God in our lives

Say: The Bible is a very long book with smaller books inside of it. Because the Bible is so big and important, it has been divided into two different sections called the Old Testament and the New Testament.



Say: The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible about God and his People *before* Jesus was born.

Say: The New Testament is the second part of the Bible about the life and teachings of Jesus, His followers, and the early Church.

Ask: Does anyone know the name of the first book of the Bible? (**Genesis**)

Say: The Bible was written by different people at different times, but all of them were writing what God wanted them to write. They were writing God's Word.

Say: The first five (5) books of the Old Testament were written by Moses. Many of the other books were written by different Prophets who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are named after those people - Jeremiah, Samuel, Isaiah, etc. David wrote the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is a book of songs and prayers to God. We hear the Psalms during Mass each Sunday. In fact, we hear readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament every Sunday at Mass.

Ask: Do any of you listen and try to hear what God is telling you in the readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament when you are at Mass? What do you hear God telling you through these readings? That's why it is so important that we listen carefully during the readings at Mass. The Priest will then provide more details about the readings during his homily.

Say: The first four (4) books of the New Testament are called the Gospels.

Ask: Does anyone know the names of the four gospels? (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**)

Ask: Does anyone know the meaning of the word Gospel?

Say: The word Gospel means Good News, and is the name for the first four books of the New Testament.

Say: The New Testament is mostly made up of the Gospels and Letters. The four Gospels were written by the people for whom they are named - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In the Gospels, we hear the stories that Jesus tells that help us know and love God the Father. These stories Jesus told are called Parables, and each parable teaches us a lesson.

Ask: Does anyone know any of the stories Jesus told? (**The Good Shepherd, The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, etc.**)

Quick Review

The Bible was written by humans, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament is about God and his People before Jesus was born. We learn about Jesus in the New Testament, the second part of the Bible. Jesus show people how to love God the Father through his words and actions.

Work with Words

Review the following Faith Words

Catholic Faith Words

Bible the Word of God written in human words. The Bible is the holy book of the Church.

Old Testament the first part of the Bible about God and his People before Jesus was born

Catholic Faith Words

New Testament the second part of the Bible about the life and teachings of Jesus, his followers, and the early Church

Live: Our Catholic Life

People of Faith - Saint Luke; Feast Day - October 18

Say: According to tradition, Saint Luke was a physician. He was born a Greek and a Gentile. The Gospel according to Luke suggests that he had a great respect for Mary and for all women. He remained with his friend, Saint Paul, until Paul's death.

People of Faith

Saint Luke, first century

Saint Luke was a follower of Jesus. He learned about Jesus from Saint Paul and probably the Apostles and Mary. He wrote down their stories about Jesus in what became one of the Gospels. In his Gospel, Luke talks about Jesus' birth and also how Jesus cared for people who were poor, sick, and lonely. Luke traveled with Saint Paul. He wrote down stories about their trips in another book of the Bible called the Acts of the Apostles. Luke was also a doctor and a painter.



October 18

Ask: What is your favorite story about Jesus?

Say: Jesus performed many miracles during his time on earth, including healing the sick. But Jesus not only healed bodies, he also healed hearts, minds, and souls through his love and teaching. We can experience Jesus' healing love through prayer. In fact, The Lord's Prayer, or as we often refer to as Our Father, and the Hail Mary use the words of the Bible. And remember, when we read the Bible, God is speaking to us. He wants to tell us something very special through Scripture and prayer.

Fun Fact of the Day

Did you know that the first five (5) books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch which means five books.

Did you know that sometimes people call the Bible by another name? They call it the Scriptures.

What the Children Should Know

- God tells us about himself through the Bible. (CCC, 104)
- The Bible is God's Word written down by humans. (CCC, 105)
- Jesus tells stories that help us know and love God the Father. (CCC, 546)
- The Old and New Testaments are the two parts of the Bible, also called Scripture. (CCC, 120)

Faith Activity - Bookmarks

Supplies: construction paper or cardstock, single-hole punch, pencils, markers, glue sticks, beads (8 per learner), yarn (10" [25 cm.] per learner), safety scissors

Preparation: Cut colored paper or cardstock into strips of 8 1/2" x 2" (22 cm x 5 cm) (one per learner). Using light-colored paper, cut strips of 7 1/2" x 1 1/2" (19 cm x 4 cm) (one per learner).

Steps: Introduce the activity by saying, **"We know that the great story of God's love for us is told in the Bible. We are going to share this message with others by making a special bookmark, based on the words: 'God so loved the world, he sent his own Son.' The words on it will serve as a constant reminder of God's love—and your love, as well. You may want to keep this bookmark for yourself or give it as a gift to someone."**

1. Tell children to put the smaller, light-colored strip of paper on the table so they are looking at it vertically.
2. Have children create a bookmark design in pencil. Have a few examples on chart paper or on the board: "God so (*draw a heart*) the (*draw a picture of the world*) that he gave his only Son . . ." Or "God's (*mouth*) are good." Or "God's (*picture of a book*) is good."
3. Then have the children trace over the letters in marker and color the drawings in.
4. Glue the decorated strip of paper onto the larger strip of paper, making a bookmark.
5. Punch a hole in the top of the bookmark with a hole punch.
6. Thread a piece of yarn through the hole, and tie close to the hole, leaving two long ends.
7. Slide four beads on each piece of yarn, and tie the two ends together.

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

1. The stories Jesus told taught people about God's great _____.
 - a. love
 - b. punishments
 - c. sacrifice

2. Saint Luke wrote a Gospel and _____.
 - a. many psalms
 - b. the story about Noah
 - c. the Acts of the Apostles

3. _____, we hear readings from both the Old and New Testaments.
 - a. In morning prayer
 - b. At Sunday Mass
 - c. In the Rosary

4. The New Testament also has many _____ from Jesus' followers.
 - a. Psalms
 - b. letters
 - c. warnings

5. The Old Testament tells about God and his People before _____.
 - a. Jesus was born
 - b. David was king
 - c. Noah built the ark

6. _____ is another name for the Bible.

- a. Prayer
- b. The Gospel
- c. Sacred Scripture

7. The Bible is God's _____ written in human words.

- a. laws
- b. songs
- c. Word

8. Many people followed Jesus to hear his teaching and _____.

- a. go fishing with him
- b. argue about Scripture
- c. be healed

9. Jewish people studied Scripture and prayed in _____.

- a. synagogues
- b. churches
- c. schools

10. Jesus traveled and taught in _____, the region where he grew up.

- a. Galilee
- b. Jerusalem
- c. Egypt

11. There are _____ Gospels about Jesus' life and his teachings.

- a. two
- b. four
- c. seven

12. _____, the second part of the Bible, tells about Jesus.

- a. The Old Testament
- b. John's Gospel
- c. The New Testament

13. Match each option with its appropriate term:

Options

- (____) Stories
- (____) Old Testament
- (____) Rainbow
- (____) Sacred Scripture
- (____) Acts of the Apostles

Terms

- a. another name for the Bible
- b. the first part of the Bible about God and his People before Jesus
- c. a sign of God's promise to Noah
- d. New Testament book about Christians after Jesus
- e. used by Jesus to teach about God's Love

Answer Key

1. The stories Jesus told taught people about God's great _____.
 - a. love *
 - b. punishments
 - c. sacrifice

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- b. John's Gospel
- c. The New Testament *

13. Match each option with its appropriate term:

1 = used by Jesus to teach about God's Love

2 = the first part of the Bible about God and his People before Jesus

3 = a sign of God's promise to Noah

4 = another name for the Bible

5 = New Testament book about Christians after Jesus