Worksheet 2
Bible Intro and Adam & Eve to Noah
Reading and Worksheet

Videos

If you are completely new to reading the Bible, please watch the videos below for a basic introduction to the Bible and how to begin reading it.

- Intro To The Bible
- Intro To The Old Testament
- Intro To The New Testament

What Is the Bible?

The Bible is the inspired Word of God written in human language through human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is not simply one book, but a library of books composed over many centuries. These books include history, law, poetry, prophecy, Gospels, letters, and apocalyptic writing. **Because God is the ultimate author of Scripture, the Bible teaches truth for the sake of our salvation. At the same time, each biblical book reflects the style, historical setting, and literary form of its human author.**

The Catholic Bible contains **73 books**:

- **46** books in the Old Testament
- **27** books in the New Testament

The word **"Bible"** comes from a Greek word meaning **"books."** This is fitting, because the **Bible is a collection of many books gathered into one sacred canon.** Each book contributes to the unfolding story of God's relationship with his people and his plan of salvation.

The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word "testament" can also mean covenant, referring to the sacred bond God establishes with his people. **The Old Testament prepares for and points toward Christ, while the New Testament reveals the fulfillment of God's promises in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

The Old Testament

The Old Testament tells the story of creation, covenant, Israel, and God's gradual preparation of the world for the coming of the Messiah. Catholics usually group the books of the Old Testament into four broad categories: **the Pentateuch or Law, the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, and the Prophets**.

The Books of the Law

The first five books of the Bible are called the **Pentateuch**:

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

These books are also sometimes called the **Books of the Law**, not because they contain only laws, but because **they lay the foundation of Israel's covenant life with God.**

Genesis begins with creation, the dignity of the human person, the fall into sin, and God's first promises of salvation. It also tells the stories of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. In Abraham, God begins to form a chosen people through whom all nations will be blessed.

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy continue the story of Israel's covenant with God, especially through Moses. **They recount Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt, the giving of the Law, the journey through the wilderness, and preparation to enter the Promised Land.** These books reveal God's holiness, his justice, and his desire to dwell among his people.

The Historical Books

The Historical Books describe Israel's life in the Promised Land and trace the history of the people through judges, kings, division, exile, and partial restoration. These books include events such as:

- The conquest and settlement of the land
- The period of the judges
- The rise of the monarchy under Saul, David, and Solomon
- The division into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah
- The exile and return

A major theme in these books is covenant fidelity. When the people trust and obey God, they flourish. When they turn away from him toward idolatry and injustice, they experience suffering and judgment. **These books show both God's faithfulness and the tragic consequences of human sin.**

The Wisdom Books

The Wisdom Books include writings such as:

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes

- Song of Songs
- Wisdom
- Sirach

These books contain prayer, poetry, reflection, and practical wisdom for living. The **Psalms** are especially important in the life of the Church, since they are used in the liturgy and express the full range of the human heart: praise, sorrow, thanksgiving, repentance, longing, and trust.

The Wisdom Books teach how to live rightly before God. They reflect on suffering, family life, work, justice, love, worship, and the meaning of life. They invite us not only to know God's law, but to grow in wisdom and holiness.

The Prophets

The Prophets are often divided into **Major Prophets** and **Minor Prophets**. **This distinction refers to the length of the books, not their importance.** The Major Prophets are longer, while the Minor Prophets are shorter.

The prophetic books call the people back to covenant faithfulness. The prophets denounce idolatry, injustice, empty worship, and unrepentant sin. They warn of judgment, but they also proclaim hope. **Again and again, the prophets announce that God has not abandoned his people. He will purify them, restore them, and ultimately send the Messiah.** For this reason, the prophets are essential for understanding Jesus. Many prophecies and themes in these books prepare for his coming and help reveal his identity and mission.

The New Testament

The New Testament proclaims the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus Christ and the life of the Church born from his saving work. It is divided into four sections: **the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Letters, and Revelation**.

The Gospels

The four Gospels are:

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

These are the heart of the New Testament because they tell us about the person and saving work of Jesus Christ. Each Gospel has its own style and emphasis, but all proclaim the same Lord. They reveal who Jesus is, what he taught, how he fulfilled the Father's will, and how he brought salvation through his passion, death, and resurrection. **The Gospels are not merely biographies in the modern sense. They are inspired testimonies of faith, written so that people may come to believe in Jesus and follow him.**

The Acts of the Apostles

Written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke, Acts tells the story of the early Church after the Ascension of Jesus. It describes the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the preaching of the apostles, the growth of the Church, and the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem outward to the nations. **Acts shows that the mission of Jesus continues in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

The Letters

The letters of the New Testament are also called *Epistles*. **Many were written by St. Paul, while others were written by apostles and apostolic leaders such as Peter, James, John, and Jude.** These letters were addressed either to particular churches or to individuals. For example:

- **Romans** was written to Christians in Rome
- **1 and 2 Corinthians** were written to the Church in Corinth
- **Philippians** was written to the Church in Philippi

Other letters are named after their author or recipient, such as **James**, **1 Peter**, or **1 and 2 Timothy**.

These letters teach Christian doctrine, encourage believers in faith and holiness, correct errors, and guide the life of the Church. They help us understand how the early Christians lived the Gospel in real communities.

The Book of Revelation

The final book of the New Testament is Revelation, also called the Apocalypse. **It is written in a symbolic and visionary style known as *apocalyptic literature*.** Revelation was given to strengthen Christians facing trial and persecution by showing that Christ has already won the decisive victory over sin, evil, and death.

The book does speak about final judgment and the fulfillment of God's plan at the end of time, but **its main message is not fear. Its central message is hope: Jesus Christ is Lord, he reigns even now, and he will come again in glory as Judge and King.** In the end, evil will be defeated, and God will dwell with his people forever.

What Should Catholics Remember About the Bible?

Catholics do not believe the Bible is merely a human book, nor do we believe it should be read in a flat or simplistic way. Because Scripture is inspired, it is truly the Word of God. **Because it is written through human authors, it must also be read with attention to literary form, historical setting, and the unity of the whole Bible.**

The Bible is centered on Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prepares for him, and the New Testament reveals him. As Catholics, we read Scripture within the life of the Church, alongside Sacred Tradition, and under the guidance of the Church's teaching authority. In this way, the Bible becomes not only a source of information, but a living word through which God speaks to his people.

<u>Key Points</u>:

- The Bible is the inspired Word of God written through human authors.
- The Catholic Bible contains **73 books**.
- The Bible is divided into the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**.
- "Testament" means **covenant**.
- The Old Testament prepares for Christ.
- The New Testament reveals the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ.
- The Old Testament includes:
    - Pentateuch/Law
    - Historical Books
    - Wisdom Books
    - Prophets

- The New Testament includes:
    - Gospels
    - Acts
    - Letters
    - Revelation
- All of Scripture finds its unity and fulfillment in **Jesus Christ**.

Please watch **The Story of The Bible** which will give an overview of the approach we will take through our Bible Study Worksheets

Adam & Eve, Noah, Tower of Babel

Look up and read the following passages. If you do not have a Bible, Click Here Books of the Bible | USCCB. If you are not exactly sure how to look up passages in the Bible, watch this short video How to Look up Scripture - YouTube

- Genesis 1-3
- Genesis 6, 9
- Genesis 11:1-9

Watch this short video for a synopsis of the Scripture readings Book of Genesis - Part 1

Worksheet 2 Questions

If you need help answering the questions you may look at the answer sheet but please put it in your own words, and do not copy word-for-word what is on the Answer Sheet

Who are the main figures and what are the major events in Genesis 1–11?

How should Catholics understand the creation account?

What choice were Adam and Eve given in the Garden of Eden?

What happens after the Fall?

What hope is found in Genesis 3:15?

Why did God send the Flood, and did it solve the problem of sin?

What is the spiritual condition of humanity at the end of Genesis 11?

What should we take away from Genesis 1–11?