



RCIA

CATECHUMENATE

9-12
YEARS

THE BIBLE: GOD'S WORD

Aim

To show the child that God speaks to us in many ways, one of which is through the Bible. To assist the child in investigating the various parts of the Bible, especially the Gospels.

Resources

Leaders

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle

Child

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Activity Book (pages 13-14)

Materials for this session

- Download Activity Sheet: Scripture Quotes from www.crossroadsrcia.org (copy on page 14)

Preparation

for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the child. How do you reflect on the scripture? Think of your own stories and be ready to share these.

Background for Catechist

The Bible is the living word; it is not stuck in history but it is alive today.

The Bible is still the world's bestselling book. It is a library of many different books, divided into two parts: The Old Testament stories tell about the covenant between God and God's people; The New Testament beginning with the four Gospels about Jesus, followed by the Acts of the Apostles and the various letters gives us an understanding of the birth of the early Church and earliest Christian communities. For over four thousand years the Bible has sustained people in times of sadness and of joy. It is a life-long journey to explore the Bible. We are nourished by reading the word of God.

What does the priest do at Mass after reading the Gospel? He kisses the book because of the words it contains. This shows us the importance of reverence with the Bible as the Bible is the word of God.



Reflection

As we gather, we light a candle to remember that Jesus is the light of the world. Sit quietly and listen to the words of the song *Open the Eyes of My Heart*.

Open the Eyes of My Heart

<https://youtu.be/wutmEjdbedE>

Video **Link 2.1**



After listening to the words of the song, *Open the Eyes of My Heart*, share how you have encountered God this week.



Follow up from last session

In the last session we looked at the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and the Baptism of Jesus.

Do you have any questions from the last session or from the Activity Book?



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Exploring

How do you think God speaks to us?

What are some ways you can get to know God more?

Where do you think we can find messages from God?

- Explore the contents page of your Bible.
- Explore the Old and New Testaments. Compare the size of each.
- There is a difference between the Old and the New Testament. The Old Testament can also be called the Hebrew Scriptures or the First Testament. The New Testament tells the stories of Jesus and his followers.
- Explore the books in the Bible. Which of these names have you heard before?
- Can you find Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?

Activity

Finding references in the Bible is a bit like reading a secret code! Demonstrate how to read a Bible reference. For example, Matthew 6:34 means the book of Matthew chapter 6 verse 34.

The Activity Sheet: Scripture Quotes contains the following scripture quotes. This can be downloaded from the crossroadsrcia website: www.crossroadsrcia.org (copy on page 14).

Print out the quotes and put them on the table/ground for the child to see.

- In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
- The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24
- Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10
- Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord. Psalm 31:24
- When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul. Psalm 94:19
- For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6

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- See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Matthew 10:16
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35
- And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Mark 15:38
- The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Luke 1:30
- After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs. Luke 10:1
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27
- Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:1
- Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39
- And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13
- Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10
- So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. Galatians 4:7
- Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6
- As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12
- Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12

Activity Book

Have the child select a quote that they like and ask them why they chose that verse.

Ask them to write this verse in their Activity Book (page 13).

Why does the passage you chose today speak to you?

This week in your Activity Book (page 13), write, draw, or create a musical or artistic response to the scripture passage chosen.

Listen to the message from Pope Francis for World Youth Day in 2016:

“

Pope Francis

Once again, I invite you to encounter the Lord by frequently reading sacred Scripture. If you are not already in the habit of doing so, begin with the Gospels. Read a line or two each day. Let God's word speak to your heart and enlighten your path (cf. Ps 119:105).

What is Pope Francis telling us in this message?



Living it out in the everyday

Activity Book

In the Activity Book (page 14) and listed below, are five scripture passages from the Bible. Crack the Bible code to find the following passages in the Bible:

The Creation

Moses at the Burning Bush

Birth of Jesus

Jesus stills the storm

Pentecost

Genesis 1:1-3

Exodus 3:1-6

Luke 2:1-7

Matthew 8:23-27

Acts 2:1-4



Scripture and Prayer

Scripture

Listen closely to the following scripture passage.

We begin with the sign of the Cross:



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Use the Gospel from the following Sunday.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to ...



Glory to you, O Lord.

(At the end of the Gospel)

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture passage, invite the child to share a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful for them.

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

Prayer

We pray together the words that Jesus gave us.



Our Father...

Activity Sheet: Scripture Quotes

↓ Cut out the below cards.

**In the beginning when God created
the heavens and the earth.**
Genesis 1:1

The Lord bless you and keep you.
Numbers 6:24

**Do not be grieved, for the joy
of the Lord is your strength.**
Nehemiah 8:10

**Be strong, and let your heart take
courage, all you who wait for the Lord.**
Psalm 31:24

**When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.**
Psalm 94:19

**For I desire steadfast love and
not sacrifice, the knowledge of
God rather than burnt offerings.**
Hosea 6:6

**See, I am sending you out like sheep
into the midst of wolves; so be wise
as serpents and innocent as doves.**
Matthew 10:16

**Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away**
Matthew 24:35

**And the curtain of the temple was
torn in two, from top to bottom.**
Mark 15:38

**The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid,
Mary, for you have found favour with God".**
Luke 1:30

**After this the Lord appointed
seventy others and sent them on
ahead of him in pairs.**
Luke 10:1

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**My sheep hear my voice, and I
know them, and they follow me.**
John 10:27

**Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.**
John 14:1

**Neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor rulers, nor things present, nor things
to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love
of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
Romans 8:38-39

**And now faith, hope, and love abide, these
three; and the greatest of these is love.**
1 Corinthians 13:13

**Therefore I am content with weaknesses,
insults, hardships, persecutions,
and calamities for the sake of Christ;
for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.**
2 Corinthians 12:10

**So you are no longer a slave but
a child, and if a child then also
an heir, through God.**
Galatians 4:7

**Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be
made known to God.**
Philippians 4:6

**As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**
Colossians 3:12

**Indeed, the word of God is living
and active, sharper than any
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