The Bible, God’s Story

Keep these ideas in mind as you study Unit 1, Session 1.

Saint Jerome translated the Bible into Latin. He is the patron saint of librarians.

The Old Testament tells the story of the Hebrew people and their faith in God. It includes the Books of Genesis and Exodus. Jesus studied the Old Testament.

The New Testament is the story of the early Christians. It includes 27 books, some of which are letters written by leaders such as Saint Paul. The most important books are the Gospels, which tell about Jesus’ life.

God has given the authority to interpret the Scriptures to the Magisterium—the pope and the bishops teaching together.

An interpretation, or explanation, of the Bible helps us avoid confusion and leads us to a better understanding of God’s Word.

The Church encourages us to read the Bible to learn about God, to grow in our relationship with him and others, to understand his message of love and forgiveness, and to teach a new generation what the Church believes.

By reading the Bible, especially the stories about Jesus, we learn what God has done for us and how we are to help others.

Saint Jerome’s Latin translation is called the Vulgate version of the Bible.

Long ago, nuns and monks in scriptoriums, places where writing took place, made copies of the Bible by hand.

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