

The Bible, God's Story

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

PAGE 3

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

PAGES 5

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

PAGE 6

The New Testament is the story of how God the Father revealed himself fully in Jesus, his Son, and in the life of the early Church. It includes 27 books, some of which are letters written by leaders such as Saint Paul. The most important books in the New Testament are the Gospels, which tell about how God revealed himself through the birth, life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of his Son, Jesus.

PAGE 6

The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the books of the Bible. Although human beings wrote the Bible, God is the true author. The Holy Spirit guided them in their writing.

PAGE 6 AND 11

The Old Testament tells how God revealed himself to the Hebrew people and how they placed their faith in God. It includes the Books of Genesis and Exodus. Jesus was a Jew and studied the Old Testament.

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PAGE 7

The Church encourages us to read the Bible to learn about God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—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.

PAGE 7

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

PAGE 8

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

PAGE 8

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

PAGE 11

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

God Creates the World

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 2**.

PAGE 14

In the first creation story, God spoke and every part of the universe came into being. God looked at everything he had made and found it very good.

PAGE 15

The Jews were living in exile in Babylon when the first creation story was written. They had been forced to leave their homeland to live in a place where the culture—a group's beliefs, customs, language, and dress—was strange to them. They also faced racism, or mistreatment due to their ethnic origin.

PAGE 15

Babylonian creation stories were filled with images of death and destruction caused by different gods, but in the Jewish creation story, God created the universe calmly with wisdom and love.

PAGE 15

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is the patron saint of immigrants.

PAGE 16

When Adam and Eve were tempted and ate the fruit from the forbidden tree, God made them leave the garden.

PAGE 18

When someone is treated unfairly because of his or her gender, it is called sexism.

PAGE 18

The story of Adam and Eve reveals a loving God who created man and woman to be equal, to live in partnership with one another, and to help God take care of the earth.

PAGE 19

God created the human family in his image and likeness and gave us the gift of grace.

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Sin and Salvation

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 3**.

PAGE 22

God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and gave them everything they needed. They tended the garden and cared for the animals, and they had each other for companionship.

PAGE 22

God told Adam and Eve that they could not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but they disobeyed. This act of disobedience resulted in Original Sin, and henceforth life became more challenging for human beings.

PAGE 23

Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve, had never known what it was like in the garden. The brothers did not get along, and Cain got so angry one day he killed Abel. This story shows how quickly people began to sin after Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

PAGE 23

When people stop trusting God, they stop trusting each other as well.

PAGES 23 AND 26

The disobedience of Adam and Eve resulted in Original Sin, but God did not give up on people.

PAGE 24

God chose one family who showed love, trust, and obedience—Noah and his family. God told them to build a huge ark and put two of every creature on it. It rained for 40 days and nights, flooding the world.

PAGE 24

To help Noah, God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of hope. God made a covenant, a commitment or promise, to never again send such a flood.

PAGE 24

In the Penitential Act of Mass, we reflect on our sins and ask for God's mercy. We pray "Lord have mercy" to praise God for his great mercy.

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Abraham Listens to God

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 4**.

PAGE 30

Abraham and Sarah had been married a long time, but they had no children. One night God told Abraham that he would have as many descendants as there were stars in the sky.

PAGE 30

Three visitors, sent from God, came to Abraham and Sarah. They said that in a year Sarah would have a son. Sarah gave birth to Isaac one year later.

PAGE 31

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Killing a firstborn child was common practice among other peoples at the time. Abraham trusted God and obeyed, but a messenger from God appeared and stopped Abraham.

PAGE 31

Abraham and Isaac are listed among the patriarchs, or founders of the Hebrew people, within ancient Israel.

PAGE 31

Patriarchs, along with prophets and other Old Testament figures, are honored as saints by the Church.

PAGE 33

Hope is an important Christian characteristic. We hope because we believe that God is committed to care for us and show us how to live.

PAGE 34

The three visitors to Abraham and his wife and the messenger that stopped Abraham were angels. Angels are God's messengers. They give people the courage to follow God's instructions.

PAGE 32

Ever since God's covenant with Abraham, Abraham's descendants have been known as God's Chosen People. Jesus is one of Abraham's descendants.

PAGE 32

Catholics have customs that tell the world that we are God's people, such as the Sign of the Cross. When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we pray in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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Celebrating Ordinary Time

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 5**.

PAGE 37

Throughout salvation history, God the Father established and renewed his covenant with his people. Especially during Ordinary Time, we honor our covenant with God.

PAGE 37

The Church celebrates Ordinary Time twice during the liturgical year.

PAGE 38

During Ordinary Time, we grow in our faith by developing a deeper understanding of how Jesus wants us to live.

PAGE 38

When we go to Mass on Sundays, we hear a reading from the Gospels. This is the spoken Word of God.

PAGE 39

The Lectionary is the book containing the readings for Mass.

PAGE 39

During Ordinary Time, the first Scripture reading is often about the Hebrews, our ancestors in faith.

PAGE 39

During Ordinary Time, the second Scripture reading describes life in the early Christian communities. In the Gospel we hear about the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus as he reveals the Father to us.

PAGE 39

We trace the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, mouths, and hearts. We ask God, through his Word, to be in our thoughts, on our lips, and in our hearts.

PAGE 40

We often see symbols for each of the Gospel writers. John is portrayed as a winged eagle because his Gospel focuses on Jesus' divine nature.

PAGE 40

The Gospel writers were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are also known as the Evangelists.

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