

**Note to Catechists:** This lesson is a 20-30-minute intentional focus on the Bible. Suggested time for teaching is before beginning Unit #1/ EQ #1 for any and all grades. Its design (1) illustrates an inquiry/ pre-assessment as to what learners know about the Bible and its usage as the catechetical year begins; and (2) teaches and/or reviews the skill of locating passages within the Bible. For all subsequent lessons for each EQ, a Scripture passage is cited and requires learners to “break-open” its meaning.

**Catechist Preparation:** Pray and reflect to select *your* favorite Scripture passage.

**Grades: Age 3 to Grade 6** Rev. 8/8/17

**BEFORE beginning Unit #1...**

**EQ:** *Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?*

**Bible:** *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (St. Mary’s Press)

**Textbook Resources (Optional):**

- *Alive in Christ* by Our Sunday Visitor, 2014 [Catechist Edition 4-5]
- *Be My Disciples* by RCL Benziger, 2013 [Catechist Guide 404-405]
- *Finding God* by Loyola Press, 2013 [Parish Catechist Guide 184-185]
- *We Believe* by Sadlier, 2011 [Catechist Guide 28]

**Suggested Scriptural Connection:**

- For grades 1 & 2 – John 8:12 (Jesus is the Light of the World.)
- For grades 3 – 6 – John 14:1-6 (Jesus, the Way to the Father)

**Assessment Evidence:** By the end of this lesson, learners will be able to return to the lesson’s Essential Question and explain in their own words why Catholics should read the Bible.

**Vertical Alignment:** *CFLFF Learning Targets/ Catechism of the Catholic Church:* The following list reflects all Learning Targets found in the Framework. The purpose of this lesson is **ONLY** to assess Bible usage. Catechists are encouraged to keep this list handy throughout the catechetical year and refer to specific LTs as the need arises.

Age 3 – Grade 2	Grades 3-6
<p><b>UNDERSTANDINGS:</b> Learners will understand that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Age 3.1.2.5 – The Bible is a special and holy book about God (and Jesus). (CCC#97; 105-107)</li> <li>○ K.1.2.3 – The Bible is God’s Word that helps people know how to live and it helps them know and love God better and how much he loves all people. (CCC#104-107;136)</li> <li>○ K.4.1.3 – God’s words in the Bible help people to pray. (CCC#2653-2654; 2662)</li> <li>○ 1.1.2.2 – God speaks to people in the Bible. (CCC#101-02; 105; 136)</li> <li>○ 2.1.2.1 – God is revealed in the Bible. (CCC#69; 105; 293; 319)</li> <li>○ 2.1.2.6 - God is revealed in the history of God’s people as one Lord. (CCC#68-69; 73; 201-202; 228)</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNDERSTANDINGS:</b> Learners will understand that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2.6.1.1 – The stories in the Bible are the Good News of God’s love for all people. (CCC#122; 124; 231)</li> <li>○ 4.1.2.1 - God has revealed himself and his mystery to humanity in a gradual way: first, in the Old Testament in various covenants, most especially in the Revelation as being “He who is,” the only One of Israel, and then in and through their fulfillment in the definitive New Covenant established by Jesus. (CCC#69-72; 122; 124; 139; 203; 211; 214; 228)</li> <li>○ 4.1.2.2 – The Holy Spirit acts to divinely inspire and guide the Church in her interpretation and understanding of Sacred Scripture. (CCC#105; 109; 111; 137)</li> <li>○ 4.4.1.3 – Scripture, and in particular the life and ministry of Jesus, are key inspirations to Christian prayer. (CCC#2662; 2762-2764)</li> <li>○ 5.1.2.4 – The New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. (CCC#129)</li> <li>○ 6.1.2.4 - There are events in the Old Testament that foreshadow events in the New Testament; Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophesy of a New Covenant. (CCC#128-130)</li> <li>○ 6.1.2.5 - The Gospels have a distinct history, time, audience and reason for being written. (CCC#125-126)</li> </ul>

Age 3 – Grade 2	Grades 3-6
<p><b>KNOWLEDGE:</b> Learners will know that/be skilled at...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Age 4.1.2.5 – The Bible contains many stories about God (and Jesus) and God’s (and Jesus’) love for people. (CCC#54; 56; 59; 62; 64; 70-72; 122-126; 315; 561)</li> <li>○ K.1.1.3 – Jesus was a real person and the story of his life is in the Bible. (CCC#125; 452; 525)</li> <li>○ K.1.1.5 – The Gospels tell people about the life of Jesus. (CCC#96; 139; 444; 448)</li> <li>○ K.1.1.6 – In the Bible, Jesus welcomes and blesses children. (CCC#544; 561)</li> <li>○ K.1.1.7 – Jesus changed water to wine at a wedding. This was the first time he showed people that he could do things that others could not do. (CCC#561)</li> <li>○ K.1.2.4 – There are four important books in the Bible, called Gospels, which are about Jesus. (CCC#125-126; 139)</li> <li>○ 1.1.2.3 – The book of Genesis has a story of how God created the world. (CCC#289-90; 319)</li> <li>○ 2.1.2.3 – The Bible has two parts: Old Testament and New Testament (CCC#120; 138)</li> <li>○ 2.3.3.3 – God put Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden. There they had all that they needed to live and be happy with God. (CCC#384)</li> </ul>	<p><b>KNOWLEDGE:</b> Learners will know that/be skilled at...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3.1.2.4 – The Bible is divided into books, chapters, and verses. (CCC#138-139)</li> <li>○ 3.1.2.5 – Jesus uses parables to teach about the Kingdom of God. (CCC#546)</li> <li>○ 3.3.3.2 – God placed Adam and Eve in paradise, called Eden, where they lived happily with God. When they disobeyed his commands, this caused them to be sent away from the Garden of Eden. This first sin committed by the first humans is called Original Sin. (CCC#384; 416-17)</li> <li>○ 4.1.2.5 – There are biblical resources to help people understand the Bible’s meaning. (CCC#-None)</li> <li>○ 5.1.1.3 – Jesus taught in parables. (CCC#546; 561; 2607)</li> <li>○ 5.1.2.5 – The four books of the New Testament that relate the life and ministry of Jesus are called Gospels, a name that means “Good News.” (CCC#125-27; 139; 2763)</li> <li>○ 6.1.2.2 - The Bible is divided in two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The books contained within the testaments are written in different writing styles. (CCC#115-120)</li> </ul>

## Lesson Sequence

### Opening Prayer

- Ask learners to quiet their minds and hearts as we pray together.
- Pray the *Sign of the Cross*.
- Pray a prayer appropriate to the age of the learners or the following:  
*Loving God, help me appreciate your Word in the Bible. Keep me faithful in praying from it so that I can come closer to you.* [Loyola Press, *Finding God*, grade 6, PCG 3]

### Engage [mental warm-up; personal connection]

#### How might I focus my learners on this lesson’s topic & connect it to their lives?

- *Today, we are going to focus on the Holy Bible. I want to share with you one of my favorite passages.*
- Open the Bible to your favorite passage and read it aloud.
- Explain WHY you selected this passage and WHY it is important to you.

## Explore

[pre-assessment of faith concept]

### What do my learners know NOW about this lesson's topic?

- Ask (as a whole class OR partners to Turn & Talk): *What do you know about this Sacred book, the Holy Bible, the Word of God?*
- As learners share their ideas, jot down each one on a yellow stickie---along with the name of the learner who volunteered the idea (to continue your pre-assessment of their knowledge as the catechetical year begins). Then, place each stickie on the wall or on a large piece of paper visible to all. [Optional for Younger Learners – catechist scribes all responses.]
- To facilitate thinking and discussion, use some of the following questions: *What is the Bible? Who wrote it? What's in this book? How is this book organized? When do you see and/or hear people reading in it or from this book? Why is this book important for us who believe in God?* [Refer to the Learning Targets on page 1 to assist you when responding to your learners' responses.]

## Essential Question [focuses, frames the lesson; POST it as a mental anchor]

### What question do I expect learners to be able to answer by the end of this lesson?

[An **Essential Question** is one that is shared at the beginning of a lesson and then is revisited at the end of the lesson. It is your focus as CATECHIST; it keeps you “on track” so that you delve deeper into faith concepts important for lifelong learning. For your LEARNERS, it is their “cognitive bookend,” their goal for learning to self-evaluate their understanding of the lesson's concepts.]

- Share (and post) this lesson's Essential Question: *Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?*

## Explain & Check for Understanding

[direct teaching, infused with Scripture, & group work]

### Which activities, including Scriptural references, will assist my learners to answer this lesson's Essential Question?

- *Our focus this year is to learn about Jesus Christ...what He did, what He said, what happened to Him, what He wants us to do today. The Bible is our best source for learning about Jesus Christ.*
- For Grade 2 and Younger:
  - Read aloud the Learning Targets from Page 1 of this lesson: (U) A3.1.2.5, (U) A4.1.2.5, and (U) K.1.2.3. Reinforce those ideas generated by learners during the EXPLORE section of this lesson and/or present and expand on any new ideas not yet mentioned.
  - Focus for listening: Ask learners to listen to a verse in the Bible and be ready to share what it makes them think of and see in their minds.
  - Catechist reads John 8:12. [*Jesus spoke...“I am the light of the world,” he said. “Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.”*]
  - Read the verse again and ask “What do you think and see in your mind?” Share responses.
  - Next, use either a flashlight to turn on and off OR flip the room's light switch several times.
  - Ask: *What's the difference between the light being on and the light being off?* Share responses.
  - Closure/ Checking for Understanding: *The Bible says: Jesus IS the light of the world. He tells us that if we love and follow Him, we will never be alone and in the darkness. So what do you think about that idea?* Share and extend responses.
- For Grade 3 and Older:
  - Read aloud the Learning Targets from Page 1 of this lesson: (K) 3.1.2.4 & (K) 5.1.2.5.

- Write “John 14:1-6” on the board. Explain that these verses appear in the Gospel of John, a book in the New Testament.
- Focus for listening: Ask learners to listen to this passage in the Bible and be ready to share what they think it says.
- Catechist reads aloud John 14:1-6.
- In small groups or triads, allow time for learners to explain what they understand about this passage AND what questions they and their groups still have.
- Closure/ Checking for Understanding: Whole Class Share: Reread the verses again and allow learners to share ideas and ask questions.  
(Optional: Ask learners to explain “Jesus is the WAY”; “Jesus is the TRUTH”; “Jesus is the LIFE.” – Remember, this lesson occurs at the beginning of the year and this informs catechists of their learners’ understanding at this time about Jesus and the Bible.)

### **Evaluate** [individual accountability]

#### **What can I ask my learners to do that reveals their understanding of this lesson?**

- Return to the lesson’s Essential Question: *Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?*
- Ask learners to ask their parents/guardians this question and be prepared to share responses next week.

### **Debrief / Self-Reflect:** [mystagogy; transfer beyond the lesson]

#### **Can my learners answer this lesson’s Essential Question better now than they did at the beginning of the lesson?**

- Summarize the lesson to bring closure: *In today’s lesson, we learned about the Bible. The Bible expresses the Word of God in words that humans can understand. Each time you attend religious education, we will continue to read from this Holy Book.*
- *Remember: each time you attend Mass, you will hear people read from the Bible.*

### **Closing Prayer**

- Pray the *Sign of the Cross*.
- Pray together an age-appropriate prayer of choice OR repeat the Opening Prayer.
- Pray the *Sign of the Cross*.

### **Parent Connections:** [comparable Mature Adult Learning Targets; Family activities]

#### **How might parents continue to deepen the faith concepts in this lesson?**

- *CFLFF* ADULT Learning Target(s) comparable to this lesson – MA 1.1.1 - In the Gospel, people see and hear Jesus summon others to accept, live, and share the Kingdom of God. The proclamation of the Kingdom of God was fundamental to Jesus’ preaching.
- Catechists/PCLs/DREs might share this Adult Learning Target with parents via email, text, *FlockNotes*, etc. and ask them to discuss their Bible reading habits with their children.