

Grade 6
ENCOUNTER Session 1: August 2
An Introduction to the Bible

Opening Prayer

Lord, Thank you for all of our blessings. Thank you for each and every soul in this room and for our families. Thank you for all of the gifts you've given us, especially for those gifts we sometimes take for granted. Help us never to forget how much you love us. And as we begin this study, we say Thank You for the gift of your Church, our Catholic Faith and your Holy Scriptures. We ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, minds and hearts now, to help us encounter you in a new way. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Pre-Video Reflection

This summer we are going to be studying the Bible.

- Have you had a chance to study the Bible outside of church?
- What stories from the Bible do you remember or are your favorite stories?

We have this program called Encounter that was designed just for your age group so you can get a good overview of the Bible and understand what you will find in it and also to talk about the actual timeline of the Bible. Sometimes we hear these Bible stories and it is hard to really connect with when it all happened—was this before Jesus or after Jesus?

The Encounter program is a really good way to get familiar with the Bible and maybe go beyond Noah and the Nativity and some of the other stories we have heard so many times.

We will be using the online workbook along with the video series.

As you watch the Video, Mark Hart may prompt you to write in some answers in some of the spots. And each week there will what's called the "verse to remember." This is just a short Bible verse that if you can memorize it and say it from memory at the next class. From the online Encounter workbook:

- Read the Welcome letter and Session 1 Introduction (page 1).
- Read *Verse to Remember*.

Watch Video: An Introduction to the Bible (30 minutes)

- Print Session 1 Handout. Follow along and answer questions that go with the video.

After Video Reflection

- On the Video, Mark shared about how confusing the Bible can be. Who can relate to what he is saying. What goes through your mind when you hear the readings on Sunday or open the Bible for yourself.
- Why do you think God went to all that trouble to inspire the Bible's writers to record all of this for us?
- Why do you think more people don't read the Bible on their own? What are the top reasons you don't?
- If you were God, how would you spread your message or share your truth with your children?

Closing Prayer – The Our Father