

TERM 4 - 2014

TOPIC: BIBLICAL LITERACY SERIES: THE BIBLE: GOD IS TALKING TO US (Secondary)

*Liturgical Season of Advent and Christmas refer to REmail TERM 4, 2013.

<p>Themes</p>	<p>Biblical Literacy: Understanding the Bible and its structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bible is God’s book of Books• The Five Essential Questions: An Overview of the Scripture• Structure and Content• Authorship <p>Understanding the Bible and its purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bible is a way to live and not simply a history lesson• The Bible needs to be explored contextually – historical context, cultural context, literary genres, coherence and perspective on truth, living tradition of the Church• The Bible should be experienced as God talking to us, helping us to explore the mysteries of the Bible, through stories, parables, proverbs and message of the gospels.
<p>Texts:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Catholic Youth Prayer Book</i>• <i>The Australian Catholic Youth Prayer Journal</i>• <i>The Catholic Youth Bible</i>• <i>Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel</i>, Pope Francis• <i>The Joy of the Gospel: Group Reading Guide</i>, Bill Huebsch• <i>Jesus and the Natural World</i>, Denis Edwards• <i>Two Hands of God</i>, Dr Mary Coloe• <i>The Gospels</i>, C. Monaghan• <i>The Essential Bible Dictionary</i>, St Mary’s Press• A Friendly Guide to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Luke’s Gospel</i>, S. Moran• <i>John’s Gospel</i>, M. Coloe• <i>Matthew’s Gospel</i>, D.A. Lee• <i>Mark’s Gospel</i>, F. J. Moloney SDB• <i>The New Testament</i>, F. J. Moloney SDB• <i>Jesus</i>, A. Hamilton, SJ <p>Teacher Resources and Senior Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Biblical Literacy Made Easy: A practical Guide</i>, , Brian Singer-Towns, St Mary’s press• <i>The Catholic Teacher’s Companion</i>, Les Miller• <i>The Quick Reference Guide to the Catholic bible</i>, M.A. Getty-Sullivan• <i>The Bible: The Living Word of God</i>, Robert Rabe, St Mary’s press•

Prayer	Prayer from:
Other Prayers	<p>Prayer from: <i>The Catholic Youth Prayer Journal</i> (pg 118) based on the theme of Hope from the scripture verse: Romans 15:13</p> <p><i>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <p>Prayer Lord, offer hope to those who have none; To those whose days are dark, To those lost and alone, To those just hanging on, To those who feel they have nothing left to look forward to. Remind them that hope is the miracle of being human. Brighten their days with kindness shown by others, With the goodness that is the living out of hope in our lives. Amen.</p>
Suggestions on how to use this prayer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read this prayer for your daily class prayer or write down for individual reflection in your school diary. 2. Choose a theme for the week: e.g. Hope. Respond by writing your own prayer or a personal experience when you were afraid of losing hope.
Scripture & Biblical Literacy	<p>The bible has a number of passages that refers to HOPE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read Romans 5:2-7 and comment on this verse: “...knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us...” b. Do you agree that endurance produces character or that character produces hope? Find examples of this statement in current media stories or from people you know. <p>Understanding Biblical Literacy:</p> <p>This verse comes from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans. Paul wrote this to the Christian community of Rome and was likely to have been his last letter.</p> <p>Overview of Romans:</p>

	<p>Who: Paul wrote this letter at the end of his missionary life.</p> <p>What (genre or format): a letter, but also a formal document of his teachings (epistle or treatise.)</p> <p>When: Around 58 AD and a few years before Paul was executed in Rome.</p> <p>Where: Paul was in Corinth when he wrote the letter.</p> <p>Why: To express Paul’s teachings and to ask for help from the Roman Christian community to help him reach his journey to Spain via Rome.</p> <p>Now that you understand the context of the biblical verse, can you see why the topic of hope for the intended audience was so important? Imagine being a new Christian persecuted under a harsh, pagan Roman emperor. Today we don’t have the same level of persecution in the western culture, but we do have political, religious, and cultural oppression and persecution in the Middle East and countries in Africa.</p> <p>c. Discuss the issue of hope, endurance and character forming in view of biblical and modern day conflicts – personal, locally and internationally.</p> <p>d. Find out more about Paul.</p> <p>For students and teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Garratt <i>Friendly Guides</i> series and <i>The Gospels</i>, C. Monaghan. <p>For teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Quick Reference Guide to the Catholic bible</i>, M.A. Getty-Sullivan • <i>Biblical Literacy Made Easy: A practical Guide</i>, Brian Singer-Towns, St Mary’s press, • <i>The Bible: The Living Word of God</i>, Robert Rabe, St Mary’s press
<p>Reflection/s</p>	<p>Reflection</p> <p>Lord, help me to reach out to those most in need, To have compassion for the poor, And to live a just life.</p>

	<p>You have taught me to turn the other cheek; May I show mercy through forgiveness, And to pray for those who have harmed me. Amen.</p>
<p>Suggested Classroom Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual - Classroom 	<p>Activities</p> <p>Theme: Why is the bible in the top ten influential books?</p> <p>1. According to the Facebook poll, the Bible is still on the top ten most influential books in the world. There are numerous movies based on bible stories and events. The latest movie, Noah, was a block buster movie.</p> <p>Brainstorm in a group and discuss why there is still interest today in bible stories.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List your favourite bible stories/events and why. b. Search the internet for movies based on bible, including children’s animated movies. List them, the year they were made, which country they were made in, any reviews, any YouTube clips or trailers or controversy surrounding the content. Share them with the class. c. List the movies that have had the most remakes and discuss in a group why this may be. Are these biblical stories still relevant today? d. Which are the most popular biblical characters and why? E.g. Moses and Jesus. e. Watch <u>one</u> biblical themed movie and present a review to the class. f. List other forms of modern biblical narratives – musicals (Jesus Christ Superstar), songs in all genres from pop, rock, opera, dance, local shows (the Easter Passion plays) art exhibitions, novels (Dan Brown’s books) concerts (Handel’s Messiah) and any other you can find. <p>Theme: The Bible is not ONE book – it is a collection of books:</p> <p>Structure</p> <p>Information Overview: (Knowledge Competency)</p> <p>The Bible consists of 73 books in total: 46 books are in the Old Testament (Before Christ - BC) and 27 books are in the New Testament (After Christ - AD).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a table and list the Old Testament and the New Testament books in order as set out in the Catholic Bible.

Use this grouping:

THE PENTATEUCH (the Torah in Jewish Scripture, or Law – the first 5 books of the Bible)

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 and 2 Samuel
1 and 2 Kings
1 and 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Tobit
Judith
Esther
1 and 2 Maccabees

THE WISDOM BOOKS

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Wisdom
Sirach

THE BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Baruch
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Fill in the New Testament books under the headings:

THE GOSPELS

HISTORY (1)

THE LETTERS

APOCALYPTIC (1)

Overview: A snapshot view of the Testaments

The Hebrew scriptures (the Old Testament) are a collection of writings that tell the story of the covenant between God and Israel over many centuries before Christ. They are pre-Christian writings that are a prequel to the coming of the Messiah.

The New Testament was written after Jesus' death by Christian writers and did not span over such a long period of time. Paul was the first Christian writer who wrote around 50 AD and executed by Nero, the Roman Emperor around 62 AD. Mark wrote the first Gospel, around 65 AD, followed by other Gospels. John was the final gospel to be written around 90 AD and the rest of the Letters were written up to the early second century.

1. Choose ONE book from either the Old Testament or the New and fill in information below:

Who wrote this book and any information you can find about him.

Who was this book written for?

What themes and stories are in the book? What was going on at this time historically in that region?

When was the book written?

Where was the author at the time of the writing?

Why did the author write this book?

Theme: How to locate a passage in the Bible

References for Bible passages are indicated by:

- the book
- the book chapter
- the verses

(Your Bible will have a special section where you can find the name of

the bible book and the page number.)

For example:

Genesis 2:18-30. Look up the book of Genesis in the Old Testament, look for Chapter 2, then find verse 18 and stop at verse 30.

Refer to *Two Hands of God*, M. Coloe, for scripture on Genesis and the story on creation, with biblical literacy exercises.

1. Look up these popular bible passages:

Old Testament

Genesis 1: 1

Psalm 23

New Testament

Matthew 22:37-39

John 14:6

Luke: 10:30-37

2. Choose ONE reading and explain what it means to you, using the 5 questions above.

Present your view as a:

- Modern day correspondence – eg email or Facebook post
- Media article – review, news, opinion, letter to the editor
- Visual media – photo, art, Instagram,
- Interactive media – podcast, movie, YouTube, song

