

2 Timothy 3:16

Family Formation Home Lesson
Kindergarten-6th Grades

September
Lesson 1

FINDING JESUS IN THIS LESSON

“The Church ‘forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful . . . to learn “the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ,” by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” ’ ”¹¹² CCC 133

¹¹² DV 25; cf. Phil 3:8 and St. Jerome, *Commentariorum in Isaiam libri xviii* prol.: PL 24, 17b.

BEGIN WITH SCRIPTURE

“Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light for my path.” *Psalm 119:105*

Dear Lord, as we do this lesson, we ask that You would shine a light of understanding upon our family and help to love and understand You better, especially as we read the Bible. Amen.

PREPARATION

Prepare materials for the “Stained Glass” Candleholder project on Page 8.

Lesson

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD?

When Jesus was on earth, before He returned to heaven, He was teaching His apostles and giving them the power to do things that needed to be done for His Church like teaching, forgiving sins, celebrating the Eucharist, and making the laws that would help the Church run well. (See CCC 189, 232, 543, 730; Matthew 28:19; John 20:23; 1 Corinthians 11:24; and James 5:14.)

Jesus made the apostles the first bishops of His Church (See CCC 77, Mark 16:15, John 17:18, John 20:21, and Mark 3:13-19.), and we can read in the Bible that He made Peter the first Pope. (See CCC 881, Matthew 16:18, Luke 22:31-32, and John 21:15-17.)

Jesus wanted to protect His Church from teaching wrong ideas, so He gave Peter and all of the Popes after him the promise of infallibility. (See CCC 889-91, 2051.)



This means that when the Pope teaches some truth about what we must believe or how we must act, the Holy Spirit guarantees that what he teaches is right. (See Matthew 16:18, Matthew 28:20, Mark 16:15-16, and Luke 10:16.) This does not mean that the Pope is sinless, or can never make a mistake, but it does mean that when he speaks on our Faith, the Holy Spirit ensures that he is speaking God's Word. Infallibility only applies when the Pope is making an important statement on a truth of our Faith, not every time he speaks about faith or morals.

When we make an Act of Faith we pray:



*“I believe these and all the truths
which the holy Catholic Church teaches,
because You revealed them,
Who can neither deceive nor be deceived.”*

You may be wondering, “What does all of this have to do with the Bible?”

Just this: It is important to know about God's promise of infallibility so you know you can trust what the Church teaches us about the Bible.

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES:

“In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, ‘but as what it really is, the word of God.’⁶⁷ ‘In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.’⁶⁸ CCC 104

⁶⁷ 1 Thess 2:13; cf. DV 24.

⁶⁸ DV 21.

“... the books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures.”⁷² CCC 107

⁷² DV 11.

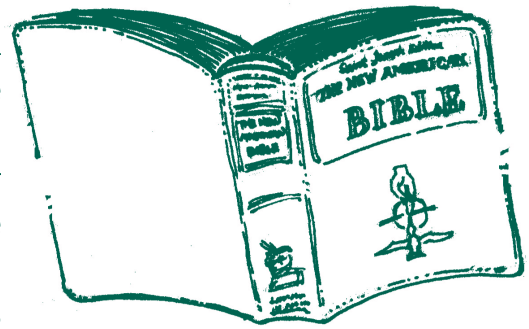
“Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit.”⁴² CCC 81

⁴² DV 9.

The Word of God is not a dead letter, but is a living Word. We must let the Holy Spirit open our minds to understanding the Scriptures. (See CCC 108.)

IN SUMMARY:

- The whole Bible is the Word of God. We cannot just pick the parts that we agree with and call them God's Word.
- The Holy Bible is a very important way that God uses to talk to us. It is so important that the whole Holy Mass is centered around it
- It is so important that we read from it at every Mass, and many of the prayers of the Mass are based on Scripture! (See CCC 1100.)
- The Word of God is a living Word. Many Christians will tell you that they have had the experience of reading a part of the Bible many times, but only when the time was right did the Holy Spirit show them the meaning of it.



HOLY SCRIPTURE IS OUR EQUIPMENT FOR DOING GOD'S WORK

When you do almost any job, you will need some kind of equipment, just as a mechanic needs wrenches, a carpenter needs a saw, hammer, and nails, and a trucker needs a truck and maps.

PARENTS: Give examples of equipment that you use for doing your various jobs, and invite your saints to give examples from their own lives.

Every day God gives us jobs to do. It may be as simple as sharing with someone or as big as answering His call to become a priest or religious. But no matter what God asks you to do, He promises to give you the equipment you will need to do the job! One of the important tools that God has given us is the Bible. We can read in 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

*“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching,
for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
so that one who belongs to God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.”*

PARENTS: This verse is a focal point of this lesson, so it is important that your children understand what it means. Read the verse to your saints, and question them about the meaning of it. They will need to know the meaning of the words refutation, correction, righteousness, and competent. If your saints are old enough, they could check the meanings of these words in the dictionary.

You can use these definitions
for younger saints:

Refutation - to prove something to be untrue
Correction - fixing something wrong to make it right
Righteousness - being right and just (fair)
Competent - able



When you are reasonably sure that your saints understand the terms, have them write or tell you the ideas from this verse in their own words. It may sound something like this:

“God gave us the whole Bible to teach us, and to help us to know the truth, so we can know when we are doing the right things, and so we can do the jobs He has for us to do.”

If all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for doing His work, we should know what the Bible tells us about itself.

*“Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105*

The Bible gives us light for the road on which we travel. It will give us guidance for our everyday living.

*“... take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.” Ephesians 6:17*

A sword is a tool for someone in a battle. As Christians, we are right in the middle of a battle against evil. Daily reading of God’s Word will show us what is good and right. It is only when we know God’s ways that we can help ourselves and others win the battle against sin and temptation.

“The seed is the word of God.” Luke 8:11

In the “Parable of the Sower,” Jesus compares His Word to a seed. A seed is not very exciting to look at, but when you plant it, it comes to life! A new plant is created which will eventually bear fruit of its own. The Word of God is just like that. On the outside, the Bible may look like

just an ordinary book, but remember, the Church tells us that the Word of God contained in Sacred Scripture is a living Word. Reading it regularly will change your life—it will bear fruit in you by giving you new desires, new habits, and a new way of looking at life as God wants you to see it.

Do you like to get mail? When you get a letter, do you leave it in your mailbox for a few days or even weeks? If you are like most people, you can not wait to start reading it!



The Holy Bible is a group of letters that God has written to you! At first, it looks really big and maybe too hard to read, but our wonderful Church has given us a way to read the Bible in small daily bits that will help us to see, over time, many of the important truths that God wants us to learn.



Every day is assigned three readings, one from the Old Testament or Epistles, a Psalm, and a Gospel reading. On Sundays and other feast days, there is also a reading from another New Testament book. If you are not already reading the Bible every day, you might want to begin by just reading the Gospel reading for each day. After you have developed the habit of daily Gospel reading, you will want to read and study the other daily readings also. It is interesting to see how the readings relate to one another.

PARENTS: Make a commitment to read the daily Gospel readings together as a family. This is a great chance for a parent to exercise their role as the spiritual leader of their domestic church. Begin your time with a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit for understanding. After you have finished reading, ask your saints to tell you the reading in their own words, and discuss the meaning of the verses together.

HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE

for older saints

As you know, the Catholic Bible has 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The books of the Bible are called the *canon of scripture*. But where did the Bible as we know it come from?

During the early years of the Church, there was no official canon of scripture, but most of the books we know today were already recognized as being divinely inspired, and the Vatican offered teaching on which books belonged in the Bible. In 382, Pope Damasus I instructed St. Jerome to translate the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin, the language of the Church.

Because the printing press had not been invented yet, all books – including Bibles – had to be copied one at a time, usually by monks. These Bibles often had elaborate illustrations in bright colors, called *illumination*. Because they took so long to make (just imagine how long it would take you to copy the entire Bible!), most churches only had one Bible. They were sometimes kept chained in front of the church building so that people could use them but not steal them.

In the 16th century, a monk named Martin Luther disagreed with certain Church teachings, such as purgatory, praying for the dead, devotion to Mary and the saints, and the authority of the pope. When some Catholics showed Luther that praying for the dead is in the Bible (read 2 Maccabees 12:43-46), Luther argued that Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, and parts of Esther and Daniel should not be in the Bible. When Luther translated the Bible into German, he left those books out, and they are still not included in Protestant Bibles.

MONKS: Men who give their lives completely to God through prayer, penance, work, and living apart from the rest of society.

In 1546, the Council of Trent infallibly declared the official canon of scripture as we know it. The Catholic canon has not changed since then.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, after the printing press was invented and explorers and missionaries were discovering new countries (and new languages), the Bible began to be translated into many other languages, including English.

If you compare two different Bibles side-by-side, you will probably notice that some of the words are different. This is because some translators try hard to translate exactly what the original language says. Sometimes those translations can be difficult to understand, but they give us a better idea of what the original writer wrote. Other translators make their Bibles easy to understand, but sometimes the translation is not exactly the same as the original.

Of course, it is very important that the translators are careful with their work, so that they do not mislead people on purpose or by accident. The bishops look at Catholic translations to make sure that they are free from error. If they approve of the translation, a bishop offers an *Imprimatur* (which is Latin for “Let it be printed”), which indicates that there is nothing wrong with it. The imprimatur in a book can be found on the same page as the copyright information, along with the name of the bishop who granted it and the year.

PROTESTANT OLD TESTAMENT	CATHOLIC OLD TESTAMENT
Genesis	Genesis
Exodus	Exodus
Leviticus	Leviticus
Numbers	Numbers
Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy
Joshua	Joshua
Judges	Judges
Ruth	Ruth
1 Samuel	1 Samuel
2 Samuel	2 Samuel
1 Kings	1 Kings
2 Kings	2 Kings
1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles	2 Chronicles
Ezra	Ezra
Nehemiah	Nehemiah
	Tobit
	Judith
Esther	Esther
	1 Maccabees
	2 Maccabees
Job	Job
Psalms	Psalms
Proverbs	Proverbs
Ecclesiastes	Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon	Song of Songs
	Wisdom
	Ecclesiasticus/Sirach
Isaiah	Isaiah
Jeremiah	Jeremiah
Lamentations	Lamentations
	Baruch
Ezekiel	Ezekiel
Daniel	Daniel
Hosea	Hosea
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obadiah	Obadiah
Jonah	Jonah
Micah	Micah
Nahum	Nahum
Habakkuk	Habakkuk
Zephaniah	Zephaniah
Haggai	Haggai
Zechariah	Zechariah
Malachi	Malachi



Family Formation is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost educators of their children"* and to help families grow in the transforming love of God by understanding and living the Catholic Faith.

REMINDER: scan the QR Code below for the Lesson Quizzes and Parent Pages.



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"Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light for my path."

Psalms 119:105

✂ "STAINED GLASS" CANDLEHOLDER

Materials Needed For Each Candleholder:

- a small jar (e.g. a baby food jar or a pint jar)
- white glue
- water
- scissors
- small paint brushes
- pieces of colored tissue paper (provided)
- a candle
- *Lamp Pattern Sheet* (provided)
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Instructions:

1. Cover your work surface.
2. Mix 2 tablespoons of glue with 1 tablespoon of water for each jar you plan to make.
3. Cut your tissue paper into squares about 1 x 1 inch.
4. Brush a thin layer of the glue mixture over the surface of the jar. Work on about 1/4 of the jar at a time.
5. Lay the tissue paper pieces on the glued surface, overlapping slightly, until the jar is covered.
6. Brush the entire surface with the glue mixture to seal.
7. Allow to dry.
8. Color, cut out, and fold the lamp according to the directions printed on the *Lamp Pattern Sheet*.



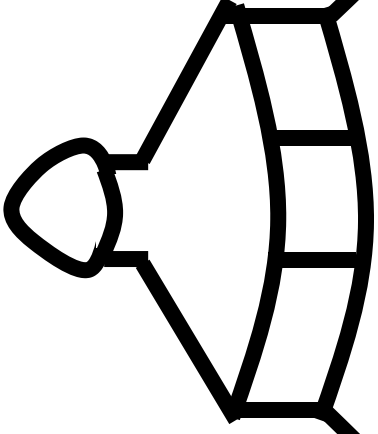
Set this candleholder on your prayer center with the lamp cutout in front of it (but not close enough to get hot!). Each day as you invite the Holy Spirit to be with you during your reading time, have your parents light your candle as a reminder of His presence there with you.

LAMP PATTERN SHEET

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Assembly Instructions:

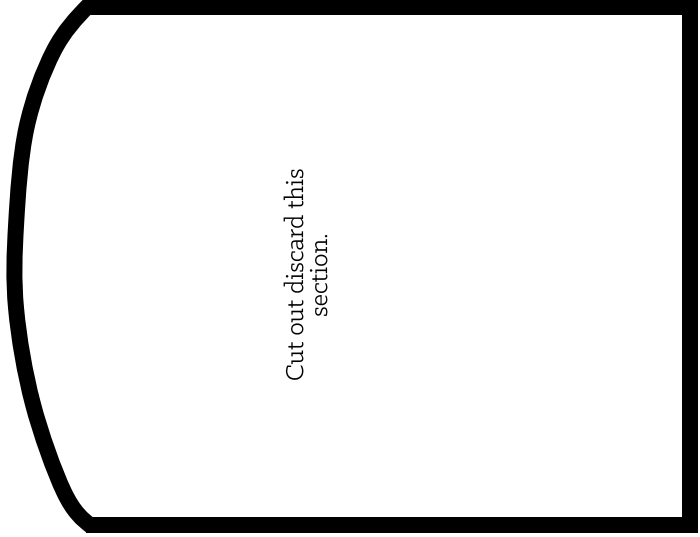
1. Cut along solid black lines.
2. Fold along dotted lines.



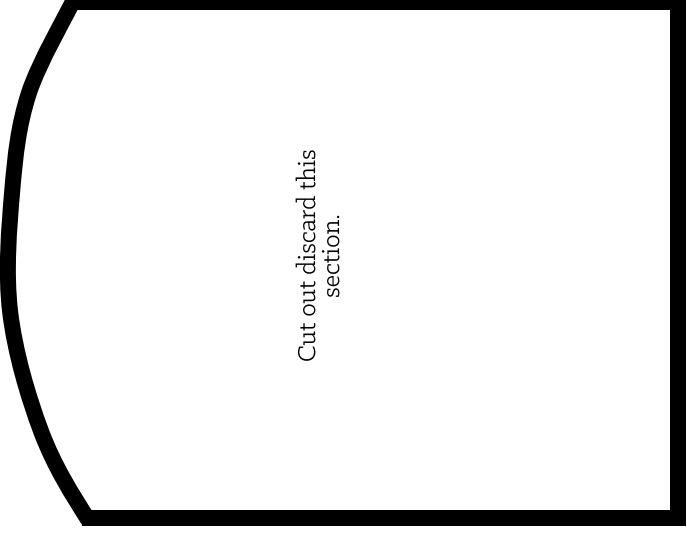
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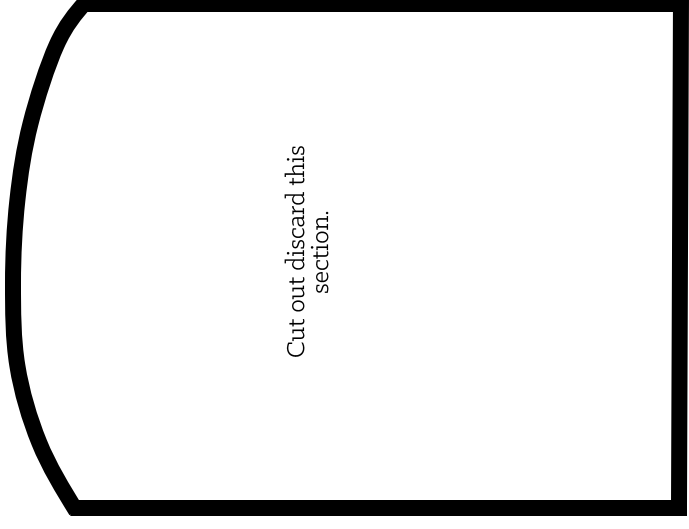
*Your word is a lamp
for my feet,*



Cut out discard this section.



Cut out discard this section.



Cut out discard this section.

a light for my path.

Psalms 119:105