**God reveals himself**

God appears to Abraham

**Genesis 17:1–8**

Abraham’s visitors

**Genesis 18:1–15**

Jacob’s dream

**Genesis 28:10–22**

Moses and the burning bush

**Exodus 3:1 – 4:17**

An angel speaks to Gideon

**Judges 6:11–24**

Isaiah’s prophecy

**Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 11:1–5; Isaiah 25:8; Isaiah 42:1–4; Isaiah 53**

**God reveals himself through Jesus**

John 1:14,18

**John 3:16,17**

Acts 2:22–39

**Hebrews 1:1–3**

1 John 4:8–10

**Who wrote the Bible?**

2 Peter 1:21

**Who wrote the Bible?**

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**Types of Writing**

**Law**

Exodus 20:1–17

**Exodus 23:1–9**

Deuteronomy 5:6–21

**History**

Passover

**Exodus 12:1–42**

Israelites’ escape from Egypt

**Exodus 13:17 – 14:31**

**Poetry**

Psalm 18

**Psalm 23**

Psalm 46

**Psalm 100**

Psalm 121

**Psalm 150**

**Wisdom**

Proverbs 1:7

**Proverbs 3:27,28**

Proverbs 9:10

**Proverbs 10:1**

Proverbs 10:12

**Proverbs 15:10**

Proverbs 16:24

**Proverbs 18:10**

Proverbs 22:9

**Proverbs 27**

Ecclesiastes 12:9–13

**Prophecy**

Isaiah 52:13–15

**Isaiah 53**

**Jesus fulfils Old Testament prophecies**

Matthew 1:18–25

**Matthew 8:16,17**

Matthew 13:34,35

**Matthew 21:1–11**

Matthew 26:38

**Matthew 27:12**

Matthew 27:39–43

**Luke 22:37**

Luke 23:34

**Luke 24:6–8**


1 Corinthians 15:3

Philippians 2:9–11

1 Peter 2:22–24

**Parables**

The house built on a rock

**Matthew 7:24–27**

A lost coin and a lost sheep

**Luke 15:1–10**

The forgiving father

**Luke 15:11–32**

The great banquet

**Luke 14:15–24**

**Letters**

Philemon

**1 Peter 1:3**

1 John 4:7–9

**Important Old Testament Stories**

Creation story

**Genesis 1,2**

Noah

**Genesis 6:1 – 9:17**

God calls Abraham

**Genesis 12:1–9**

God’s covenant

**Genesis 15**

A promise of a son for Sarah

**Genesis 18:1–15**

The birth of Isaac

**Genesis 21:1–8**

God blesses Jacob

**Genesis 35:1–15**

Joseph

**Genesis 37 – 46**

God saves Moses

**Exodus 1:1 – 2:10**

God calls Moses

**Exodus 3:1 – 4:17**

The Passover

**Exodus 12:1–42**

Crossing the Red Sea

**Exodus 14**
The song of Moses  Exodus 15:1–18  
The song of Miriam  Exodus 15:19–21  
Bitter water  Exodus 15:22–27  
The manna and the quails  Exodus 16  
The Ten Commandments  Exodus 20:1–17  
The death of Moses  Deuteronomy 34  
Joshua and Israelites enter the promised land  Joshua 1:1–9; Joshua 6  
Ruth  Ruth 1 – 4  
God protects David  1 Samuel 16:31  
God’s promise to David  2 Samuel 7:1–17  
God gives Solomon wisdom  1 Kings 3:5–15  
Elijah in the wilderness  1 Kings 17  
Naaman  2 Kings 5:1–19  
God calls Isaiah  Isaiah 6:1–10  
The future king  Isaiah 9:1–7  
The suffering servant  Isaiah 53  
God warns and promises  Isaiah 59  
The good news of deliverance  Isaiah 61  
Daniel in the lion’s den  Daniel 6  
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego  Daniel 1,3  

**People who knew Jesus**  
Peter and John, Andrew and James become disciples  Matthew 4:18–22  
Mary Magdalene  Luke 8:1–3; John 20:1–18  
Zacchaeus  Luke 19:1–10  
Paul  Acts 9:1–30  

**Stories about Jesus**  
Jesus’ birth  Matthew 1:18–22; Luke 2:1–20  
Jesus’ baptism  Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21,22  
The miracles of Jesus (see Bible subject index)  

**Jesus’ teaching**  
Love your enemies  Matthew 5:43–48  
Attitude to sinners and tax collectors  Matthew 9:9–13  
Jesus and the children  Mark 10:13–16  
The greatest commandment  Mark 12:28–34  
Trust in God  Luke 12:22–31  

**Stories from Acts**  
Summary of the book of Acts  Acts 1:8  
Peter and John are arrested  Acts 4:1–21  
Saul’s conversion  Acts 9:1–25  
Peter is set free from prison  Acts 12:1–17  
Paul in prison at Philippi  Acts 16:16–40  
Paul is shipwrecked  Acts 27  

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**KEY BIBLE VERSES TO HEAR AND REMEMBER**

*But these (miracles) are written so that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.*  
John 20:31a (CEV)  

*Since childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures that are able to make you wise enough to have faith in Christ Jesus and be saved.*  
2 Timothy 3:15 (CEV)  

*The prophets didn’t think these things up on their own, but they were guided by the Spirit of God.*  
2 Peter 1:21 (CEV)
God reveals himself to people through his word

COMMUNICATING
As an introduction to Bible stories which describe God communicating with his people, students discuss and list the various ways people communicate, eg speaking, actions, signs, flags, code, e-mail, letters, songs, stories, music, body language, braille. Students investigate and demonstrate some of these methods of communication. Alternatively, students could identify and list the forms of communication they use in the classroom and messages that are communicated in these ways, eg
- smile and nod: I agree with what you are saying
- shrug shoulders: I don’t know
- raise your hand: I have a question or I have the answer. (1a,1b)

CULTURAL COMMUNICATION
Explore and identify the range of ways people from various cultures communicate important stories and messages, eg song, dance, story, art. Use this as an introduction to the way the Bible describes God communicating with his people. (1a,1b)

ACTIONS OF CHARACTERS
Read to the students a short story which has a variety of characters. Ask the students to describe and discuss the actions of the character(s) and what they reveal about that character. Use this as an introduction to Bible stories which describe God’s actions and what they reveal about God. (1a,1b)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?
As a class discuss and record responses to the sentence beginning: The Bible is . . . Students survey family and friends to find their responses. (1a,1b,1c)

RESPONDING TO TEXTS
Provide students with a wide range of books, eg picture books, non-fiction texts. Students choose a text and prepare a book review which includes their response to the text. Use this as an introduction to the way Christians respond to the Bible. (1c)

The Bible is God’s word written by people whom God inspired

AUTHOR STUDY
Students take part in an author study. Make a collection of and examine the types of books written by a particular author. Explore what the books reveal about the author. Use this as an introduction to an investigation of the people who wrote the Bible. (2a)

KINDS OF BOOKS
Make a collection of a wide variety of books, eg cookery, adventure stories, poetry, encyclopedias. Identify the genres evident in the various books. Students write, using a range of genres. Use this as an introduction to the different genres in the Bible. (2b)

HISTORY OF WRITING
Investigate the history of writing and writing materials used during biblical times. (2b,c)

BIBLE DISPLAY
Make a display of a variety of Bible translations and Bible story books. Provide time for students to browse through the books. Students select the Bible translation they prefer and the Bible story book they most enjoyed reading. Students give reasons for their selections. (2b,c)

COMPARING ACCOUNTS
Tell the students a short story and then ask them to write the story in their own words. Or ask the students to describe an event which has taken place at school recently. Students compare the various accounts and identify: What is the same? What is different? Why are the accounts different? Lead on to comparing various accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in the gospels. (2a)
The Bible tells the story of God’s plan for the salvation of his people through Jesus.

**FAMILY STORIES** Students give an oral account of a family story which has been handed down from grandparents or parents, e.g. moving to a new country or city, war experiences, childhood stories. Or students can tell a story of a family event which has occurred more recently. Consider also exploring with the students the role of storytelling, particularly in Old Testament times. Use this as an introduction to the stories of the Bible. (3a,3b)

**MAP** Provide students with Bible background resources, such as maps which show the locations where the stories of the Old Testament and New Testament took place. This will help to set the context for the Bible stories the students will be exploring. (3a,3b)

**PROMISES, PROMISES** Discuss and list promises people make to each other or the promises which are made in advertisements. Role-play situations where promises are made. Discuss the reasons for making promises and situations where promises are kept and where promises are broken. Use this as an introduction to examining the promise God made in the Old Testament, to rescue his people and through his people to demonstrate love to all people (see Bible References Menu). (3a)
God reveals himself to people through his word

GOD COMMUNICATES WITH PEOPLE Students work either with partners or in small groups. Choose a Bible story which illustrates a way that God communicated with his people, eg dream, angel, prophet, becoming a human being (see Bible References Menu). Illustrate the way God communicated in the story and the message God gave. Try to present this in a way which reflects the means of communication, eg use coloured cellophane to represent the fire of the burning bush. (1a,1b)

PEOPLE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT Using Bible story books or illustrated Bibles, students investigate the role God played in the lives of Old Testament women, such as Sarah, Miriam, and Ruth, or men, such as Noah, David, Moses, Joseph. Students prepare a character profile about one of these persons and indicate what the persons learnt about God from God’s involvement in their lives. (1a,1b,3a)

ADVENTURES IN ACTS The book of Acts is filled with ‘action’ stories of how God was with the first Christians as they spread the message of God’s love shown in Jesus. Students use a story from Acts to make storyboards, dramatisations, or audio tapes with sound effects of a story from Acts, such as the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, Paul’s conversion, Peter’s escape from prison, Paul is shipwrecked (see Bible References Menu). Make sure that when students retell the stories they include God’s involvement in the lives of the people. (1b,3b)

VIEWS ABOUT THE BIBLE Students conduct a survey of people within their family and the school community to discover how people view the Bible. Collate findings and responses of people. Invite members of a Christian church affiliated with the school to share with the students their attitude to the Bible and the role it plays in their life.

Alternatively, read stories which describe the impact the Bible has had on Christians, eg stories about Brad Mackay (Rugby League), Steve Lawrence (Australian Rules), Tony South (archery) in the book Towards the Goal, or stories from The Gods of Sport. (1b,1c)

OLD TESTAMENT GAME Make up a board game which illustrates events of Old Testament Bible stories. Use an illustrated Bible as a resource. Students could include bonus cards or points for incidents where God showed his love and protection to people. (1a,1b,3a)

BIBLE TRANSLATORS Students investigate the work of Bible translators, such as Wycliffe Bible Translators, the Bible Society, or Lutheran Bible Translators Australia. Research why these people are so committed to their work and why the Bible is so important to them. If possible, arrange for a guest speaker from one of these groups to visit the class and talk about their experiences of working with the Bible and working with people who are discovering the Bible. (1c)

The Bible is God’s word written by people whom God inspired

FORMS OF WRITING IN THE BIBLE As a class, identify, discuss and list the forms of writing found in the Bible, eg parables, psalms, laws, letters (see Bible References Menu). Provide students with short sections of the Bible which demonstrate a range of genres. Students sort and classify these sections of the Bible according to genre. (2b)

BIBLE LIBRARY Students make a class set of ‘books’ of the Bible, using empty boxes, eg match, soup or small tissue boxes. Cover three sides of each box with paper and make a book jacket for each book. Name the books and colour code them according to the various forms of writing, such as letters, books of the law, prophets. (2a,2b,2c)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE Students work with a partner and choose one book from the Old Testament or New Testament to investigate. Use the introduction at the beginning of the books and other resources such as a Bible handbook or What the Bible is All About (Blankenbaker) to assist with research.

Students identify information, such as the writer of the book, main events in the book, type of writing (letters, law, poetry). A4 sheets compiled by the students containing information about books of the Bible, can be kept in a loose-leaf folder and added to
throughout the year. Or information can be entered into a computer database. (2a, 2b, 2c)

**WRITERS OF GOD’S MESSAGE**
Students explore the message of 2 Peter 1:21. Discuss what this says about the writers of the Bible. Students investigate and present information about a person(s) who contributed to writing a book(s) of the Bible, eg David, King Solomon, Isaiah, Luke. Include the names of the books they wrote, examples of what they wrote and the message of their writings. Present the information as an author study. (2a, 2b)

**COMPARING ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS IN THE GOSPELS**
Students compare Matthew’s account of Jesus’ birth with Luke’s. Make a chart of the similarities and differences between the two accounts. What is important to Matthew in this story? to Luke? What is important to both of them?
Students could also compare the accounts of miracles of Jesus or Jesus’ death and resurrection in the gospels. (2a, 1b, 3b)

**PARABLES**
Students choose one of the parables Jesus told. Dramatise the story or communicate it using methods such as a rap, big book, series of photographs or paintings, computer-generated slide-show. (2b, 1b)

**PAUL’S LETTERS**
Paul’s letters usually have four parts: 1) greeting, 2) thanksgiving, 3) instruction or teaching, 4) final blessing. Students identify these parts in one of Paul’s letters, eg Philemon. Students write a letter to a friend using the same format, either telling what they know about the Bible or giving their own version of an incident from the life of Jesus. (2b)

**PURPOSE OF LETTERS**
Choose and read one of the letters included in the Bible. Students make a concept map which provides information about the letter, such as the writer, the people the letter was sent to, the purpose of the letter, information about Jesus and/or things which were happening in that community included in the letter. Students use resources, such as the introduction to the letter in the Bible and/or a Bible handbook. (2a, 2b, 3b)

**FASCINATING FACTS**
Students make a ‘fascinating facts’ book about the Bible. Include information about Bible characters, life in Bible times, places in Bible stories, how the Bible was written (see Recommended Resources Menu). (2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3b)

**FEATURES OF THE BIBLE**
Students identify the various features of a Bible, eg text, index, contents, maps, introduction to each of the books. They describe the features, and the purpose of these features on large illustrated charts or on information/reference sheets which can be put inside their personal Bibles. (2c)

**FINDING BIBLE PASSAGES**
Students write a set of simple instructions on how to read a Bible reference and find a Bible passage. Students create their own Bible quizzes or ‘treasure hunts’ through the Bible, by giving references to Bible stories which other students can use to test their skills. (2c)

**DECORATING BIBLE PASSAGES**
Before the printing press was invented, people copied the Bible by hand. Some people added beautiful decoration with different colours and designs. If possible show an example. Students choose a favourite Bible passage, copy it and decorate it, using coloured ink and calligraphy pens or felt tipped-pens. (2b)

**THE CATECHISM AND THE LAW**
Students find and record examples of laws in their community. Read the Bible story of God giving the Ten Commandments to his people (Exodus 20:1–17). Read the commandments and their explanation from Luther’s *Small Catechism*. Students write the commandments in a positive way (what to do). Record them either on cardboard pieces made to look like flat stones or in a more contemporary way, eg computer formatted. (2b)

The Bible tells the story of God’s plan for the salvation of his people through Jesus

**EXODUS**
Use a Bible story book to investigate the story of the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Discuss with the students God’s role in these stories and God’s purpose in rescuing Israel. Tell students that the Bible describes this rescue as part of a much larger rescue God planned for all people through Israel. Students make a story map showing incidents in which God demonstrated his love and care for the people. Or students imagine they are Israelites escaping from Egypt. They write a diary which tells about events and about their thoughts, fears, hopes. (3a)
GOD’S PROMISES  Students imagine they are Hebrew children living in the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament. They choose a story their parents would have told to them about God’s love and care for his chosen people and the promise God made to rescue them and through them show his love to all people, eg stories about Abraham, Moses and the Exodus (see Bible References Menu for further suggestions). They retell the stories either orally, pictorially, musically or in written form. (3a)

FULFILMENT OF PROPHECIES  Read Isaiah 53 to the students. Discuss and identify Isaiah’s description of the promises God made about the Saviour. Students read a Bible story book or the accounts in one of the gospels which describes Jesus’ suffering and death. Students illustrate the events which took place and record three or four key verses from Isaiah 53 which describe what would happen to the promised Saviour. (3a,3b)

PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE  Students read and discuss the following Bible passages to discover the purpose of the Bible:

- John 5:39  John 20:31
- 2 Timothy 3:15–17  Psalm 78:1–8
- Psalm 119:105.

Students make Bible bookmarks with one of the above Bible verses on them. (3a,3b)
1. God reveals himself to people through his word

**COMMUNICATING JESUS’ MESSAGE** Students choose a means of communication, eg art, drama, writing, music, to give their interpretation of one thing Jesus communicated to all people through his life, teachings, miracles, death and resurrection as described in the Bible. (1a,1b,1c)

**CREATIVE WRITING** Students use one of the forms of writing found in the Bible, eg poetry, letter, parable, to express their opinions about the purpose, importance and message of the Bible. (1b,1c,2b)

**SUPPORT THE WORK OF BIBLE TRANSLATION** Students plan and participate in a project which supports the work of Bible translators or the distribution of Bibles to people throughout the world. (Contact agencies such as Wycliffe Bible Translators, the Bible Society, Gideons.) This support could include students providing information about the work of these agencies to the school or wider community, directing chapel offerings to this work or exploring avenues of fundraising. (1c)

**BIBLE IN THE FUTURE** Students identify the various forms the Bible can take, eg CD-ROM, audio tapes, film. Students suggest ways the Bible might be presented in the future or ways they would like to see the Bible and its message presented. They design an advertisement for ‘the Bible of the future’. (1b,1c,2c)

2. The Bible is God’s word written by people whom God inspired

**BIBLE INFORMATION PACK** Students produce an ‘information pack’ about the Bible, eg computer multimedia presentation, poster, Bible handbook. This could include a glossary of terms relating to the Bible, such as books of the Bible, Old Testament, New Testament. (2a,2b,2c,3a,3b)

**SCROLLS** Students make scrolls from paper, cardboard, or fabric. They select a Bible story or Bible verse and write it on a scroll. (2b,2c,3a,3b)

**BIBLE QUIZ** Students write their own questions for a Bible quiz or design a game such as Trivial Pursuit which requires students to use their knowledge of the Bible. Provide regular opportunities for students to participate in Bible quizzes and Bible games. (2a,2c,3a,3b)

**BIBLE ADVERTISEMENT** Make an advertisement for the Bible — the world’s best-selling book. Include reasons why the book is so important. Create a slogan as a part of the advertisement. (2a,2b,3a,3b)

3. The Bible tells the story of God’s plan for the salvation of his people through Jesus

**STORYTELLERS** Invite people from a range of ages and occupations to tell their favourite Bible story to the class. These people could include the principal or other school staff members, a parent or grandparent, the pastor, senior students. Storytellers also share with the students why this story is their favourite and why it is important to their lives. (3a,3b,1c)

**SCRIPTURE IN SONG** Students explore Christian songbooks, eg All Together series, to identify songs which have been based on Bible verses. (The Bible reference is often recorded by the name of the songwriter.) Choose a song and look up the Bible passage related to the song. Students introduce the song they have chosen by reading to the class the Bible passage it is based on. Students either listen to a recording of the song or, if they are familiar with it, sing it as a class. Students discuss the message of the Bible passage and the song. (3a,3b)

**BIBLE COVERS** Students make book covers, including a blurb, for particular books of the Bible which describes the content or message of the books. (3a,3b)

**BIBLE CHARACTER** Students dress up as their favourite Bible character. They present an oral account (as their character) based on a Bible story which describes the promises God made to them and the way God showed his love and care to them. (3a,3b)
BIBLE STORY WITHOUT WORDS
Students choose a Bible story and retell it in a way which does not involve words (written or oral), such as dance, stained-glass windows, mural, computer-generated slide-show or mime. (3a,3b)

TRACTS Students make a tract which explains simply and clearly ‘What’s in the Bible?’ Include important Bible verses. (3a,3b,1b)

SHARING STORIES Students make an illustrated book or an audio tape of the class’s favourite Bible stories which could be used in a junior primary class or the library. Make sure to put the stories in the correct order and indicate where they can be found in the Bible. (3a,3b)

WHO AM I? Students write ‘Who am I?’ clues for people from the Old or New Testament. Present them to the class to see if they can identify the characters. (3a,3b)
The introduction to LIFE contains suggested general resources for all LIFE concepts. The following resources may be used to develop a unit about God helps people by his word.

Some of these resources may be out of print. They are listed because they (or others similar to them) may be found in school libraries. Preview these and any other resources you intend using to be sure that they are appropriate for your students.

**LITERATURE — NON-FICTION**

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIBLE**
- Doney M. *How Our Bible Came to Us*. 1985 Lion Publishing
- Dolwey T. *Scripture Union Guide to the Bible*. 1986 Scripture Union
- Drane J. *A Very Special Book—All about the Bible (Bible World)*. 1996 Lion Publishing
- Elliot B & Lang J. *Amazing Facts from the Bible*. 1991 Albatross Books
- Hammond M. *Young Explorers in the Land where Jesus Lived*. 1992 Chariot Books
- Rock L. *Discover the Bible*. 1996 Lion Publishing
- Rock L. *A First Look—The Bible*. 1994 Lion Publishing
- Tarrant C. *Life in Bible Times*. 1985 Scripture Union
- Ulmer L. *The Bible That Wouldn’t Burn (Story of William Tyndale)*. 1983 Concordia
- Walker D. *Mailbag from the Middle East*. 1996 Eagle
- Walton F. *Let’s Explore inside the Bible*. 1994 Scripture Union

**BIBLE HANDBOOKS**
- Blankenbaker F. *What the Bible Is All About for Young Explorers*. 1986 Regal Books

**PEOPLE AND STORIES OF THE BIBLE**
- Drane J. *The Great Plan—The Bible Story Begins (Bible World)*. 1994 Lion Publishing
- Drane J. *Settlers, Warriors and Kings—Champions of the Bible (Bible World)*. 1994 Lion Publishing
- Hastings S. *The Children’s Illustrated Bible*. 1994 Dorling Kindersley

**PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE BIBLE**
- *Towards the Goal (includes New Testament in Contemporary English)*. 1997 The Bible Society

**TRACTS**
- Duffin A. *Hi! I’m Eddy and Here’s Why I Read the Bible*. 1993 Scripture Union
- *The Now God (Pro Hart) Lutheran Tract*. Mission
- *Nick Farr-Jones (rugby international) Lutheran Tract Misssion*

**LITERATURE — FICTION**

**FORMS OF WRITING**
- Dugan M. *The Teacher’s Secret*. 1986 Penguin
- McLachlan P. *Skylark*. 1994 Lions
- Thiele C. *River Murray*. 1979 Rigby
- Wheatley N. *My Place*. 1987 Collins Dove

**Poetry**
Put a plastic sleeve in this section of your LIFE binder to keep your own collection of clippings, cartoons, stories, photos, etc which you can use for these units. Add to your collection whenever you come across something that might be useful.