

Biblical Organization

The Bible is one of the most important tools we have for Christian living. Because of this, we believe it is important for our children to be familiar with the Bible – how it was written and compiled, how it is organized and where to find different stories or passages within its pages.

During the lesson this morning, we tried to help children understand the two major sections of the Bible: Old and New Testament, as well as understanding that the Bible is further divided into books. We did not cover chapters and verses, but these would be valuable points to discuss with your child as appropriate.

Here are some of the key points to discuss with your child:

- The Bible is a sacred book, telling the story of God and God’s people.
- The Bible includes many different kinds of literature – poetry, history, law, etc.
- The Bible contains God’s words, written down by many different people over many years.
- The Bible is made up of two main sections – Old Testament & New Testament
- The word “testament” means “covenant” – like a contract or an agreement that indicates the relationship between God and humanity
- There are a total of 66 books in the Bible – 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament

While we hope that this lesson increases your child’s knowledge of the Bible, we also hope to teach them that the Bible is not a sterile textbook or a crumbling historical account of people who lived thousands of years ago. Rather, it is a living, breathing love letter from the God of all creation, written to the whole world.

Over and over again, scripture paints the picture of a God who woos humanity – a Creator who wants a relationship with the beloved creation. It is our hope that by spending time in the pages of this sacred text, we will give your child another tool to help them foster their own special relationship with God.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking at the coloring pages they received in Children’s Chapel and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense relives—the lesson today. Invite your child to respond to the lesson. You might say, for example:

- I wonder why God gave us all the stories in the Bible...
- I wonder what are your favorite Bible stories and where we can find them in our Bible...

Just listen. This is not a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own

experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the Biblical Organization, another recall a single fact that had meaning, and yet another talk about his or her own creative response to God’s friendship with God’s people. Listen in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young theologians and worshipers.

Then, if you wish, you can do the activity below with your child. Be open to what the activity can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying, “Amen.”

The Activity

We learned a lot about the Bible in Children's Chapel. Let's look at your coloring page and see what we learned.

You know, all these 66 books of the Bible were gifts from God. These special listeners throughout time listened to God's promise and wrote down these stories so that we could understand *our* friendship with God better.

There are many different kinds of stories in the Bible. There are books about God's law. Remember learning about God's laws—called Commandments? Let's see which books are about God's law...

There are stories about the history of God's friendship with the Israelites. Let's see which books are about history...

There are poems in the Bible, too. What is a poem that you like? Let's see which books are poetry...

Do you remember learning about God's special listeners in Children's Chapel? There were some really important listeners who taught the Israelites a lot about being better friends with God. There are five books about those listeners called the Major Prophets...

There are twelve stories that are shorter that are about more of God's special listeners. Let's see which books are called the Minor Prophets... Which of these stories do you like to hear?

Now, we come to the New Testament. Do you remember from Children's Chapel that all the stories from the New Testament are stories about Jesus' life and work, and about the new friendship that God has with God's people? The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels and tell the story of Jesus' life. Let's see which books are the Gospels...

There is a book about the history of the first Christian church, too. Let's see what book that is...

There are even letters in the New Testament that the apostle Paul is said to have written to all the first Christian churches all over the world. Let's see which books show us the letters from Paul...

Some books are letters to churches, but they are not written by the apostle Paul. Let's see which books those general letters are in...

Then, last of all, is the book that tries to predict the future. That kind of dreaming is called prophecy. Let's see which book tells a prophecy...

There are all 66 books of the Bible.

Here is a list of all 66 Books of the Bible and the categories into which they fall

OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)

LAW

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORY

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I & II Samuel
I & II Kings
I & II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

POETRY & WISDOM

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah

Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)

GOSPELS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

EPISTLES (or LETTERS)

Romans
I & II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I & II Thessalonians
I & II Timothy

Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
I & II Peter
I & II & III John
Jude

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

Acts

Prophecy

Revelation