

## **Unit One: Our Sacred Story/The Bible**

The Bible is a collection of scriptures, consisting of the 73 books of the Old and New Testaments.

The first five books of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These books grouped together are called the Pentateuch or Torah.

In the Bible, a sacred poem or song is called a Psalm.

### **Types of Truth:**

- Moral Truth: Tells us right from wrong. What we must do and how we must live if we want to be good people.
- Symbolic Truth: The truth found in symbols, myths and parables. We must read between the lines to discover this truth.
- Proverbial Truth: Universal pieces of wisdom that have been passed down through the generations.
- Historical Truth: The truth found in our record of past events.
- Scientific Truth: The provable facts established in Math and Science.
- Religious Truth: The truth concerning man's relationship with God. Found in our scripture, beliefs, and traditions.

### **Literary Forms:**

- Myth: A traditional story focussing on the acts of gods or heroes, often in explanation of some mysteries of life or ways of a particular culture.
- Prophecy: A prediction made under divine influence and direction, to tell of future events or to warn people about the consequences of their actions.
- Drama: A story about people's lives, including dialogue and interaction.
- Letter: A written message, sometimes of a personal nature.
- Poetry: Poetry expressing the poet's personal and inner feelings on love.
- Parable: A story that serves to teach a lesson or provide insights into human nature.
- Sermon: A speech of a serious or solemn kind, often based on a passage from the Bible.
- Law: Rules telling us how to behave.
- List: A series of names, events, or words, usually in a set order.
- History: A record or account of past events.

## **Unit Two: The Old Testament**

### **Important Vocabulary:**

- Contextualist: People who weave together the whole situation background.
- Covenant: Promise or solemn agreement.
- Gospel: The teaching or revelation of Christ.
- Inerrancy: While there are minor errors in scriptures (dates, names, etc.) there is no error in the message itself.
- Literalist: People who read and interpret the Bible passages word for word.
- Scripture: Holy writings.
- Testament: An agreement, belief, or conviction.

### **Ten Commandments:**

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honour your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's good.

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## **Unit Three: The New Testament**

Each Gospel writer portrays Jesus differently. In order, the four Gospel writers are:

- Mark: Jesus as the suffering saviour.
- Matthew: Jesus as teaching saviour and Messiah.
- Luke: Jesus as the compassionate saviour.
- John: Jesus as the divine Son of God and life giving saviour.

The Acts of the Apostles is the only book of the Bible that accounts early Christian community.

Jesus was not a Christian, in fact — he practiced the Jewish religion. He was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

“Incarnation” is a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or abstract quality. Jesus was both fully human and fully divine as he was born of the Virgin Mary and felt emotions, and pain. He was fully divine because he could perform miracles.

Parables are simple stories used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. There are two types of parables, they are:

1. Window Parables: Shows us how the Kingdom of God is.
2. Mirror Parables: Lets us look at ourselves.

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#### **Unit Four: Be With Me**

Virtues are attitudes and habits that make us more likely to choose what is good even when we don't stop to think first.

The Beatitudes are eight declarations of blessedness spoken by Jesus. There is a total of eight, and they are:

- *Blessed are the poor in spirit*: People who admit their weaknesses and admit that they need others and God.
- *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*: People who emphasize with others.
- *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the world*: People who are gentle with others, who don't try to get their way by manipulation others using any type of others.
- *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*: Stick up for people when they are being treated unfairly.
- *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*: People who are forgiving and give people a second chance, and help those in need.
- *Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God*: People who have sincere intentions, thoughts, and actions, and people who ask for forgiveness from God.
- *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Children of God*: Help people get out of a jam.
- *Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven*: People who are not afraid of being mistreated for sticking by what they believe in.

## Unit Five: Be Alive

The Incarnation is the Son of God coming "in the flesh." Jesus became a human being while remaining truly God.

The full meaning of the fifth commandment is that the gift of life is precious from conception to death, no matter what. Young, old, sick or healthy, everyone's life is sacred. We cannot harm our bodies or others. Destroying human life is forbidden.

### Seven Kinds of Smart:

1. Word Smart:
  - People who are word smart enjoy reading books, writing and participating in discussions.
  - They learn best through reading, writing, listening and debating.
2. Numbers Smart:
  - People who are number smart like numbers, logical puzzles, brainteasers and creating hypotheses.
  - They learn best through charts, graphics and statistics.
3. Picture Smart:
  - People who are picture smart enjoy drawing, painting, designing and building.
  - They learn best through diagrams, pictures, models and symbols.
4. Body Smart:
  - People who are body smart are good at dancing and sports.
  - They learn best by being active, imitating and doing.
5. Sound and Rhythm Smart:
  - People who are sound smart can hear, appreciate, mimic and create different types of music and rhythms.
  - They learn best when information is presented through music.
6. People Smart:
  - This is the intelligence of understanding other people.
  - They learn through working with others.
7. Self-Smart:
  - People who are self-smart enjoy spending time alone thinking and are comfortable being by themselves.
  - They learn through making connections between what they are learning and who they are.

## Unit Six: Be Faithful

We pray because we need to strengthen our relationships with each other and with God, this is crucial during adolescence. We also pray because we must have conversations with God and this is only possible through prayer. We pray through many different ways (liturgical, individual, formal, spontaneous, expressive, and contemplative prayer).

### Ways to Pray:

- Liturgical Prayer: Participating in the worship of the Church, in particular, the Eucharist and the sacraments.
- Individual Prayer: Responding to God as an individual.
- Formal Prayer: A response that has been composed by others for persons to use in prayer.
- Spontaneous Prayer: A response in which the person praying uses unprepared words that come at that moment.
- Expressive Prayer: Responding to God in a “bodily way.” It can include signing, dancing, movement, gestures or creating art.
- Contemplative Prayer: The response to God’s presence that happens with a person, when that person is alone with God and experiences God’s presence, sometimes beyond words in simple holy silence.

### Types of Prayer:

- Prayer of Blessing and Adoration: Worshipping the greatness of God as our Lord and Creator.
- Prayer of Petition: Asking God for those things needed for life and living (i.e. health, strength, guidance, wisdom, courage).
- Prayer of Thanksgiving: We need to thank God for all he has done for us and continues to do for us.
- Prayer of Intercession: Intercessory prayer is the act of one person praying for or on behalf of another person or situation.
- Prayer of Praise: Recognizing God for his glory.

The attitude of a faith-filled person towards God and life should be to stay positive and always find the good in every situation.

**Jesus' Moral Teachings:**

- Dealing With Anger: Jesus tells us that we have to settle all the anger with our peers before we can enter the Kingdom of God.
- Wanting Revenge: It's not right to want revenge against someone who has treated you justly, they will be justified eventually. Treat them better than they treat you.
- Treating Enemies: You should treat your enemies as you treat your neighbours. Treat them with love.
- Doing Community Service: When you do good deeds, do not show off. Keep it a secret and God will reward you. Do good deeds out of the good of your heart.
- Devoting Your Life: Do not devote your life to objects, as they are temporary. Devote your life to God and heaven as they are forever.
- Worrying: Jesus tells us worrying is pointless and that we should stop stressing about things and focus on the Kingdom of God.
- Passing Judgement: Don't judge others, so you don't get judged. If you judge a lot, it will come back at you. Look at ourselves first, no one is perfect.
- Treating Others: You should treat others just the way you'd like to be treated.

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**Unit Seven: Be Loving**

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 is a verse in the Bible that speaks about the characteristics of love and how it's supposed to be.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Unconditional love is loving someone no matter what they do or what happens. It's the way God loves all his children.

In order to make good moral decisions, we inform our conscience by making a commitment to live in a Christ like way. We also need to take the time to understand what that means in a wide variety of situations.

**Signs of Christ-like Love:**

- A Christ-like love is not just an emotion, it also a decision.
- A Christ-like love desires what is best for the other.
- A Christ-like love understands and accepts the emotions of others, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep.
- A Christ-like love is generous and does not calculate the cost of giving.
- A Christ-like love is patient and forgiving.
- A Christ-like love is not repulsed by illness or ugliness.
- A person with a Christ-like love takes times for him or herself as well for others.
- A Christ-like love does not suffer needlessly, but neither does it run from suffering when running would be a denial of love.
- The cross is a symbol of Christ-like love.

Chastity is being in control of our physical and emotional sexual urges. This is important because as Christians we are called to live lives of chastity at every stage of our lives.

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**Unit Eight: Be Just**

The "Preferential Option for the Poor" means God has a special closeness with the poor which the rich do not share. This is because the rich tend to put their possessions before God; the poor cannot do this. God also wants us to follow God's example and give preferential love to the poor when making community decisions.

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**Possible Short Answers**

- The Ten Commandments: Under Unit Two (The Old Testament).
- Examples of Jesus as Fully Human and Fully Divine: Under Unit Three (The New Testament)
- Jesus' Words, Actions, Passions, and Emotions: *Find it yourself ;)*
- Characteristics of Christ-like Love: Under Unit Seven (Be Loving).
- The Beatitudes And You: Under Unit Four (Be With Me).
- The Preferential Option for the Poor/Social Justice: Under Unit Eight (Be Just).

- How to Make the Right Decision: When making the right decision, there are steps we have to follow to succeed. They are:
  1. **SEE //**
    - Recognize a decision has to be made.
    - Who will the decision affect?
    - Is it a moral decision? (Does it have anything to do with loving God, loving myself or living others?)
  2. **JUDGE //**
    - Analyze the options and evaluate the choices.
    - Call upon your conscience. Consider the Bible, Church teachings, and tradition.
  3. **ACT //**
    - Do the loving thing.
  4. **EVALUATE //**
    - Become aware of how the decision has affected your relationship with God, yourself, and others.

When you evaluate your decisions you should always ensure that they meet the following principles:

- We should never do evil even for the sake of accomplishing something good.
  - We should always treat others with the same love and respect with which we wish to be treated.
  - Everything we do should reflect genuine concern for other people.
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- Events in the Life of Jesus:
    - Birth of Jesus, the Messiah
    - The Boy Jesus in the Temple
    - The Baptism of Jesus
    - The Temptation of Jesus
    - Jesus calls the first disciples
    - The Wedding at Cana
    - Parable of the Prodigal Son and his brother
    - Jesus the Good Shepard
    - Jesus is rejected by the Jews
    - Peter's declaration about Jesus
    - The Transfiguration
    - Jesus cleanses the Temple
    - The Passover with the Disciples



- Jesus prays in Gethsemane
- The betrayal and arrest of Jesus
- Jesus before Pilate
- The Crucifixion of Jesus
- The Death of Jesus
- The Resurrection
- The Ascension

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### **Works Cited**

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