

YEAR LEVEL	Foundation
TITLE	Our Special Book
STRAND	SCRIPTURE
SUGGESTED DURATION	3 - 5 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	What is Scripture? How does God's Word affect my life?



Unit Focus

In this unit students will be introduced to the Bible as a special book. They will be given opportunities to explore images of God. They will come to understand that God's love for them is revealed through their families, friends and creation and they will be given opportunities to give thanks for all these.

Achievement Standards

By the end of **Foundation**:

Students will engage with the Bible to develop their appreciation for this special Christian book.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

- Recognise the Bible as a special book for Christians
- Demonstrate their understanding that there are many different stories in the Bible that teach us about God and Jesus.

Key Understandings for Students

- The Bible is the Word of God, the sacred Scriptures of the Church.
- The Bible is like a library that has many different books and stories within it.
- The Bible has a New and Old Testament. We read about Jesus and his followers in the New Testament.

Student Context

As Foundation students come to school, their knowledge of God and of creation will vary from student to student, but their natural curiosity will make them willing to explore new concepts and environments.

At this level they become more able to understand concepts such as cause and effect and symbolism, therefore there is a window of opportunity to develop in all students a heightened awareness of their world and of God who created it.

Theological Background for Teachers

- The Bible is a collection of 73 books, written by numerous authors who were inspired by God.
- The second major part of the Bible is called the Christian Scriptures, or the New Testament. They centre on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth and on the early community of his followers whose mission was to preach and spread Jesus' good news of salvation to all humanity.
- Catholics believe the Bible is the word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is God who communicates in the Bible but always through the limitations of a culturally situated human being. The writers communicated the truth using their own powers and abilities, their cultural limitations and at times their narrow images of God. God entrusted the communication of truth to human beings who expressed that truth in their own way, using the tools and concepts available to them at the time.
- We cannot look to the Bible for scientific explanations or historical accounts that are accurate and factual in all respects, instead the Bible gives us religious truth, the inner truth of God.
- Through the Gospels we learn about the life and teachings of Jesus who enabled people to begin to have a deeper understanding of who God was. Jesus called God Father to show his own relationship with God as God's Son.
- In Jesus' life, which we discover in the Gospels, we find the perfect image of God. Jesus loved and cared for those most in need and protected those who were victims of injustice and oppression of all kinds. He treated people with dignity and respect. Jesus was just and truthful. He loved unconditionally. His life, as taught through the Gospels, is an example to us.

Scripture:

Godly Play: Our Prayer Place

Godly Play: Jesus and the children

NRSV: Mark 10:13–16 (Read from a Children's Bible)

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity:

Take students to the Library. Allow students to explore the Library, noticing the different types of books that are

in the Library. Explore where you can find books that are about different subjects. Each student collects a book and shares the book they have chosen with their peers. After they have shared their chosen books, tell students that the Bible is like a Library. It has within it, stories about faith.

- Read a story about something that is special or precious. E.g., *Belinda's Blanket* by Margaret Wild. Ask students to think about something that is special or precious to them. How do they look after it? Where do they keep it? Students draw and write their responses.
- Show students the class Bible. Have a class discussion with students. Guiding questions could be: Who has seen a Bible? What is the Bible? Does anyone know any stories from the bible?
- Godly Play Script: Our Prayer part 1. Ask students to complete their wonderings. **(Appendix 1)**
- Collect children's Bibles, if possible, from around the school. Students look through Bibles. In groups of three, students share what they noticed about the images, the layout of the book etc.
 - Talk to the students about why the Bible is important for us. The Bible tells us what God is like. It has stories about people who lived long ago before Jesus was born. The Bible talks about Jesus' life and how he taught us about helping others, being a good friend, being kind etc. Students create a folder in which they keep their work related to the Bible and stories from the Bible. It can be titled 'Our Special Book.'
- Complete Godly Play Script 'Jesus and the children'. Students complete wonderings. **(Appendix 2)**
- Share with students from the children's Bible, Mark 10:13–16. Students create a creative art piece about the scripture. This piece of work can be placed in each student's folder.
- If possible, take the students to the Church. Show them the lectionary. Talk to the students about how we hear special stories from the Bible when we go to Mass. The lectionary has many special stories from the Bible, and they are read from the special stand called the Lectern. Students draw a picture of a lectern with the lectionary on it. This could be displayed under the heading "When we go to Mass, we hear stories from the Bible. (If possible, this is an opportunity to involve the Parish Priest to speak with students about the lectionary)

Prayer Ritual

Gather students together around the prayer space. Speak about the prayer space that is set up in the room and remind students about how the Bible is placed on the prayer table.

Share with students this prayer:

God's Word is great!

God's Word is to be trusted!

Thank you for your Word God and help us follow the examples of how to be in Our Special Book.

Amen

Appendices

Appendix 1: Our Prayer Place

Appendix 2: Jesus and the children