

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: BIBLE

Inquiry Session (*Approximately 60 minutes*)

Prepare

For this session you will need a flip chart or whiteboard and markers. You may also wish to have copies of Daniel 3:57-88 available for today's closing prayer, or you may wish to ask your parish music minister for a recording of this passage (often called the Cantic of Daniel) in song.

Set the space with chairs in a circle, and in the center place a candle and a Bible. (Mark the Scripture citations noted in participant materials.) If possible, have a Bible for each child, and include a variety of translations in the mix. Also have available a history book and an additional book such as a photo album, a scrapbook, or a baby book.

If needed have name tags. Have some refreshments available, too.

Gather (10–15 minutes)

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Invite each child to share his or her name and something good that happened since the last time the group gathered.

Take time to find out how the children are doing.

Ask whether they had an experience of prayer or church since the last session.

2. Invite the children to look at the books on the table.
3. In your own words, explain that we all have our own stories. Some of us know many details about our own story because this part of who we are has been told to us by others, or we have a baby book, pictures, and videos.

We also have stories about our country, our city, and our world. We learn about these stories from the news, in our social studies or history classes,

and through visiting places in our city and traveling to other places in our country and in the world.

4. Read together the **My Story** section of the participant page and discuss the questions found there.

Expand (15–20 minutes)

1. Invite the children to work with a partner. Give each pair of children a Bible and allow them some time to just explore its contents.
2. Help the children find the Table of Contents in their Bibles.
3. Challenge each pair to count the number of books in the Old Testament and to count the number of books in the New Testament. Invite volunteers to share what they found.

4. Help the children locate Scripture stories by book, chapter, and verse. Use the following suggestions or other Scripture passages of your choosing.

Noah and the Flood (Genesis 7:6-24)

David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:32-51)

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)

5. Read and discuss the **God's Story** section of the participant page.
6. Highlight the following discussion points:
 - The Bible is composed of two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - The Old Testament begins with Genesis and the story of creation and ends with the Book of the prophet Malachi.
 - The New Testament begins with the Gospel of Matthew and ends with the Book of Revelation.

- There are many different translations of the Bible. (Refer the children to the translations they have among them at today's session.)
 - The translation of the Bible used in the Catholic Mass and at other Catholic liturgies is the New American Bible.
 - The Catholic Bible has seven extra books in the Old Testament: Tobit; Judith; 1 Maccabees; 2 Maccabees; Baruch; Wisdom; and Sirach (Ecclesiasticus).
7. Read aloud each of the Scripture passages listed below. After reading each one, stop and invite volunteers to share what they think the Scripture passage teaches us.
- Deuteronomy 11:26-32** (A Blessing and a Curse)
- Matthew 5:17-20** (Teaching About the Law)
- Acts 2:29-36** (Peter's Speech at Pentecost)

Our Response (15–20 minutes)

1. Invite the children to share Bible stories they have heard or have read. List these on the flip chart or whiteboard
2. Invite the group to review the list. Then ask whether anyone has a favorite Bible story either on the list or that they now recall.
3. As favorite Bible stories are named, take time to locate the stories in the Bible. (Note: A concordance will help you locate the stories.) If time allows, share all or part of the stories with the group.
4. Share with the children that the Bible is a source of guidance for our daily lives. Every story in the Bible teaches us something about God or about how to live as God's followers. To illustrate this point, invite the children to recall the three stories

you located in the Bible today. Ask volunteers to share what that passage teaches us about God or about living as God's followers.

5. Ask the children whether they have noticed that passages from the Bible are proclaimed at every Mass, too. Share with them that on any given Sunday the same passages are proclaimed at every Mass throughout the world in the language of the people.

One of the passages proclaimed at Mass is sung and is usually taken from the Book of Psalms. The Psalms are the prayers that Jesus prayed.

Help the children locate the Book of Psalms. If time allows, encourage them to locate Psalm 23 and Psalm 150.

6. Invite the children to name people they know who teach or proclaim the Word of God. Encourage them to listen to the story of a saint who loved God's Word very much.
- Refer to the participants' page or tell in your own words the story of Saint Jerome.
7. Point out the ***Faith Words*** section of the participant page. Review the faith words with the children.

Pray (2–3 minutes)

Pray aloud or sing together Daniel 3:57-88 (often referred to as the Canticle of Daniel).