



the Parish of St. Dunstan

A CHILDREN'S CATECHISM TO ECHO GOD'S LOVE IN THE WORLD

PART II: Our Church

Lesson 20: Holy Scripture

This is the prayer we use to begin our church service:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I wonder what the bible is.

A long time ago our ancestors gathered **stories** together to pass onto their children and their children's children. These **stories** are meant to help us understand why we are alive and how we are to live. Some of the **stories** in the Bible are funny. Some of them are scary. Some are sad. Some are exciting. Just like life. All of them, together, help us to remember that God made us, God loves us, and God wants to help us. Our job as humans is to **listen** for God's voice.

I wonder how skilled we are at **listening**.

Activity: A listening test: Close your eyes and have someone read the following story. When the story is ended, retell the story in your own words.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (14:22-27).

Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'Ahhh! It's a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Listen for God's word.

1 The Bible is a library

Even though the Bible looks like one book, inside are a whole bunch of books written by different people at different times. There are two sections in the Bible Library: The Hebrew part (the “Old” Testament) and the Greek part (the “New” Testament).

Activity: Open a Bible to the Table of Contents at the beginning of your Bible. How many books are in the first section? How many are in the second section?

First section:	Second section:
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2 The Bible is like God’s breath

All scripture is breathed by God and is for teaching, discipline, correction, and for training in God’s way. Use it so that you may be skilled and equipped to do good works. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Activity: Breathe in God’s breath by memorizing this Bible verse:

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.
1 John 4:16

3 The Bible is food for our hearts

We need food for our bodies to live. We also need food for our hearts to live. One of the ways God feeds our hearts is by the stories in the Bible. Whenever we listen to stories of God’s love, our hearts grow stronger. Whenever we listen to stories of God’s help, our hearts become more helpful.

Activity: Purchase some wafer paper and a pen with edible ink. Write the verse from section 2 on it and then eat it! Let God’s word become food.