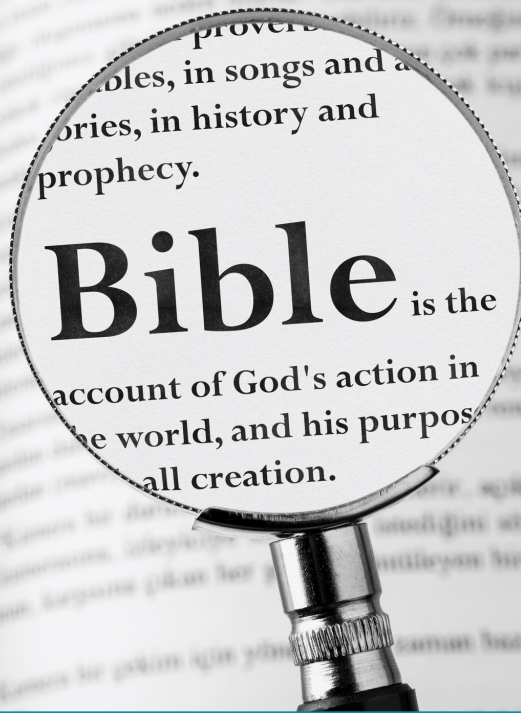




Living Water

2023-24



WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE?

UNIT #2

THE BIBLE

The Bible is a complex collection of poems, stories, songs, wisdom writings, and letters, written by dozens of people over the span of about 1400 years! The Bible is a book of faith, handed down from generation to generation, written down by humans who were inspired by God's Spirit. When we read the Bible, it's important to remember that the words were written by and for people who lived long ago and far away, in cultures and contexts that were radically different from ours. In order to better understand the message of the texts, it's important to learn about the contexts in which they were written. It's good to have a study bible like the Lutheran Study Bible to help us with this. It's amazing how people today continue to encounter God's presence through these ancient texts! The bible is truly the living word of God!





READ SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSS

Together as a group, read today's scripture Romans 15:4. Ask for volunteers who might be willing to read or have a leader read aloud. Take a moment to ask the group for their initial reactions. Lead your group in a discussion using the questions below.

1. Is the bible one book, or a collection of "books" between two covers?
2. Was the bible written by one author or many authors?
3. Was the bible written all at once, or over the span of many years?
4. What kinds of books do you read? Are the books you read for school or for fun all the same genres or types of books? Why/why not? Are the books in the bible all the same genre? Why or why not?
5. What language was the Hebrew Bible written in? What language was the New Testament or Second Testament written in? Why is it important to remember that the books of the bible were not written in modern American English, but ancient Hebrew and Greek?
6. As Lutherans, we read the bible through four different lenses. Which one are you most drawn to?

WORKSHEET

Have each student complete the Bible worksheet provided. When each student is done, ask them to share their answers together as a group. Take time for everyone to share their answers and contribute to the conversation.

PEAKS & VALLEYS

During your small group time, give each student the opportunity to share one peak and one valley about their week. If they don't have a high or low for the week, ask them to share something that stood out to them about their week. End in Prayer!





READ SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSS

Together as a group, read today's scripture lesson John 21:24-25. Ask for volunteers who might be willing to read or have a leader read aloud. Take a moment to ask the group for their initial reactions. Lead your group in a discussion using the questions below.

1. What is one new thing you learned tonight?
2. Are there any Bible stories can you think of off the top of your head?
 - Why do you remember this story?
 - What questions do you have about the story?
3. In John 21:24-25, John writes, "This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."
 - God's love is made known to us in Jesus, just as it was made known to the author of John's gospel. What are the signs of God's love in your life?
 - If we were expanding the canon (collection of scriptures) and you were asked to write a new book of the Bible, what would it be about?
4. Do you have the same understanding of the world today as you did when you were in first grade? Do you think you'll have the same understanding of the world when you're 40 as you do today? Do you think that your understanding of or engagement with the Bible will be the same throughout your life? Why or why not?

WORKSHEET

Have each student complete the Bible worksheet provided. When each student is done, ask them to share their answers together as a group. Take time for everyone to share their answers and contribute to the conversation.

PEAKS & VALLEYS

During your small group time, give each student the opportunity to share one peak and one valley about their week. If they don't have a high or low for the week, ask them to share something that stood out to them about their week. End in prayer!



5TH & 6TH**Bible**

The 5th and 6th grade small groups will meet in the upper great room to share in some interactive games and lessons about the Bible.

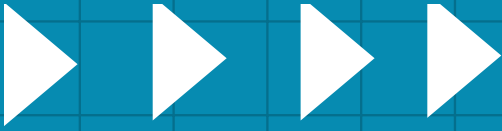
7TH & 8TH**Bible**

The 7th and 8th grade small groups will meet in the lower great room to share in some interactive games and lessons about the Bible.

5TH GRADE**Getting to Know Our Neighbors**

A portion of the 5th grade students will meet over in the McKenna Atrium (through the double doors) to participate in a fun and educational program with our wonderful McKenna neighbors. Students will work side by side with seniors to understand their life station and how they see the world. We will rotate the groups throughout the year during village nights.





ALL-SERVE NIGHT 12-6-2023



Our second all-serve night will be off-site and coordinated by your small group leaders and caregivers. Small groups will participate in volunteer service opportunities throughout the metro area. These service opportunities can be planned on alternative dates to December 6th as long as you do not plan your all-serve on a regular Living Water night.

FAMILY NIGHT 12-13-2023



We are excited to host Steve Thomason who uses cartooning to translate scripture and make complex concepts more understandable. Steve is an artist, pastor, and teacher. It is his mission to use art to create resources that help people grow deeper in God's love.

What is the Bible? How does an ancient Hebrew book have anything to do with our lives in the twenty-first century? These are fundamental questions for the church. The answer to these questions will set the trajectory for how you make decisions and practice your faith. Living Water parents/caregivers and students will attend family night together to experience a fresh and engaging view of the Holy Scriptures!

