

SESSION PLAN

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

S2 God's Written Word

The Holy Bible

AIMS

1. To recognise the Holy Bible as the written Word of God..
2. To look more closely at the various sections of the Bible and be able to identify books in both the Old and New Testaments.
3. To understand why reading the Holy Bible is so important for Christians.

PRAYER

- Briefly introduce the main theme of this session and the Reading for the Opening Prayer.
- Read the opening reflection 'The Wise and Foolish Builders' and invite the group to reflect on its main message.

KEY WORDS

- Bible/Scripture
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Inspired

RESOURCES

- Worksheet S2
- Prayer Sheet S2
- Bible

NOTES

This Unit S2 is the second supplementary unit . It is intended for catechists who wish to include an extra session about the Holy Bible either as part of the Confirmation Programme or as an 'Away day' activity.

MAIN SESSION

- Introduce the main theme by looking at books in general. Using Part A invite volunteers to talk about a favourite book and say why they think it is a special book.
- Move on to Part B to illustrate how as Christians we too have 'Our Special Book' (as do people of other Faiths too). Say that we call this Book the **Bible** or **Scriptures**. Have a short brainstorming session to find out what candidates already know about the Bible. Say that the Holy Bible should be regarded as a unique book that is so important for our Faith for a number of reasons.
- Go through the discussion points as shown in the four circles in Part B. Ensure candidates are clear about the main points such as:
 1. The **Old and the New Testaments** are the two main parts of the Bible. The former is about creation and all that happened before Jesus was born. The latter is about the life and message of Christ, and the early Church.
 2. Although so many people wrote different parts of the Bible, e.g. prophets, gospel writers, St Paul etc., God is to be regarded as the main author of the Bible as it is him who **inspired** all writers about the message he wanted to convey.
 3. Not everything in the Bible is 'literally' true. The Bible makes use of several genres of writing using parables, metaphors etc. What matters is that each piece of writing gives a true and faithful **message** from God himself.
 4. We read the Bible in order to understand what God's message for us is and then to put it into practice in our daily life.
- Introduce Part C. Show how although the Bible seem to be just one book it is made up of 73 smaller books (46 in the Old and 27 in the New Testament) Suggest that candidates look at the full list on the 'Pray and Reflect sheet' or give out copies of the Bible if available. (It may be useful also to explain that non-Catholic versions of the Bible only contain 66 books rather than 73 [only 39 in OT and same 27 in the NT]. The reason for this is that they do not regard the other 7 as inspired by God.)
- Go through the eight sections in Part C. Using the Table shown on the Reflect and Pray sheet and possibly copies of the Bible, discuss each set of books and invite candidates to make brief notes about the number and the nature of books in each section.

CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

- Create a prayerful atmosphere. Place a copy of the Holy Bible in a prominent place and light a candle. Introduce the prayer 'The Word' (Prayer sheet).
- Invite someone to read slowly and then leave a few moments for quiet reflection.