

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: SACRED SCRIPTURE

Inquiry Session (Approximately 60 minutes)

Prepare

For this session you will need several copies of the same version of the Bible and, if possible, pictures or images of different biblical figures. (Be sure to include women and men, Old Testament and New Testament figures with whom the children may be familiar.) You may find it helpful to review page 4 of *Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II*, in preparation for the **Our Response** portion of this session. In addition, you may wish to prepare a list of a half dozen or more Bible passages for the children to look up at home. Make use of the stories mentioned in the *Explore* section of today's session.

Set the space with chairs in a circle and in the center place a prayer table covered with a cloth in the appropriate liturgical color. On the prayer table place a candle, the Bibles, and the pictures or images of the biblical figures.

If needed, have name tags. Make 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 has 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 group last gathered.

2. Read together the *My Story* section of the participant handout and discuss the questions found there.

Expand (15–20 minutes)

1. Read and discuss the *God's Story* section of the participant handout.
2. Distribute the Bibles among the children. Show them the two main sections of the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament.
3. Ask the children to raise their hands if they've heard the following Old Testament stories. Invite volunteers who raise their hands to share what they remember about that story.

- The story of creation
- Adam and Eve
- Noah and the Ark
- Moses leading the people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land
- David and Goliath

4. Review the list of the Old Testament stories one by one. After naming each one, pause and ask volunteers to share:

Why do you think this story is an important story?

What do you think is the message of the story?

If you could, who would you want to be in the story and why?

5. Follow the same process as (3) above, but this time explore some of stories about Jesus as told in the Gospels.

- The birth of Jesus
- Jesus in the Temple at the age of twelve
- John baptizing Jesus
- Jesus calling the disciples
- Jesus at the Last Supper

- The Crucifixion of Jesus
- The Resurrection of Jesus

6. Review the list of New Testament stories one by one. After naming each one, pause and ask volunteers to share:

Why do you think this story about Jesus is an important story?

What is the message of this story for us?

Our Response (15–20 minutes)

1. Take time to review and discuss the ***Our Response*** section of the participant handout.
2. Referring to page 4 of ***Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II***, lead the children in learning how to locate books, chapters, and verses of the Bible.
3. Encourage those who have a Bible at home to spend time continuing to look through the books, chapters, and verses of the Bible in the week to come. If you have prepared a list of possible passages, distribute the list at this time. *(Note: Even if there are children who do not have access to a Bible in the home, refer them to the Bible available online at uscbb.org. They will gain practice in finding the books, chapters, and verses.)*
4. Review this week's ***Faith Words*** with the children.

Pray (2–3 minutes)

Help the children locate Psalm 23 in their Bibles.
Pray aloud together Psalm 23:1-3.