



LESSON PLAN

8 – HOLY BIBLE : WORD OF GOD

Objective (Learning Outcomes)

After having explained this chapter, we should aim to achieve the following objectives–

1. Students should be certain about the Source (God) of the writings in the Bible
2. They should be strengthened in their belief that the Holy Bible is Word of God
3. Students should know the difference about Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
4. They should know Spiritual and Literal meaning of the Holy Scripture
5. They should know the history of the Holy Bible, its translations and note significant information about the books in both Old and New Testaments.
6. They should thoroughly understand the meaning of the Fullness of Divine Revelation that was recorded and passed on through the Word of God.

Introduction - (10 mins)

Teacher may share this story or any similar story /experience that highlights the authenticity, significance and the transformation power of our sacred scriptures.

St. Justin Martyr – The Philosopher Converted by Truth

Born into a pagan family in Samaria around 100 AD, Justin was a seeker of truth. He studied various philosophical systems—Stoicism, Platonism, and more—but found them inadequate. One day, while walking along the beach, he encountered an elderly Christian who challenged his worldview and spoke of the prophets and Christ as the Logos (divine reason).

Struck by the harmony of prophecy and fulfilment, Justin began studying Christian texts. He converted and became one of the Church's earliest apologists, defending the faith against pagan critics and philosophical objections.

His two Apologies and 'Dialogue with Trypho the Jew' remain foundational texts in early Christian theology. He was martyred on June 1, 166 AD, under Emperor Marcus Aurelius, giving his life for the truth he once sought through philosophy.

Interesting Facts about Bible

- It explains the history of salvation that is fulfilled in Jesus
- Sacred book of the world's largest religion
- Most translated book in the world
- Inspired most of the art and literary works
- It can be read as per a person's interest – it includes parables, morals, stories, proverbs riddles, historical accounts, travelogues, philosophical musings, miracles and symbols

Teaching Strategy

Holy Bible – The Divinely Inspired Book

Teacher should explain how God helped few men to put his spoken word in written form and therefore it is known as writings inspired by the Divine.

The teacher should further elaborate the catholic perspective as below

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Concept of Divine Intervention consists of four facts

1. Authors of the sacred scriptures received inspiration from the Holy Spirit
2. Therefore it contains only what God willed
3. Holy Bible is infallible in its teachings of divine matters
4. Writers' unique language style and theological visions are reflected in their writings

History of Divine Revelation

The teacher should explain the meaning of Divine Revelation and its various stages, as explained in the textbook, complementing it with relevant verses from the Bible.

Teacher should particularly emphasize with clarity about Jesus being the fullness of Revelation.

Divine revelation or manifestation of God refers to the process by which God revealed himself to the world

Stages of Revelation –

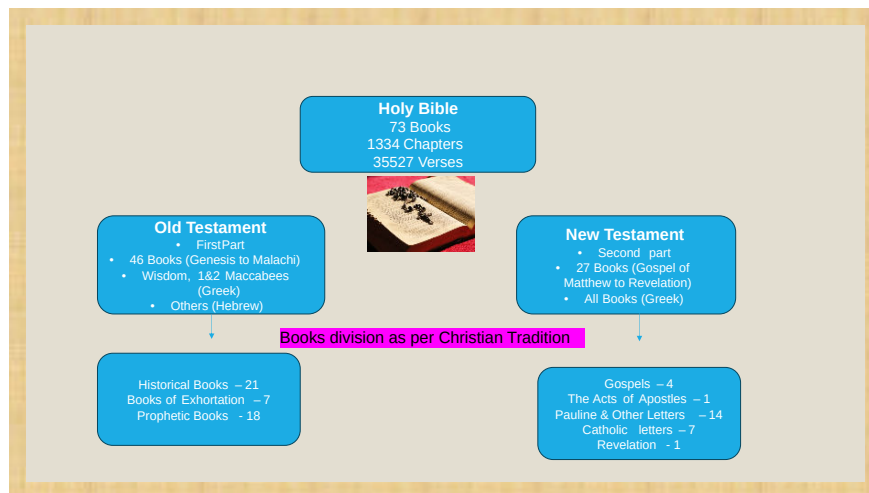
- Revelation through Created Universe – ‘Creation was the initial form of divine revelation’
- Revelation through Messengers – ‘Thus says the Lord’ were the introductory words used by the Messengers (Patriarchs, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Kings and Prophets) to communicate God's message to the people.
- JESUS the fullness of Revelation – The Word of God is revealed to us in its fullness in Jesus who became man.
- Divine Revelation and the Church – The Church is the custodian and interpreter of the divine revelation (God's Word) handed down through the apostles.

Holy Bible and Holy Tradition

The Holy Bible	The Sacred Tradition
Holy Scripture in written form	Sacred Tradition in Verbal form
God's dialogue expressed in written form inspired by the Holy Spirit	Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit transmit the entirety of God's Word entrusted to the Apostles to their successors.

The Holy Bible – The written form of God's Word

- Books



- Old Testament
- New Testament



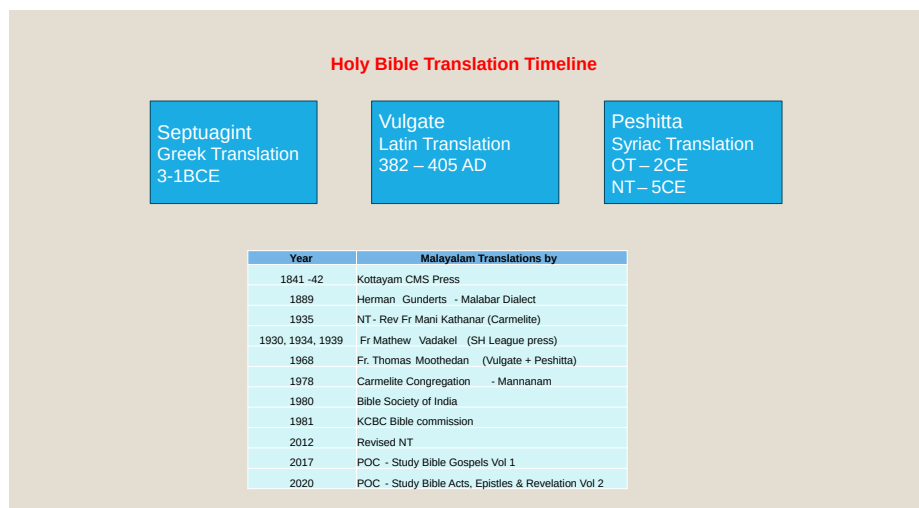
<https://www.smp.org/product/4219/The-Catholic-Youth-Bible-Poster-Set/>

Canonical Nature of the Holy Bible

The Greek word 'Canon' refers to the standard used by carpenters. **The word is used today to refer to the inspired texts of the Holy Bible** Apocryphal Books are not included in the Holy Bible (refer list in the textbook)

Who & When	Canonical	Non-Canonical
Second council of Nicaea - AD 787	73 Books	
Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)	62 Books	4 NT (Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelation) & 7 OT Books (Wisdom, Ecclesiastes, 1&2 Maccabees, Judith, Esther and Tobit)

Translations of the Holy Bible



Meanings of the Holy Scripture

- Literal Sense – Meaning conveyed by the Words, discovered through critical explanation or interpretation (exegesis) following the rules of sound interpretation.
- Spiritual Sense – Message that give strength to the spiritual growth of Man
 - Symbolic Sense – Understand the events in Bible in relation to Christ
 - Moral Sense – Words and events of the Sacred Scripture should lead us to moral deeds
 - Anagogical Sense – Interpret God's word with a heaven-oriented vision

The teacher should explain each of the seven principles / criteria as proposed by the Second Vatican Council to be followed when interpreting the Bible (Word of God 12) (refer the list in the textbook)

Appropriate Habit Formation

- Read few verses of Bible daily as part of the daily prayers
- Join the team of Lectors and read the scripture during the Holy mass

Group activity

If there are more than 5 - 7 students divide them into two groups and quiz them on selected books, letters or gospels from the Bible

Or

They can frame questions related to parables and ask each other questions / interpretations related to them

Bible Verse

“... that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name” (Jn 20:31)