

Start-Up/Third Grade Lesson Plan
Session 4 – Who's Who in the Bible

Materials needed:

- Who's Who in the Bible PowerPoint CD

Before class:

- ✓ Gather your class and go immediately to your assigned room (check your curriculum calendar to see which room you will be using tonight.) You will be with the other Start Up and 3rd grade classes. The PowerPoint has pictures of people in the Bible - you will have a short description of each one below. Choose one teacher to read begin the lesson and read the descriptions and ask another to click through the pictures as you talk about each one.

Prayer

Our Father/Glory Be/Hail Mary

Say:

We have talked about the Bible, where it came from and what's in it but we haven't really talked about the people in the Bible.

God is the creator of the human race and wants to be close to us and to be a part of our lives so it makes sense that God's message to us involves people!

- **Right from the very beginning God has had a close, special and loving relationship with the people He created.**
- **In fact, this relationship is so close and so special it even has a name – it's called a covenant. (Write "covenant" on the board.)**
- **God has made covenants with all the people in the Bible and as we talk about them we'll find out about each one of the covenants including the one He has with us. Are you surprised to know that God has a covenant with us? Don't you think it's important then to know what a covenant is?**
- **Do you know what a contract is? (A contract is an agreement between two people.) Maybe I make a contract with you to mow my lawn. You promise to mow for me every week and I promise to pay you \$25. Then we sign a contract to seal the deal.**
- **A covenant is also an agreement but it has one really important difference. A covenant makes us into a family. Does that contract I sign with you to mow my lawn make us a family? (Of course not!)**

- **But a covenant does make us family. What legal ceremony with a contract can you think of that makes people into a family? (a wedding, an adoption)**
- **God made a covenant with us through Jesus Christ, his Son. That covenant makes us sons and daughters of God, REAL members of His family. He also made covenants with people in the Bible. Let's find out a little more about some of those people.**

BEGIN POWER POINT (Take a break near Slide 10 if your students seem to get restless.)

Slide 1: Jesus Christ

The whole Bible is centered around Jesus Christ. All through the Old Testament, God promised the people a savior. That promise was kept and Jesus came to earth as a little baby. Jesus' story is told in the four Gospels but the entire Old Testament tells about His coming. Since Jesus is God in human form, He has always existed. Many even believe that some of the angelic appearances in the Old Testament were actually appearances of Jesus but there is no proof of that. Jesus is the most important person in the Bible.

Slide 2: Mary

Mary is the virgin mother of Jesus. You will often hear her called “the Mother of God” Why is that? (Jesus is God so the term “Mother of God” makes sense.) **Mary is our heavenly mother. We can talk to Mary and ask her to pray for us. She is known for the humble and trusting way she said yes when God asked her to be the Mother of Jesus, even though she knew there would be pain, suffering, humiliation and danger.**

Slide 3: Adam and Eve

We’ve met Adam and Eve before haven’t we? Let’s just review: Adam and Eve were the first humans and are our ancestors in the human race. God loved Adam and Eve and gave them a very beautiful place to live called Eden. They only had one rule – do not eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. What happened? (Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan’s lies and ate the fruit.) **How did their sin affect us?** (Sin and death came into the world through Adam and Eve. So now we have a hard time not sinning and we will all die one day.) **What is this called?** (Original Sin)

Slide 4: Satan

Also known as the devil, Satan is the source of evil. The Bible tells us that Satan was originally a good angel named Lucifer who turned evil by wanting to make himself into God. He was thrown out of heaven with one third of the other angels who also rebelled against God. Satan first shows up in the Garden of Eden to tempt Eve into eating the fruit and he has been working against God ever since. When we give in to bad behavior, we are helping Satan accomplish his evil plan.

Slide 5: Cain and Abel

Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. Cain grew up to become a murderer, killing his own brother Abel in a fit of jealousy. Cain was mad because Abel found favor with God. The Bible doesn't tell us if Cain was sorry for killing Abel. If Cain was sorry and asked God for forgiveness, do you think God would forgive him?

(Absolutely, if Cain was truly sorry.)

Slide 6: Noah

We all know the story of Noah and the Ark. In Noah's day, people had become very violent and wicked. They disobeyed God every day so God decided to destroy all the people in a great flood. Noah was a good and righteous man so God chose him to build an ark to shelter the animals from the flood. God also made a covenant with Noah and promised never to destroy the world by a flood again. The sign of the covenant was a rainbow so whenever you see a rainbow you can remember the covenant God had with Noah and the promise God made. *(This slide will end in a rainbow so be sure not to go on to the next slide until it appears.)*

Slide 7: Abraham

Abraham was another good and righteous man who trusted God. One day God told Abraham to pack up and take his wife Sarah to a place called Canaan. Abraham had a lot of gold, silver and animals but he and Sarah had no children. That made them very sad so you can imagine what they thought when God made this special covenant with Abraham.

God said that He would give Abraham more land and so many children, grand children and great-grandchildren that he wouldn't be able to count them all. How wonderful!

The only problem was that many years passed and still no children. When Abraham was 99 years old, he saw God again. God promised him that Sarah would still have a baby and would name the baby Isaac. When Sarah heard this, she laughed! She laughed because she was a very old woman and very old women do not have babies! The Lord did not forget Abraham and Sarah and sure enough, they had a son and named him Isaac. Can you imagine how precious Isaac was to them?

One day God tested Abraham. God told him to sacrifice Isaac (that means to kill him). Why would God ask such a thing of Abraham? Abraham trusted God though and he knew that even if Isaac died, he would go to heaven to live with God.

So one day he took Isaac up on the mountain and prepared to take his life. But just at the moment he was about to kill Isaac – an angel appeared and said, “Stop! Do not lay a hand on the boy! God now sees that you love Him more than your own son.”

Abraham is a good example to us when we begin to let certain things mean more to us than God.

Slide 8: Moses

Moses was chosen by God to lead God's chosen people, the Israelites, out of slavery in Egypt. Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea when God parted the waters. God made a covenant with Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Moses led the Israelites through the wilderness for forty years, to the land that God promised to His people.

Slide 9: David

David was the most famous king of Israel and one of the greatest men who ever lived. He is probably best known for something that happened when David was just a boy – maybe about your age. He faced the giant Goliath and brought him down with a just a slingshot and a stone. David is the author of most of the Psalms in the Bible. God made a covenant with David and promised that his descendents would always rule over God's people. Jesus Christ is a descendent of King David.

Slide 10: Daniel

Darius was a king in Israel. He chose Daniel to be the most important of all of his princes so naturally, all the other princes wanted to get rid of Daniel because he was the king's favorite.

They knew that Daniel loved God, so they asked the king to make a new law saying that nobody could pray to anyone but the king for a month or else they should be thrown into the lion's den. Then they spied on Daniel and went to tell the king that Daniel prays to God, three times a day.

The king had no choice, so he told the princes to take Daniel and throw him into the lion's den. But because the king was fond of Daniel, he said to him, God will save you. The king worried all night about Daniel, and early the next morning he hurried to the lion's den and called Daniel's name. Daniel said, God has sent his angel to shut the lion's mouths and I am not hurt. God knows I have done nothing wrong. The king was very glad and had Daniel taken out of the lion's den. Then the king had all the princes that spied on Daniel thrown into the lion's den, and the lions gobbled them all up. Darius made a law that everyone in his kingdom, should pray only to God, because He saved Daniel from the lions and He works miracles and He alone, is the true God, forever.

Daniel's whole story is in the Bible in the chapter called "Daniel"!

Slide 11: Gabriel

This great angel appeared to Daniel and then later to Mary. Gabriel called Mary "full of grace" and was the one who told her that she would have a son who would be Christ the Lord, the Son of God. The word "angel" means messenger. The angels were messengers from God and they appear many times in the Bible.

Slide 12: John the Baptist

John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. He was a man who loved God so much that he went out into the desert to live. He wore camel's hair clothing and ate wild locusts. What? Why did John the Baptist do such strange things? And why is he called "the Baptist"?

John went into the desert to live so nothing would distract him from God. Nothing could take his focus off God, not clothing, not even food. Maybe we should be a little more like John!

People came from far and wide to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. John may have been strange but people knew he was a holy man. John told everyone that Jesus was coming.

John baptized Jesus. This sounds strange to us because we don't think that Jesus needed to be baptized. Very true! But Jesus asked John to baptize Him as an example to us.

John had so much courage. He told King Herod to change his life and live according to God's law. John would not back down even when Herod put him in prison. Finally, John was beheaded for telling the king to do what was right in God's eyes.

Slide 13: The Disciples

Jesus chose 12 men to be his followers. Their names were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas the son of James and Judas Iscariot. These men were Jesus' closest friends but none of them were scholars or rabbis, they were just ordinary people like you and me.

God chose each of these regular guys to spread the message of Jesus across the face of the earth.

All of them died for their faith except John and Judas.

Slide 14: St. Peter

Peter was one of the 12 disciples. Peter loved Jesus but lost his faith when Jesus was crucified. Jesus forgave Peter and after He rose from the dead, Jesus made Peter the first Pope.

Jesus said, "I give you the keys to the Kingdom." That is why we sometimes see Peter pictured with keys.

Peter was the author of 2 books in the Bible called First and Second Peter. He was crucified by the Emperor of Rome because he was a Christian. Peter's bones were found under this great altar in Rome.

Slide 15: St. Matthew

When Jesus first met Matthew, he was a dishonest tax collector.

Jesus looked Matthew in the eyes and said, "Follow me." Matthew went with Jesus, became a disciple and never looked back.

The Gospels are 4 books in the New Testament that tell the story of Jesus' life and message. Matthew wrote one of them. In the picture you can see an angel. This helps us remember that when the Bible was written, God inspired the authors and helped them know what to write. We read from one of the Gospels every week at Mass.

Matthew's symbol is a winged man because he wrote a lot about Jesus as a human being.

Slide 16: Mark

Mark is also a Gospel writer. His symbol is a winged lion because he begins with the story of John the Baptist (whose message was like a lion's roar!) The lion is also a symbol of royalty reminding us that Jesus is king.

Slide 17: Luke

Luke was a physician and a witness of the many things Jesus said and did. Luke tells us a lot about the birth of Jesus. His symbol is an ox because he writes a lot about the Jewish Temple at the time of Jesus. The ox was an animal that was sacrificed in the Temple.

Slide 18: John

John is another Gospel writer and the only disciple to live into old age. He was the most brilliant of the Gospel authors and he writes about things that the other three do not include. John's Gospel describes how Jesus existed in heaven before He came to earth. John's symbol is an eagle.

Slide 19: Judas Iscariot

There were two disciples named Judas so it's important to know which one we are talking about here. Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus even though he was Jesus' close friend. The Roman authorities and the Temple priests wanted Jesus arrested because He was becoming too popular with the people. They paid Judas thirty pieces of silver to take them to Jesus. Has a good friend ever hurt you? Jesus knows what that feels like.

Slide 20: St. Paul

After Jesus went to heaven, Christians had a hard time. It was illegal to be Christian and if you were caught, you were either put in jail or killed. Paul hated Christians. He hunted them down and turned them over to the Romans until one day when something extraordinary happened to him.

Paul was out on the road when suddenly a brilliant flash of light blinded him. He fell from his horse and heard a voice from heaven say, " Why are you persecuting me?" The voice was Jesus and after that, Paul changed everything about his life. He became a Christian leader and traveled long distances to start churches in faraway lands. He lived through many hardships bringing the message of Jesus to the world and he was finally crucified in Rome. (cont.)

Paul wrote many of the books in the New Testament. He is responsible for much of our understanding of Christianity. Paul is one of the most important people in the Bible.