

saint mary's press

Student Activity Workbook for

Break Through!

The **Bible** for **Young Catholics**

An **Introduction**
to **People of Faith**



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STUDENT INTRODUCTION

You may not have thought of this, but the people in the Bible are part of your family. That is because you and they are all part of the family of God. The people of the Bible have a special place in our family. Through their stories we learn in a unique way about God and about how God wants us to live. Each person of the Bible has something important to teach us if we take the time to learn his or her story.

You may think every person in the Bible lived a perfect life. Not so! As you go through the pages in this workbook, you will learn about eleven brothers who sold their youngest brother into slavery. You will learn about a warrior leader who kept chasing foreign women. You will learn about a king who taxed his people too much and divided the kingdom. Sometimes we learn from a Bible people's good examples, and sometimes we learn from their mistakes. But the most important thing you will learn is that God never abandoned them if they were sorry and returned to God.

You may also think: "These people are ancient! What do they have to do with my life?" You may be surprised at the familiar issues Bible people dealt with. Many had family rivalries with brothers or sisters. Some wrestled with feelings of jealousy or insecurity. One Apostle kept questioning Jesus and doubted at first whether Jesus really rose from the dead.

The workbook begins with five activity pages that will help you learn a little bit about the books of the Bible, how the Bible is organized, and a little bit about Bible history. Then there are activity pages for forty-seven different Bible people. The activity pages are kind of like puzzles. To do the puzzles, you will need to follow the activity's directions. Usually you will need to look up some Bible passages to finish the activity.

On the back of each activity page is a background page with information on the Bible person or topic. This page usually contains a short description of the person, Bible passages and *Breakthrough!* articles about that person, and some reflection questions. If you are using this workbook in a school or parish, your teacher or catechist will give you directions about how and when to use a background page.

This workbook is best used with *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics*. *Breakthrough!* was created for young people like you. It has many special features that help to make the Bible easier to read and understand.

TEACHER, CATECHIST, PARENT INTRODUCTION

You can use the *Student Activity Workbook for "Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics"* in several ways to teach in your school, parish, or home.

Introducing Basic Biblical Literacy

The first five workbook activities introduce young people to some basic concepts of biblical literacy. The first activity has them use the table of contents to become familiar with the names of biblical books. The second and third activities help them become familiar with the Old and New Testaments. The fourth activity begins to help them see the connections between the Old and New Testaments. The fifth activity is intended to be used as an introduction to the big picture of salvation history.

Depending on your situation, you can use these activity pages in different ways. You can use all five activities before your study of biblical people. Or you may wish to use “Introduction to the Old Testament” before studying Old Testament people and “Introduction to the New Testament” before studying New Testament people. You might summarize your study of biblical people with the “Connections” and “Salvation History” activities. They are yours to use in whatever way is most appropriate.

Learning About the Biblical People

There are three easy ways that students can learn about a biblical person on their own: First, students can read the brief description from the background page about that person. Second, students can look up and read as many as six biblical passages, listed on the background page, that relate to that biblical person. Young people can also read listed articles from *Breakthrough!* Third, to see if they have retained the main elements of the biblical person’s story, students can complete the biblical person’s activity page.

Going Deeper into a Character Study

If your students have already become acquainted with the biblical person’s story, they will be ready to look at the character in greater depth with you. You can either use the reflection questions at the bottom of the background page by themselves or use them in conjunction with the *Teaching Activities Manual for "Breakthrough!"* The majority of workbook reflection questions are inspired by the longer activities in the teaching activities manual.

Students should initially answer the reflection questions privately and in writing. Depending on the question, you may want to invite the young people to share something they wrote or any thoughts that came to them because of the questions. Although a question may ask them something personal, all questions relate back to the biblical person.

Reviewing

If you teach about a character starting with the longer activities in the *Teaching Activities Manual for "Breakthrough!"*, these workbook activity sheets can be helpful for review. If students struggle with certain parts of the activity sheet, you can review those parts of the biblical person’s story that are causing them trouble.

The Short Stop

If you have limited time, these workbook activities can enable you to quickly cover some characters that are less known or overlooked. Though you may want to spend more time with Isaiah than with Ezekiel, students can still get a taste of Ezekiel from his activity page and background page in this workbook.

The Answers

The correct answers to all the activity pages in this manual can be found in appendix 3 of the *Teaching Activities Manual for "Breakthrough!"* It is always a good idea to complete an activity page before the young people so you can gauge its difficulty and appropriateness.

The workbook pages are perforated to make them easy to collect for review or grading. Each activity page has a blank box at the bottom to stamp or place a grade.

BIBLE BOOKS



Read the list of the names of the books in the table of contents of your Bible. Hidden in each of the sentences below is the name of one of those books. For example, in the sentence, "I ran because I was afraid the snake was going to bite me," the Book of TOBIT is hidden (. . . was going **TO BITe** me.) Find the book hidden in each of these sentences and write it on the line provided.

BIBLE BOOKS

1. While they were playing outside, Jim took a hose and sprayed his sister.

2. Jennifer cannot go to the beach with us because she has a job for the summer.

3. When the customer asked the mechanic if he could fix the car, he replied, "Sir, a child could do it."

4. When we rode in the parade in a Cadillac sedan, I elevated the convertible roof.

5. As soon as I looked up, I saw Sam at the window waving to me.

6. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the first Catholic president of the United States.

7. The jury knew the man was guilty from answers he gave when he testified at the trial.

8. We learned about number sets in Mrs. Jones's math class today.

9. I gave Andrea most of the candy I bought at the store.

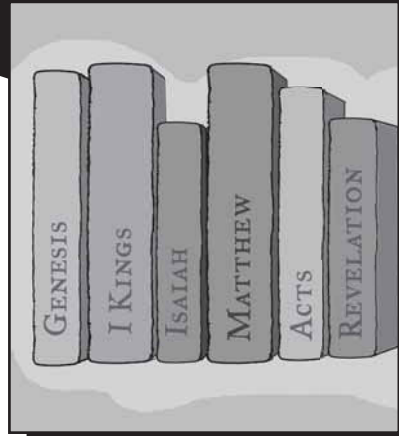
10. I like strawberry jam, especially when I have it on toast for breakfast.

BIBLE BOOKS

The Bible is not really one book; it is a collection of books. There are seventy-three books in Catholic Bibles: forty-six books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven books in the New Testament. The books are not all the same kind of writing. Some books are poetry, some are letters, some are short stories, and some are reflections on how God was working through historical people and events.

The books are divided into two major sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament books are primarily about God's special relationship with his Chosen People. At different times these people are called Hebrews, Israelites, Judeans, and Jews. The New Testament books are about God's biggest breakthrough in history: the coming of Jesus Christ. The New Testament stories tell about Jesus' life and mission, starting with God's Chosen People, the Jews. The New Testament books tell how Jesus' first disciples quickly expanded the mission to include non-Jews, called Gentiles.

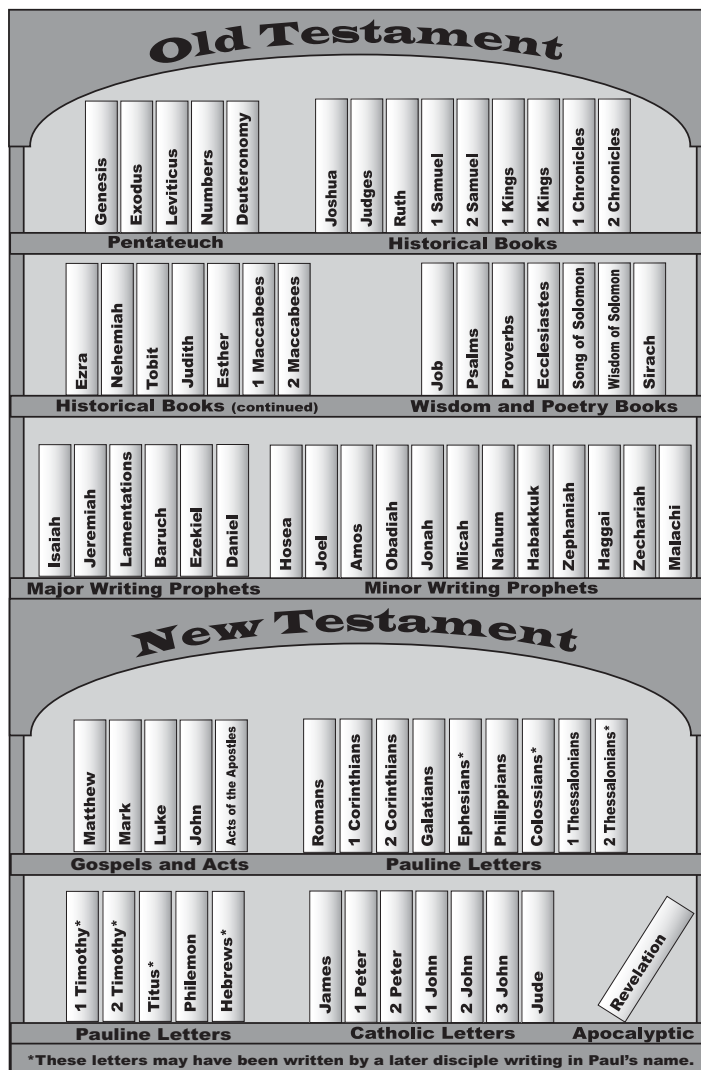
The Old Testament and the New Testament are further divided into other sections, shown in the diagram below. You can find more information on those sections in the background pages for the next two activities.



FINDING BIBLE PASSAGES

The Bible has a system for helping you locate specific passages. Each book in the Bible is divided into chapters (except for some very short books). The chapter numbers are the larger ones on the page. Each chapter is divided into verses. A verse is usually about a sentence long. The verse numbers are the smaller numbers in each chapter and start with verse 1 in each new chapter.

A Bible citation is a code for finding a passage using this system. A citation has three parts: the Bible book name, a chapter number, and verse numbers. So John 3:16-17 means the Gospel of John, chapter three, verse sixteen through verse seventeen.



INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT



INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

Turn to the table of contents in the beginning of your Bible and use it to answer the following questions on the Old Testament.

1. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
2. What is the first book of the Old Testament? _____
3. What is the last book of the Old Testament? _____
4. Which book of the Old Testament is the shortest? _____
5. Which book of the Old Testament is the longest? _____
6. What are the four sections of the Old Testament?

7. List the five books of the Pentateuch.

8. Which book comes after Psalms? _____
9. In which section do you find each of the following books?
1 Kings _____ Nahum _____
Song of Songs _____ Jonah _____

Now try looking up some Bible passages. Look up each passage below and write the word indicated to complete a sentence about the Old Testament.

10. Exodus 12:37 Write the second word of the passage in the space before the (10).
11. Judges 10:14 Write the tenth word of the passage in the space before the (11).
12. Isaiah 32:18 Write the second word of the passage in the space before the (12).

The Old Testament is the story of the _____ (10),
God's _____ (11) _____ (12).



INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament in Catholic Bibles contains forty-six books. The Bibles that most Protestants use has thirty-nine books in the Old Testament. That is the main difference between Catholic and Protestant Bibles.

The Old Testament books include many different kinds of writings. You will find history, poetry, legends, laws, wise sayings, short stories, and the words of prophets. The Old Testament books are primarily about God's special relationship with his Chosen People. At different times these people are called Hebrews, Israelites, Judeans, and Jews. During their history God breaks through and calls the Chosen People to recognize him as their one and only God. God promises to bless them in a special way, and he asks the Chosen People to be faithful in following his commands.

This holy promise between God and the Chosen People is called a covenant. *Testament* is another word for *covenant*, so the Old Testament is the story of the Covenant between God and his special people—who eventually become the Jewish people. Because of this, most of the books of the Old Testament are also the sacred Scriptures of the Jewish people, sometimes called the Hebrew Scriptures.

To fully understand God's plan for the human race, we need both the Old and the New Testaments. In the Old Testament, God reveals the love he has for us. The stories teach us how sin keeps us from being in a completely loving relationship with God. The Old Testament shows how, through various people, God broke through to put his Chosen People on the right path.

REFLECTION

1. Page through the Old Testament of your Bible. What stories do you recognize? If you have any favorite stories in the Old Testament, what are they? What do they teach you about God?
2. Flip through the interview pages of the Old Testament Bible people (Adam and Eve to Lady Wisdom) in *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics*. Which Old Testament Bible people are you most curious about? Why?



SECTIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament in Christian Bibles is usually divided into four different sections. Here's some information on each section:

The Pentateuch or Torah. These five books are the heart of the Old Testament. They contain the stories of Creation and stories about how sin entered the world. They tell how God broke through to first make his Covenant with Noah and Abraham. The Book of Exodus tells how God led his people out of slavery through the leadership of Moses. At Mount Sinai, God extended the Covenant to all his Chosen People and gave them the Ten Commandments.

The Historical Books. These sixteen books are mostly religious history and some short novels. They tell how the Chosen People settled in the Promised Land. Eventually they became a kingdom led by kings like Saul, David, and Solomon. But the rulers and the people often worshiped false gods and ignored the poor. So God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to call the people to be faithful to the Covenant. The historical books have imaginative stories about heroes like Ruth, Tobit, Judith, and Esther.

The Wisdom Books. These seven books contain the collected wisdom of the Chosen People. They contain the songs they used in worship and prayer. They contain advice for living a good and holy life. The Song of Songs has poetry about the goodness of sexuality. The Book of Job is a debate about why good people suffer bad things.

The Books of the Prophets. These eighteen books contain the messages of important prophets. The prophets delivered God's message to the Chosen People. They warned the Chosen People against worshiping false gods. They challenged the Chosen People to act fairly and to care for the poor. The prophets also offered comfort and hope when the people thought God had abandoned them. And some of the prophets promised a future savior, the Messiah, who would bring God's love, justice, and peace to the world.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT



Turn to the table of contents in the beginning of your Bible and use it and the books of the New Testament to answer the following questions on the New Testament.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. How many books are in the New Testament? _____
2. What is the first book of the New Testament? _____
3. What is the last book of the New Testament? _____
4. Which book in the New Testament is the longest? _____
5. Which book in the New Testament is the shortest? _____
6. List the four Gospels.

7. List at least three letters (Epistles).

8. What book comes right after the Gospel of John? _____

Now try looking up some Bible passages. Look up each passage below and write the word indicated to complete a sentence about the New Testament.

9. Matthew 4:7 Write the first word of the passage in the space before the (9).
10. Romans 8:10 Write the third word of the passage in the space before the (10).
11. Mark 14:12 Write the third word of the passage in the space before the (11).
12. Acts 11:26 Write the last word of the passage in the space before the (12).

The New Testament tells us about _____(9) _____(10)
and the _____(11) _____(12).



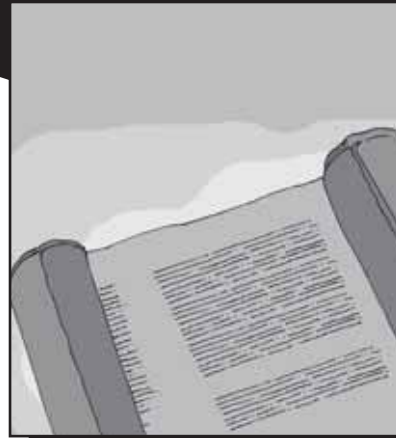
INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament contains twenty-seven books. These books contain several kinds of writings. You will find Gospels, religious history, letters to individuals, letters to communities, homilies, and visions. All these books are in some way about God's biggest breakthrough in history: the coming of Jesus Christ. The New Testament stories tell how Jesus' mission starts with God's Chosen People, whom today we call the Jews. They also tell how Jesus' first disciples quickly expanded the mission to include non-Jews, who were called Gentiles.

Testament is another word for *covenant*, and a covenant is a holy promise made between God and human beings. The Old Testament is about the original Covenant that God made with his Chosen People. The New Testament writings show how the promises of the Covenant in the Old Testament were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, God extended the Covenant to the whole human race. We call this the New Covenant, the promise that every person—Jew or Gentile—can have eternal life with God. This New Testament tells how this was made possible by Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection. To fully understand God's plan for the human race, we need both the Old and the New Testaments.

REFLECTION

1. Page through the New Testament of your Bible. What stories do you recognize? If you have any favorite stories in the New Testament, what are they? What do they teach you about Jesus Christ?
2. Flip through the interview pages of the New Testament Bible people (Mary of Nazareth to Priscilla and Aquila) in *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics*. Which New Testament Bible people are you most curious about? Why?



SECTIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament is usually divided into two or three main sections. Here's some information on each section:

The Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. *Gospel* literally means "good news." We call Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John Gospels because they tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. These four books each have their unique picture of Jesus Christ. It is believed that Mark was written first. The writers of Matthew and Luke probably used Mark as a starting point in creating their Gospels. That is why these three Gospels have some very similar stories.

The Gospel of John is quite different from the other three. There are fewer miracles and fewer parables, and John more clearly presents Jesus as God's Son. Having four Gospels gives us a more complete understanding of Jesus than having just one.

The Acts of the Apostles picks up where the Gospels leave off. Acts tells the exciting story of the first Christians. By traveling and preaching, they spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the known world.

The Letters. Back at the time of Jesus, there was no telephone, television, radio, or Internet. So when the early leaders of the Church wanted to communicate, they did so by writing letters. These letters were written to groups and to individuals. They helped the first Christians—and they help us—understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

The majority of the letters were written by Saint Paul or by people writing in his name. It was not uncommon at that time to honor a great person by writing letters or books in his or her name.

Revelation. The Revelation to John is not a letter but a collection of prophecies and visions. It is about the struggle between the good and evil forces that exist in the world. Revelation promises that even though believers will be persecuted, God will make everything right in the end.

CONNECTIONS



CONNECTIONS

In this activity you will match an Old Testament passage about the Messiah to a New Testament passage about the life of Jesus. In each square there is an Old Testament passage for you to read and some space for you to write down a few key words from the passage.

After you have read the passages in the boxes, read the passages listed at the bottom of the page. Match each of these New Testament passages to one of the Old Testament passages in the boxes. The Old Testament passage is either quoted in the New Testament passage or kind of describes a person or event from the New Testament passage. Write in the appropriate box the number associated with the New Testament passage from the list below. When you finish, the numbers you have put in the boxes should add up to the same total across, up and down, and diagonally.

OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES		
Isaiah 61:1-2	Malachi 3:1-3	Isaiah 9:1-2
Micah 5:2	Isaiah 35:5-6	Genesis 12:1-3
Jeremiah 31:31-34	Isaiah 7:14	Zechariah 9:9

NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Matthew 1:23 | 4. Matthew 4:12-16 | 7. Luke 2:4-7 |
| 2. Luke 4:16-19 | 5. Matthew 11:3-6 | 8. Matthew 21:1-11 |
| 3. Matthew 1:1 | 6. Luke 22:20 | 9. John 2:13-17 |



CONNECTIONS

Different people, in different places, in different times wrote the books of the Bible. Because of this, you might think that there would be hardly any connections among the Bible's books. But the opposite is true; there are many connections among the different books of the Bible. This is partly because the authors of later books were familiar with the books that were already written. The Holy Spirit also guided the authors of the Bible's books in making connections between the life of Jesus and the Old Testament people and stories.

Here are some of the kinds of connections you will find among the books of the Bible:

- Sometimes several books told stories about the same people or events. Think of the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—which are all slightly different versions of the things Jesus said and did.
- Sometimes people in one book say things that are from a different book. For example, when Jesus says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37), he is quoting Deuteronomy 6:5.
- As Christians, we see in some Old Testament passages signs of events that happened in Jesus’ life. As an example, the suffering servant passages (Isaiah 42:1-7, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, 52:13—53:12) point to Jesus’ own suffering and death.

To fully understand God’s message in the Bible, it helps to understand these connections. They show how God has been breaking through all human history with his message of love. The stories of the Old Testament are part of the complete story of God’s plan of salvation history that reaches its fulfillment in the coming of Jesus Christ, which is told in the New Testament. The connections between the two Testaments and among other parts of the Bible show how God has been at work for thousands of years, trying to break through to us with his message of love.

REFLECTION

1. Which person from the Old Testament of the Bible most reminds you of Jesus? Why?

2. Think about Bible stories that have a connection to water; for example, the story about Jonah and the giant fish. Make a list of all the stories you can think of. Many of these stories have a connection to the sacrament of Baptism. What do the stories you thought of teach us about Baptism?



BREAKTHROUGH! ARTICLES

Read these articles to learn more about some of the connections in the Bible.

The Ultimate Sacrifice
Genesis 22:1-19

The Tribe of Judah
Genesis 49:8-12

Saved by the Blood of the Lamb
Exodus 12:21-28

Party Time
Exodus 34:22

An Important Dozen
Joshua 4:19-24

Jesus and the Psalms
Psalm 22

Stories About Jesus?
Isaiah 1:3

The Suffering Servant
Isaiah 49:1-6

Putting Your Heart in It
Jeremiah 31:31-33

Moses, Elijah, and Jesus
Malachi, chapter 4

Introduction to the Gospel According to Matthew Remember Moses?
Matthew 2:13-18

A New Law
Matthew 5:1-12

Laws of Love
Mark 12:28-34

Who Is Equal?
Galatians 3:26-29

Melchizedek
Hebrews, chapter 7

... And a Beginning
Revelation, chapter 21

SALVATION HISTORY



History told from the perspective of God's breaking through is called salvation history. Look at the time line in the front of *Breakthrough!* This time line gives a big-picture view of salvation history. In the spaces below, create your own big picture of salvation history with a drawing representing an event that occurred during each time period. Write a brief caption for each drawing.

SALVATION HISTORY

PRIMEVAL HISTORY CREATION–2000 BC	PATRIARCHS 2000 BC–1700 BC
EGYPT AND THE EXODUS 1700 BC–1250 BC	SETTLING THE PROMISED LAND 1250 BC–1050 BC
KINGDOMS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL 1050 BC–587 BC	EXILE AND RETURN 587 BC–AD 1
LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST AD 1–AD 33	EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AD 33–AD 100



SALVATION HISTORY

The Bible tells the story of how God breaks through to save human beings from sin and bring us to eternal life—also called salvation history. Here's a brief description of eight periods of salvation history.

Primeval History. The Bible begins with imaginative stories about how God created everything that exists. The stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, and the tower of Babel teach us that God created everything and that human beings have a special place in creation. They teach us that sin destroys our relationships with God and each other.

Patriarchs. In this period of salvation history, God begins to form a special relationship with a chosen race of people. He makes a special promise, called a covenant, with a man named Abraham and his wife, Sarah. God promises that their descendants will be numerous and that they will inherit a Promised Land.

Egypt and the Exodus. The descendants of Abraham—now called Israelites—are in slavery in Egypt. God hears their cries, and calls Moses to lead the people out of slavery. The Israelites' escape from Egypt and journey to the Holy Land is called the Exodus. On the way to the Promised Land, the Israelites stop at Mount Sinai. There, God gives Moses Ten Commandments, which the people must obey as part of their Covenant promises.

Settling the Promised Land. Moses dies, and God calls a new leader, Joshua, to lead the people into the Promised Land, which is inhabited by other people. The Israelites must fight to gain control. When they trust God, they are successful in their battles; when they do not trust God, they fail. Eventually they gain control of the land, and each of the twelve Tribes is given their own section of the land.

Kingdoms of Judah and Israel. When the Israelites want their own king, God reluctantly answers their plea. He has Samuel anoint Saul as the first king of Israel. David follows Saul as the next king. David unites all the twelve Tribes into one kingdom. After Solomon's death there is disagreement between the tribes, and the kingdom splits in two: Israel and Judah. During this time God called prophets to call the people to obey their Covenant with God.

Exile and Return. Despite the prophets' warnings, the people of Israel and Judah continued to turn away from God's Covenant with them. So God let their kingdoms be conquered. Many of the people were taken into captivity, so this time was called the Exile. Fifty years later a new king allowed the people—now called Judeans or Jews—to return to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

Life of Jesus Christ. When the time was right, God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. When Jesus was born, the Romans ruled Israel. Some of the Jews were hoping for a mighty warrior and king like David, who would drive the Romans out. Instead, Jesus preached love, justice, and forgiveness. When Jesus was killed, his followers thought that all was lost. Instead, after three days God raised Jesus from the dead!

Early Christian Church. After his Resurrection, Jesus instructed his closest followers, the Apostles, to go and spread the Good News of salvation to all people. The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the courage to tell others about Jesus Christ. Sometimes the Apostles were persecuted by people who did not believe in Jesus. Soon Christianity spread throughout the whole Roman Empire.



BIBLE PEOPLE IN SALVATION HISTORY

Primeval History

- Adam and Eve
- Noah

Patriarchs

- Abraham and Sarah
- Jacob, Leah, and Rachel
- Joseph and his brothers

Egypt and the Exodus

- Moses
- Miriam and Aaron

Settling the Promised Land

- Joshua
- Deborah
- Gideon
- Samson
- Ruth

Kingdoms of Judah and Israel

- Samuel
- King Saul
- King David
- King Solomon
- King Hezekiah
- King Josiah
- Elijah and Elisha
- Amos
- Hosea
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah

Exile and Return

- Ezekiel
- Ezra and Nehemiah
- Esther
- The Maccabees

Life of Jesus Christ

- Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ
- Mary of Nazareth
- John the Baptist
- Peter
- Mary Magdalene

Early Christian Church

- Peter
- Paul
- Barnabas
- Timothy
- Priscilla and Aquila

ADAM AND EVE



ADAM AND EVE

Read the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 2:4—3:24, then fill in the blanks in the statements below. To find out if your answers are correct, find each of your answers in the word search. Put the unused letters from the word search in the spaces at the bottom of the page to spell out a fact about Adam and Eve.

- When the Lord God created the earth, nothing was growing on it because there was no _____ and no man to cultivate the ground.
- The Lord God formed man out of the clay, or soil, of the _____.
- The Lord God planted a garden in _____.
- The tree of _____ was planted in the middle of the garden.
- There was a stream, or river, in the garden that divided into _____ branches.
- The job of the _____ was to cultivate and care for the garden.
- The man was allowed to eat of any tree except the tree of the knowledge of _____ and bad.
- The man gave names to all the _____.
- The woman was made from one of the _____ of the man.
- The snake tempted the woman to eat the _____.
- The man and the woman realized that they were naked and sewed together some _____ (TWO WORDS)
- They hid among some _____ when they heard the Lord God in the garden.
- The man named his wife Eve because she was the _____ of all human beings.
- The _____ made clothes from animal skins for them. (TWO WORDS)
- The Lord God sent the man and the woman out of the garden and placed a flaming _____ outside it to guard the tree of life.

A	D	A	L	O	R	D	G	O	D
A	D	N	M	A	F	R	N	D	G
D	R	I	E	V	I	E	D	O	N
N	O	M	S	B	G	I	O	I	E
U	W	A	S	E	L	D	A	R	F
O	S	L	S	O	E	R	B	U	I
R	E	S	Y	E	A	R	D	O	L
G	N	E	D	E	V	G	T	F	M
O	M	O	T	H	E	R	D	+	A
T	I	U	R	F	S	+	+	+	N



ADAM AND EVE

The story of Adam and Eve, the first humans, reveals some basic truths about what it means to be human.

In the story from the Book of Genesis, God creates Adam, whose name means “human being,” by forming him from the earth and breathing life into him. Then God creates a woman from Adam’s flesh, so that Adam will have a companion just like him. The woman’s name, Eve, means “living.” God puts Adam and Eve in the wonderful Garden of Eden, where they live in peaceful friendship with God, each other, and all of creation. In the garden, they have everything they need to be happy.

Unfortunately, a tricky snake persuades them that what God has given them is not enough. He says that if they eat the fruit of a tree that God has placed off-limits, they will become just like God. Rather than trusting God, they listen to the snake and eat the forbidden fruit.

This first disobedience is called original sin, and it caused Adam and Eve—and every person after them except Jesus and his mother, Mary—to be separated from God, one another, and the rest of creation. Although human beings continued to disobey God, God did not abandon them. Instead, he overcame the damage of original sin through the saving work of his son, Jesus.

REFLECTION

Answer these questions after you have read about Adam and Eve.

1. Imagine you could put Adam, Eve, and the serpent on trial in a courtroom. Who would be most guilty in the case of the first sin? Who would be least guilty? Do any of these characters deserve the most blame? Why or why not?

2. Adam and Eve did not know they were naked until they sinned. Their sin made them ashamed of whom they were, and they wanted to cover up. How do people today try to “cover up” the bad feelings they have when they sin? Why do you think we have those feelings of shame after we sin?



BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT ADAM AND EVE

Genesis 2:4-15
God creates a man, animals, and a woman.

Genesis 3:1-6
Adam and Eve eat from the forbidden fruit tree.

Genesis 3:7-13
Adam and Eve hide from God.

Genesis 3:14-24
God punishes and banishes Adam and Eve.

BREAKTHROUGH! ARTICLES

Read these articles to learn more about Adam and Eve.

Breakthrough! Interview with Adam and Eve

Uncovering the Truth
Genesis 2:5-25

Original Sin
Genesis 3:1-24

ABRAHAM



ABRAHAM

Put the events of Abraham's life in the correct order of how they happened. You can figure this out by scanning the headlines in Genesis 11:27—23:20. Number the events 1 through 14 in the space provided. Starting with event number 1, put the bold, underlined letters in the spaces provided at the bottom. Some events have two letters in bold, underlined type. Be sure to put those letters in the spaces in the order in which they appear in the sentence.

- (1) ___ Hagar gave birth to **Ab**ram's son, Ishmael.
- (2) ___ Sarah gave birth to Abraham's son, Isaac.
- (3) ___ Abram and Sarai went to Egypt because there was a famine in Canaan.
- (4) ___ God changed Abram's **s** name to Abraham and established circumcision as the sign of the covenant.
- (5) ___ Abraham asked the Lord not to kill the innocent with the guilty in Sodom.
- (6) ___ As a test of faith, God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and offer him up as a sacrifice.
- (7) ___ Abram went with his father, Terah, to Haran.
- (8) ___ Abraham bought a piece of land as a burial place for Sarah.
- (9) ___ After the defeat of the four kings, Melchizedek brought bread and wine to Abram.
- (10) ___ Abram and Lot parted ways and separated their belongings.
- (11) ___ Abraham and Abimelech made a pact at Beer-sheba.
- (12) ___ The Lord called Abram to leave his father's house in Haran and travel to Canaan.
- (13) ___ Abram saved his nephew, Lot, who had been taken as a prisoner by four kings.
- (14) ___ After the birth of Isaac, Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away.

Abraham lived a full life, and when he died, his sons Isaac and Ishmael . . .

(Genesis 25:7-10)



ABRAHAM

Abram and his wife, Sarai, were nomads who moved from place to place looking for grass for their sheep and goats. One day God told them to leave the land of Ur—the land of their families—and move to a new land far away. God told Abram that he would give him this land and that he would make Abram and Sarai the parents of many nations, with descendants as numerous as the stars. This seemed impossible because Abram and Sarai were childless and already quite old.

But Abram believed God, so God made a covenant with him to seal the promise. God also changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude." Abraham traveled to the new land God had promised. He had many adventures in his travels, including fighting to free his nephew Lot and his family and having to move his family and herds to Egypt during a famine.

Abraham had many opportunities to lose faith in God's promise. Twenty-five years passed before he and Sarah gave birth to a son. Then God told Abraham to sacrifice the boy, named Isaac. With complete trust in God, Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac. At the last second, God stopped Abraham and gave him a sheep to sacrifice instead of Isaac.

Abraham is one of the most important characters in the Bible because most of the other stories in the Bible are about his descendants, including Jesus. Because of his strong faith, Abraham is honored as the father of all believers by Jews, Christians, and Muslims—truly a multitude as numerous as the stars.

REFLECTION

Answer these questions after you have read about Abraham.

1. Would you imagine that Abram and Sarai had a hard time leaving their home for a new land? You face similar challenges when going to a new school, neighborhood, or team. How could you make faith a part of your next move?

2. Contracts are business agreements and appear in legal papers, while covenants are sacred promises such as the vows exchanged in marriage ceremonies. Why does God make a covenant rather than a contract with Abraham? Can Abraham keep his side of the covenant without God's help? Can we?



BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-9
God calls Abram to leave Ur.

Genesis 15:1-21
God makes a covenant with Abram.

Genesis 17:1-16
God changes Abram's and Sarai's names and requests circumcision.

Genesis 18:1-15
God promises to send Sarah and Abraham a son.

Genesis 21:1-8
The birth of Isaac

Genesis 22:1-19
God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

BREAKTHROUGH! ARTICLES

Read these articles to learn more about Abraham.

***Breakthrough!* Interview with Abraham**

An Act of Faith
Genesis 12:1-9

Fear and Faith
Genesis 15:1-15

What's in a Name?
Genesis 17:1-22

Surprises from God
Genesis 18:1-15

The Ultimate Sacrifice
Genesis 22:1-19