



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
The Bible	5
Introduction to the Bible	5
Reading from the Bible: Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden	6
Abraham the Patriarch	9
Exodus	11
The Story of Moses	11
Traditional Route of the Exodus	22
The Ten Commandments	23
The Proverbs	26
Jerusalem (Western Wall).	27
Anti-Semitism (Holocaust)	28
Beliefs and Observances	29
Branches of Judaism	31
Rites of Passage	32
The Synagogue	34
Objects and Symbols	35
The Jewish Calendar	37
Passover	38
Chanukah	40
Vocabulary Review	43
Quiz and Review	44
When Did it Happen?	47
Answer Key	48



Introduction

If your students were asked what they know about Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism or Christianity, they might respond with a limited amount of information. Although they are impacted almost daily with information related directly or indirectly to religious issues, they often know little about the religions themselves or the lives of the great spiritual leaders.

As our world becomes more interdependent, there is a need to awaken to one another's spiritual heritage. Throughout history, the world has been shaped by people religious beliefs. To teach history without religion is equivalent to teaching biology without reference to the human body. Schools now recognise this issue and have begun to advocate religious studies within the framework of history.

Religious studies foster tolerance. This is, perhaps, the most valuable lesson. Racism and stereotypes are born largely out of ignorance. How wonderful to give students the opportunity to listen to a Buddhist speaker or to visit a synagogue and ask questions of a rabbi. These kinds of direct contacts are invaluable.

Many people may wonder if students in the middle years are too young to begin studying religion. Absolutely not! In fact, such a unit may provide spiritual nourishment missing in many students' lives or it may strengthen the students' ties to their own faiths. Some may finally have the chance to wonder out loud about the meaning of life. They might return home and ask questions of their parents. Students are usually genuinely inspired by such a topic. Parents are likely to be appreciative because in many cases they will learn along with their children.

Teaching religion presents the educator with a tremendous responsibility. The teacher must always be sensitive to their own religious and social conditioning, as well as that of the students and parents. If this sensitivity exists, today's students will begin to harbour a deeper understanding of and respect for one another's faith.

Each title in this series introduces one of the world's 'great' religions but cannot address each religion in great detail. Rather, this series should be thought of as a starting point. While it is written for middle-years students, it can easily be adapted for younger or older students.



The Bible

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The Bible is the most famous book in all of history. It has sold more copies than any other book ever written. It has been translated into every major language in the world and can be found in nearly every hotel room.

The Jewish Bible was originally written in Hebrew, which is a very old language from the Middle East. Hebrew is written and read from right to left instead of from left to right as we read and write English. Another Jewish name for the Bible is Tanakh (kh is pronounced by rattling the back of your throat, like the German pronunciation of the composer Bach). Tanakh is a word created by taking the first letters of the Hebrew names for the three sections of the Hebrew Bible – Torah (the first five books); Nevee'eem (Prophets – books like Joshua, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel); and Ketuvim (Writings, including books like Proverbs, Psalms, Esther, Ruth and Lamentations).

The kind of Bible that you find most often in bookstores and hotel rooms is a Christian Bible. There are two differences between a Jewish Bible and a Christian Bible. First, the Christian Bible arranges the books from the Jewish Bible in a different order. Second, the Christian Bible contains 27 extra books that tell about the story of Jesus and the spread of Christianity, such as the Gospels and the book of Acts. These books were originally written in Greek, another very old language.

Sometimes, you hear Christians refer to the Jewish part of their Bible as the 'Old Testament' and the Christian part as the 'New Testament'. Christians usually call the second part of the Bible the 'New Testament' because they believe it has replaced the 'Old Testament'. Jews do not use these terms because they do not believe that the Tanakh has been replaced. Therefore, Jews and some Christians refer to the two parts of the Christian Bible as the 'Hebrew Testament' and the 'Greek Testament'.

Citing the Bible

Before continuing, you should understand how to refer to chapters and lines of the Bible. When reading a quote from the Bible, you will notice it is followed by something like this:

Genesis 7:1–4

What this means is that the quote comes from the book Genesis, chapter 7, verses 1 through 4. Try looking up this quote. Now, refer to the Bible to answer the following questions on the back of this paper.

Questions

1. What is the Torah? List the books it contains.
2. What is the difference between the Hebrew Testament and the Greek Testament?



The Bible

READING FROM THE BIBLE: ADAM AND EVE AND THE GARDEN OF EDEN (cont.)

- ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.
- ²² Then the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; he must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever'.
- ²³ So the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.
- ²⁴ He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Questions

1. What is the one commandment God gives Adam in the Garden of Eden? _____

2. What is Adam's first job in the garden? _____
3. How is Eve created? _____
4. The serpent is called 'subtle'. What does this word mean? _____
5. Why do you think some people refer to the serpent as the 'tempter'? _____
6. What finally convinces Eve to eat from the tree? _____
7. Describe what happens to Adam and Eve immediately after they eat the forbidden fruit. How do they feel? _____

8. In this story, God punishes. What are the punishments for the snakes, for Eve and for Adam?

9. What reason does God give for casting Adam and Eve out of the garden? _____



Abraham the Patriarch

In order to understand the origins of Judaism, we must travel back almost 4000 years to the land of Ur. It was here that a boy named Abram was born. According to the Torah, God chose Abram to be the father of a great nation. Before the time of Abram, all people believed that there were many gods, such as a god of rain, a god of wind, a god of sun and a god of the land. God made a covenant or a sacred agreement, with Abram that he would worship only one God. As a sign of that covenant, Abram's name was changed to Abraham, meaning exalted father of a great nation.

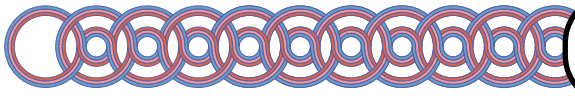
When Abraham was young, his family moved north from Ur to the land of Haran. (Use a modern atlas and the map on page 10 to discover where Haran would be today.) It was in Haran in about 2000 BCE that God made a covenant with Abraham. Abraham was about 75 years old when God said to him:

'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.'

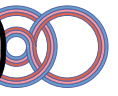
(Genesis 12:1-3)

So Abraham and his wife, Sarah, along with a small caravan, journeyed hundreds of miles to the land of Canaan. This is the place God had promised to Abraham. And though the land of Canaan has changed hands many times since Abraham's arrival, today it is the land of Israel, the Jewish homeland.

Sarah and Abraham grew old, but God granted them the miracle of a son, Isaac. In Genesis 22, God tests Abraham's faith by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac. Though Abraham's heart is breaking, he takes his son to the hills, binds him and lays him on an altar of wood.



Exodus



THE STORY OF MOSES (cont.)

After forty years of travelling the desert wilderness, Moses finally delivered the children of Israel to the River Jordan, bordering the land of Canaan. Their entire journey can be seen on the map on page 22.

It was at the River Jordan, at one hundred and twenty years of age, that Moses completed his work. God told Moses he would not go into Canaan. After freeing the Hebrew slaves and leading them through the desert, it was time for him to die. He climbed Mount Nebo, near Jericho and God showed him the land the Israelites would inherit. The children of Israel wept for their great leader.

Questions

1. Why is this story called Exodus? Approximately when did it occur? _____

2. Why did Pharaoh's daughter choose to call her adopted son Moses? _____

3. Why do you think God chose Moses to be a prophet? _____

4. List the ten plagues in order. Why was Pharaoh so stubborn about setting the captives free?

a. _____

f. _____

b. _____

g. _____

c. _____

h. _____

d. _____

i. _____

e. _____

j. _____

5. Why did the Hebrews make a golden calf? Which commandment does this break?

6. What two structures were used to house the Ten Commandments? _____
