

We Meet the Lord Jesus in the New Testament

Objective: Students will be able to find scriptural passages using the chapter and verse reference and locate maps and illustrations in their New Testament.

For the Catechist

In lessons 3 and 4, the students have been learning about the New Testament. Lesson 5 is the one that teaches them how to use their New Testament. Also, this is the final formal lesson on the New Testament, but the remaining lessons will ask the children to find and read Scripture. Throughout the year they will get to practice what they have learned. The main goal of this lesson is to instill a desire to want to read from the Scriptures even on their own.

Being familiar with the New Testament format helps us understand God's Word. Pictures, maps, and study guides help us experience the presence of Jesus who walked the same earth on which we live. If there is time, have the children look at the different sections in the appendix. Help them appreciate the importance and value of their New Testament given to them this year.

One way to learn content is by having to teach it. You might want to consider having the students take home their New Testament for the week. Ask them to share with their family members the facts they learned about finding Bible passages. This might be an opportunity for some parents to review also. You might consider having a different student each week suggest a scriptural passage to be read aloud at the beginning of class. Remember to begin with a few moments of silence before the actual reading of the passage.

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Heavenly King

Introduction: Discussion of newspaper stories and headlines **Need:** front page of a newspaper

Read Text Aloud: Have the students volunteer to read the text aloud or have the students read sections silently.

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity (detailed on the pages that follow) to reinforce the lesson.

- *Basic:* Readings From The New Testament
- *Group:* "Do You Know?" Game
- *Craft:* New Testament Bookmark
- *Alternate:* *Finding Your Way through the Bible (continued)*

Closing: The Lord's Prayer
(Matthew 6:9-15)

Icon Packets:

Come Bless the Lord:
The Four Evangelists

Teaching Pics

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted)

Prayer and Silence

"In prayer we sometimes use words. Soon we discover that our minds are wandering. We come back again and again to what we are saying and to our relationship with God. Patience is necessary. Tenseness and even a certain amount of effort are unavoidable. One must be courageous and keep on trying. Once the passions are channeled and sanctified, calm and quietness come to reside in the soul, and man thus becomes sensitive to the Divine Presence. It is in this stillness and repose of the soul that he finds the inner contemplation and awareness of his love-relationship with God. Life is indeed best realized and communicated in the silence of dialogue. This attitude of calm will bring all thinking processes to a stand-still in order that the peace of God may enter into our soul" (*FG 202*).

Scripture and the Presence of God

"A helpful factor in achieving an attitude of simple regard in the presence of God is a good breathing habit. Our Fathers attached a great importance to breathing habits. In fact, 'breathing is a condition of life and of consciousness.' A perfect breathing habit calms, soothes, and strengthens our ability to concentrate. Then, when words are read or chanted slowly and meaningfully, their content is better revealed. Their true meaning will strike the inner ear, echo within the soul, reach the subconscious mind and introduce us into the divine presence.

"The 'sound' par excellence that can introduce us into the presence of God is the Word of God in the Scriptures. By the recitation of texts, or the chanting of psalms, the soul is best caught up and penetrated by the revelation of the peace and joy which are in God. In order to awaken our sense to the meaning of Scripture, a whole rhythmic, poetic, and musical literature was devised and perfected by the masters of the spiritual life. By this balanced and humanly-enchancing voicing of the Word, the soul becomes alive and inundated with a light from beyond. At the sound of this Word the soul achieves a simple perception of God and is at rest" (*FG 202*).

The Bible and the Church

"Since the coming of Christ and the outpouring of the Spirit are the crowning revelations of God's presence to us, something else follows as well: there is nothing to add to the record. Of the many Christian writings composed since the first century, none are included in the Bible, because the presence of God's Spirit in our midst is the last decisive work of God until the second coming of Christ. Until then we live in the light of the Spirit made present to us in the Church. We continue to grow in our understanding of what God has done and will do and express that understanding in new ways. But, as the Church has always said, with the events of the founding of the Church by the power of the Spirit, God's revelation in His presence was complete" (*WEF 19*).

The Bible and the Fathers

"Commentaries on the Sacred Scripture by inspired writers, the writings of the Fathers of the Church, the desert fathers (and mothers), are another source of Catechesis. 'The best road to finding what is suitable is also to contemplate the divinely inspired books, for they contain both the lessons of good works and the written lives of blessed persons, like living icons of the life of God They are included so that we may imitate their good works' (St. Basil the Great, *Letters*, 2)" (*UCD 23-24*).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Gather in the icon corner to pray, "O Heavenly King... ." Before we begin praying, let's stand perfectly still for 10 seconds. Let's get our minds and bodies ready to think about the words we will pray.

Introduction

Today I brought in a newspaper from this week. Let's look at the headlines. Why are they in big print? What do they want us to know? [Let the children discuss the ways to get our attention.] The type of print lets us know what is really important. That helps us decide if we want to know more.

Let's pretend we are writing a newspaper about Jesus' life. What are some stories we would want to include? [Make a list on the board or on a large sheet of paper.] Would it be hard to decide what stories to include? There are certain ones we would definitely want. What are they? (Jesus' birth, death and resurrection) How big should the print be for the headline for Jesus' resurrection? (The whole front page) You are exactly right because that is the biggest story ever!

What is the name of the part of the Bible that includes the stories about Jesus? (The New Testament) This year we are going to read from the New Testament often. Today's lesson will teach us how to find a specific passage in the New Testament. We follow the same procedure whenever we read from the Old Testament.

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We Meet the Lord Jesus in the New Testament

When Jesus rose from the dead, it was news—big news! In fact, it is the most important news in all of human history.

As a result, people began to describe the events of their own lives as taking place so many years after Christ. We still do that today. When we say the year 2000, we mean 2000 years after Christ. We use AD to abbreviate the Latin words Anno Domini, translated to mean "in the year of the Lord." Events that happened before Christ were also given dates in the same way. For these events we begin with the birth of Christ and count back the number of years before Christ. That is the reason for BC written by those dates.

When we read from the New Testament, we are reading about the years after Jesus was born. That means we are reading about the years that would have AD written after them. Sometimes we hear Jesus or someone else refer to something that happened before Jesus lived, but the New Testament is about Jesus and His life.

Each book of the Bible is made up of one or more chapters that have many verses or sentences. Let's look at one of the pages from your New Testament. Red circles are added to help with the explanation that follows.



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God With Us Grade 4

Unit 1: I Am With You Always

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).

We Meet the Lord Jesus in the New Testament.

What does the title of this lesson mean? (We are in the presence of God when we read Scripture; we learn about Jesus,) Why should we pray before we read Bible passages? (To pray for help to listen and understand the Word of God)

... is about Jesus and His life.

What does AD mean? (An acronym for 'Anno Domini' in Latin or "the year of the Lord" in English) What does BC mean? (Before Christ)

[Some students might ask about CE (Common Era or Christian Era) that replaces AD, and BCE (Before the Common Era or Before the Christian Era) that replaces BC in some school textbooks following the "politically correct" style. This movement is a secular attempt to de-christianize the calendar. Some use it precisely because it eliminates the references to Christ in the dating system.]

The Birth of Jesus

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MATTHEW, 1

I. THE INFANCY NARRATIVE*

CHAPTER

1 The Genealogy of Jesus. The book of the genealogy—was born Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah, Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abiath, Abiath the father of Asaph, Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah became the father of

Jehoiachin, Jehoiachin the father of Jechoniah, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah.

17 Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

18 The Birth of Jesus. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

19 At that time Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Her husband's name was Joseph, a carpenter, of the town of Nazareth, and he called his first-born son Jesus, which means, God with us.

20 Now when Joseph and Mary had come together and the child was born to Mary, she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

21 And because there was no room for them in the inn, he lay in a manger.

22 And this was to fulfill what was said by the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, I will bring forth a sign to you, O Virgin: you shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel."

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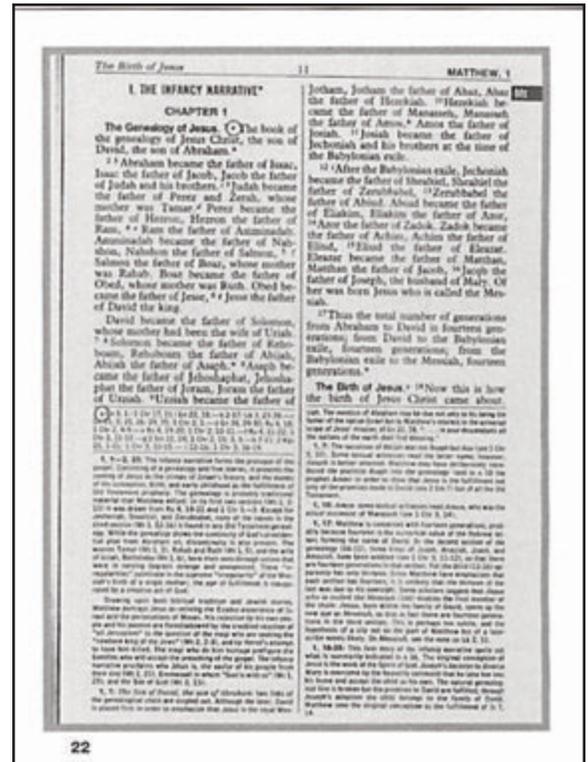
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The hyphen (-) means that you read all the verses from 1 through 3.

What does the reference tell us about the Bible reading? (It tells us the book and chapter and verse.) Why should we read the reference carefully? (So we can find and read the right passage.)

[Pages duplicated in this lesson are from The New Testament of the New American Bible, copyright 1986, the one given to the students in Lesson 3.]

[Refer to this duplicated page from the New Testament that is found on page 22 in their student book and/or have the students turn to Matthew 1:1-18 (page 11) in their own New Testament as they learn about the notations explained on page 23 in the student book.]

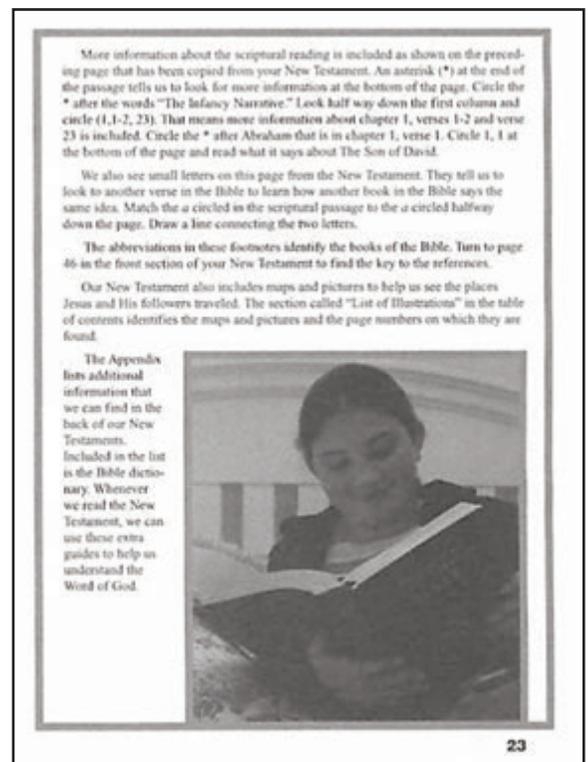


.. read what it says about The Son of David.

[Help the students realize the importance of reading the additional information that will help them understand the passage.]

... to help us understand the Word of God.

[Although we should be familiar with the abbreviations on page 46, our student book this year uses the full name, not the abbreviation.] *Why are maps and pictures included in the New Testament? (To help us see how the world looked during the years Jesus lived with us.) Let's look at our study guide at the end of our New Testament. [Identify the way it helps us find passages about different themes and people.]*



Every time we read from the New Testament, we are spending time with Jesus. We are showing Jesus we love Him and want to be with Him. For that reason, we should have our New Testament in a special place in our house.

THE PREPARED THRONE

Words to Remember
AD: An abbreviation of the Latin words Anno Domini, translated to mean "in the year of the Lord."
BC: An abbreviation used to identify the years before the birth of Christ. These years start at the birth of Christ and go back in number.
Reference: Words and numbers used to identify a passage from the Bible.
Chapter and Verse: Sections of the Bible that are identified by the numbers written after the name of the book from the Bible.
Footnote: More information found at the bottom of the page and indicated by an asterisk (*) or a small letter (a).

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....New Testament in a special place in our house.

Where are some good places for us to place our New Testament at home? (Icon table, our nightstand, in the living room) [Encourage the children to take their New Testaments home for the week so that they can share everything they learned with their parents.]

The "Prepared Throne" looks forward to the coming of Christ at the end of the age. Until the coming of Christ, He is present in His Word. We must respect our New Testament always.

Words to Remember: [Read the words together, and use them to introduce, summarize, and/or review the lesson.]

Map of the Holy Land

We have learned that the New Testament is about Jesus and His life. The map on this page shows the area that Jesus traveled during His lifetime.

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[The map on this page is similar to the one found after page 12 in the Gospel of St. Matthew in the New Testament. Both maps can be used as an easy reference throughout the year. Let the children compare the two.]

Activity Tracks

Basic: Readings from the New Testament
[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Let's practice everything we learned today. We are going to find and read the New Testament passage, and then answer the questions. [Walk around the room and help students who might have problems.]

Readings from the New Testament	
Answer the following questions by using your New Testament. Use the reference information to find the passage that answers the questions:	
Read Luke 4:16-21.	
1. In what town did Jesus come?	<u>Nazareth</u>
2. What is the name of the prophet who wrote the scroll that Jesus read?	<u>Isaiah</u>
3. How did Jesus finish the following statement, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled..."	<u>in your hearing?</u>
Read John 20:30-31.	
1. According to this passage, are all the signs of Jesus written in the New Testament?	<u>No</u>
2. What are we to believe about Jesus through the reading of the New Testament?	<u>Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God</u>
Read Acts 2:38-39.	
1. What did Peter say for the people to do "in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of... sins"?	<u>"Repent and be baptized."</u>
2. What will the people receive at their baptism?	<u>The gift of the Holy Spirit</u>

Group: "Do you Know?" Game

Materials: "Do You Know?" worksheet, pen

Today we are going to learn more about the entire New Testament. [If your group is large enough, divide by teams.] Everyone needs a pen and worksheet. On the worksheet are 9 questions that can be answered by using the pages from 410 in the back of your New Testament. After you answer a question, raise your hand, and I will give you one letter. You will get one letter each time you answer a question correctly. You can start guessing the word after you get the fourth letter. Write your guess on your paper and I'll tell you if it is the correct word. Good luck!



Craft: New Testament Bookmark

Materials: Icon worksheet, yarn or thin ribbon (6 inches long—3 pieces per student, glue, clear contact paper or laminating sheets that can be found at a craft store, scissors

[Have sample ready to show children.] *Today we are going to make bookmarks for our New Testament. Cut out the icons for the top of our bookmark [two different icons per student]. Glue three pieces of yarn between the two icons that are back to back. Glue the backs of the icons together so that the yarn is hanging from the bottom of the icons. Laminate the icons together.*

Alternate: Finding Your Way through the Bible

[This book can be purchased from God With Us Publications, TBS, P.O. Box 509, Barnhart, MO 63012 Phone: 877-484-1600]

Distribute copies of this book and, if necessary, review the procedure for reading and self-correcting given in the book. Allow each student to continue from where they left off last week, with each proceeding at his or her own pace through the book during the time allotted.

Closing: The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-15)

Let's turn to our New Testament for our closing prayer.

AD

BC

Reference

*Chapter
and Verse*

Footnotes

An abbreviation used to identify the years before the birth of Christ. These years start at the birth of Christ and go back in number..

An abbreviation of the Latin words *Anno Domini*, translated to mean "in the year of the Lord."

Sections of the Bible that are identified by the numbers written after the name of the book from the Bible.

Words and numbers used to identify a passage from the Bible.

More information indicated by an asterisk (*) or a small letter (a)..

Our New Testament

1. Turn to page 410 and identify the two sections on that page. _____
_____.

2. Where would we turn to read the parable about the Rich Man and Lazarus?

3. Starting on page 411 is a study guide that identifies topics and references. Turn to the last page of the study guide, page 435. Find the word *Sacrifice*. Read the paragraph that follows the words. According to number 6 in the list (6), where can we read about the Christian's obligation for sacrifice?

4. Find the word *Gospel* in the Bible dictionary that starts on page 439, and write the definition: _____
_____.

5. Write the two references for this definition: _____

6. Turn to the index that begins on page 449. Find the word Neighbor on page 452 and write the references given: _____

7. Turn to one of the references and read what the New Testament tells us about our neighbor.

Our New For the Catechist: Our Savior is the word the students are trying to guess. You may copy this page to make as many sets of letters as you need or you may want to write the letters on notecards and give them a letter as each question is answered correctly. Distribute the letters in a scrambled order.

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Unit 1 Review

I. Use your New Testament to answer the following questions:

1. Name the four Gospels.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

2. What are the Epistles?

Letters to the new Christians

3. What are footnotes in the New Testament?

Letters to the new Christians

4. In the reference Matthew 1:1-17, which is the:

Gospel Book Matthew Chapter 1 Verse 1-17

5. Why should we read the New Testament?

To spend time with Jesus; to learn about Jesus

II. Write the letter in front of the word that it defines.

B Inspiration

E Fulfilled

F Feast of Pentecost

A Testament

C Acts of the Apostles

D Reference

A. An agreement or covenant

B. When God fills people with His Spirit to guide them

C. Part of the New Testament that tells about the words and works of the apostles who were guided by the Holy Spirit

D. Words and numbers used to identify a passage from the Bible

E. To carry out something promised

F. This feast day recalls the descent of the Holy Spirit