

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

THE BIBLE

TOPICS: THE BIBLE IS YOUR FAMILY'S STORY, TOO.
WHO IS ON YOUR FAMILY FAITH TREE?

MATERIALS

- Family Bible
- Books of the Bible tabs (provided by parish)
- Paper/pen to answer family faith tree questions

Step 1: Watch [Tweeting with God, Why is the Bible so Important?](#)
1:48 (Tweens & teens)

or Re-watch [God's Story; The Bible](#)
4:51 (Crossroads Kids Club) (Younger children)

Step 2: Together insert Bible tabs into your family Bible. This will help you to become more familiar with the Bible as we begin our study.

Or for younger children, watch [The Catholic Books of the Bible Song](#)

Step 3: Answer Family Faith Tree questions:

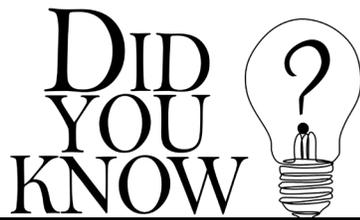
Have you ever heard of a family tree? A family tree is a diagram that shows people you are related to, like your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc... A Family Faith Tree is a diagram that shows people that came before you, who have handed down their faith to you. Discuss with your family (perhaps around the dinner table) the following questions and be prepared to share your answers at the next Families Forming Disciples gathering.

1. Who in your family or in your life was the first person that you know, knew or heard of, who had a strong faith in God and who handed it onto others?
2. To whom did he or she hand on the faith? Then, to whom did that person hand on the faith?
3. Do you have a picture of that first or second person, a sacramental or any other special object that belonged to him/her? If so, bring this item to the next gathering of families.
4. To whom do you want to hand on your faith?

Step 4: Read together! Choose a time for your family to gather around your family's home altar or prayer space and select one of your favorite stories from the Bible to read aloud. Then let each person in the family say what they liked and/or didn't like about the story and why.

Step 5: Pray together! Suggestion: Pray a decade of the Rosary while meditating on the story that your family just read and on which you all reflected.

Step 6: Get ready to bring your Bible (with the tabs inserted for those who choose to do so), and share about your Bible story and Family Faith Tree at Week 3's gathering of families.



What is the “job” of the Catholic Church?

From the very beginning of the Catholic Church, Jesus gave the Church a very special job, to teach people about who He is – to hand on the Good News of God’s saving love for us revealed fully in Jesus. This is what we call the mission of evangelization – sharing the Gospel (the Good News) about Jesus and inviting others to relationship with Him and to become His disciples. When we come to know who God is and what He has done (and continues to do) for us, we know who we are too, because the family of God is our family and we are made in God’s image and likeness! As the divine Son of God, Jesus revealed that God is our loving Father. By the Holy Spirit, we call on God as our Father (“Abba, Father!” See Romans 8:15). All of the baptized have the job or mission of handing on the Gospel, teaching people about Jesus and loving others as He loved.

In order to make sure that the Church would always hand on the truth about God’s Revelation and His rescue plan for us, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the Church, and He gave the Church a special teaching authority through the pope and bishops. This is what is called the teaching office of the Church, or the Magisterium. The Magisterium teaches faithfully, and with authority by the power of the Holy Spirit, the various truths of our Catholic faith found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Scripture and Tradition show what God has revealed about Himself (Divine Revelation) and about us, but we need the help of the Magisterium to make sure we are understanding God’s word correctly.

Without the Mass, we wouldn’t have the New Testament, or the Bible as we know it...

The early letters and books of the New Testament initially were often shared with communities liturgically – that is, through the Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, during which time, a portion of the Old Testament Scripture would be read along with perhaps a letter from St. Paul and a passage from a Gospel (before the Gospels were written, the stories of Jesus were shared orally and memorized in the earliest Christian communities). The Bible and the Eucharist have been closely tied together from the beginning of the Church (the Mass has always included the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist).