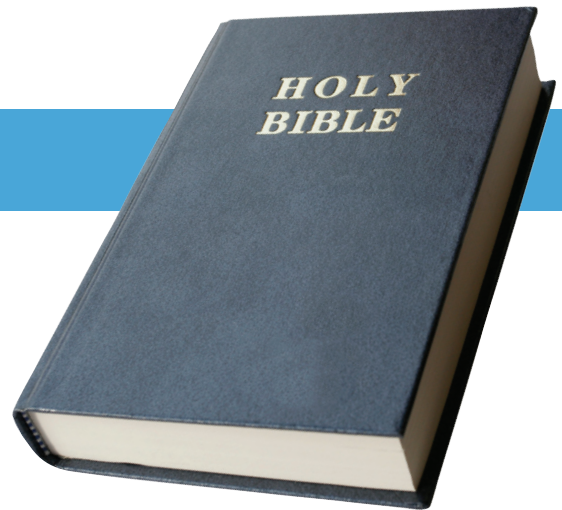


INTRODUCING CATHOLICS TO THE BIBLE

How to Host a Parent-Child Session



This is a description of how you can host a hands-on, engaging session to introduce children (5th grade or higher) and their parents to how the Bible is arranged.

(Session length: 90 minutes)

(Download a PDF of this poster presentation at www.catechistsjourney.com)

THE SETTING: Preliminaries



- Prepare a space where parents and their children can be seated at tables.
- You'll need a Catholic Bible for each child/family, and each table should have a pad of legal paper and several pens.
- Finally, each child will need a set of eight Bible Blueprint bookmarks (see step five).

1 STEP ONE: Revealing Yourself (10 min.)

- As you briefly introduce yourself, reveal one bit of trivia that most people don't know about you.
- Invite families to do the same.
- Write the word REVELATION on the board and explain that we reveal ourselves to others in order to enter into relationships.
- Explain that the Bible is REVELATION—it is God revealing himself to us in order to enter into relationship with us.



2 STEP TWO: Present the Bibles (10 min.)

- Lead a brief prayer service in which you prayerfully present each child with his or her Catholic Bible.

3 STEP THREE: Do You Know Your Bible? (20 min.)

- Invite each table to brainstorm a list of as many Bible characters as they can without looking in the Bible. Have one person record their list. Have each table report their list. If possible, record on the board.
- Congratulate them on their Bible knowledge.
- Challenge the children to find one of these stories in the Bible *in under 60 seconds* (no help from parents)!
 - a. David and Goliath
 - b. The Ten Commandments
 - c. Joseph and the coat of many colors
- Offer a reward (\$1 or \$5) to any child who can do so. Most will not be able to locate the passage in under 60 seconds.
- Point out that we have a problem: We know Bible characters but don't know where to locate them in the Bible!



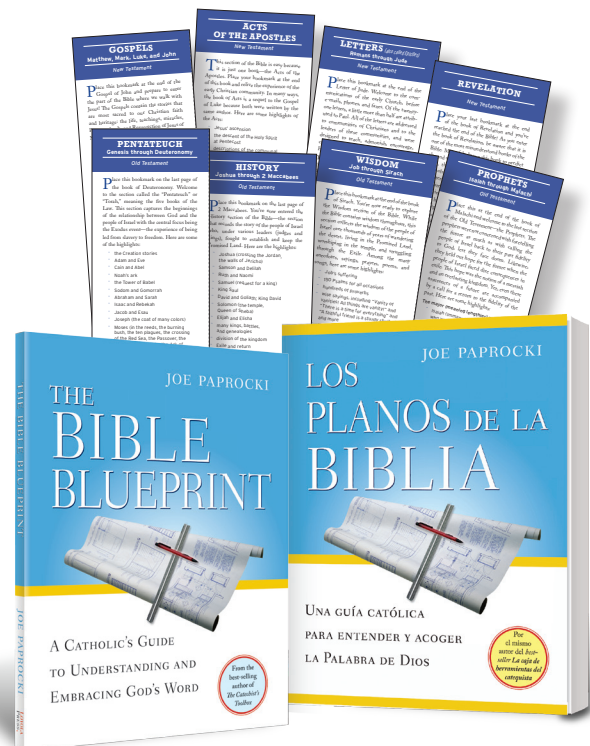
4 STEP FOUR: The Bible in Bite-Sized Pieces (5 min.)

- Explain that we need to break down the Bible into smaller pieces to “digest” it.
- Point out that the Bible is like a library—God’s Library—made up of 73 books and divided into eight sections.
- Tell them that you are now going to break down the Bible into these eight sections using bookmarks.

5 STEP FIVE: The Bible Bookmarks (40 min.)

- Introduce the Bible bookmarks (from *The Bible Blueprint* by Joe Paprocki, Loyola Press).
- Introduce the bookmarks one section at a time, describing the gist of each section (described on the bookmarks) and pointing out the highlights that are bulleted on each bookmark.
- For each section, challenge them to find a particular passage in under 60 seconds (Don't offer any more monetary awards, or you'll go broke since now they should find them quickly!)
 - a. Pentateuch (Noah's Ark)
 - b. History (any story of David)
 - c. Wisdom (Psalm 100)
 - d. Prophets (Jonah)
 - e. Gospels (the Crucifixion)
 - f. Acts of the Apostles (Pentecost)
 - g. Letters (to the people of Ephesus)
 - h. Revelation (last word of the Bible)

For owners of this book, Loyola Press grants permission to photocopy the bookmarks for use in this parent-child session.



6 STEP SIX: Training Wheels (5 min.)

- Explain that the bookmarks should be used like training wheels: get to know a section at a time, but eventually TAKE THEM OFF!
- Concluding prayer: 2 Tim. 3:14-17