

Lesson One Finding the books of the Bible.

Aim

To give the pupils familiarity with some of the books in the Bible and where they can be found. (The 'Good News' version of the Bible is recommended for use with the class.)

Development

1. Make sure every child has the Good News Bible for this lesson.
2. Look at the illustration in worksheet 1.1, 'Books in the Bible', and explain:
 - The word 'Bible' actually means a library of books.
 - The Bible is made up of many different types of books - history, poetry, proverbs, books of rules, teaching stories, reports and collections of letters.
 - There are 46 books in the **Old Testament** that contain the law and scriptures of the Jewish people; the historical books; the books about the great prophets of God; the Psalms and later writings.
 - There are 27 books in the **New Testament** with the Gospels which tell us about the life and message of Jesus and the book about the Acts of the Apostles, the letters written during the development of the church which Jesus founded and a last book which is a coded message to the churches who were under persecution. (The book of Revelation.)
3. Explain that we are now going to practice opening our Bible to find the different books in the Bible. Ask the pupils to open to the contents page (with the order of books, not the alphabetical contents page) of the Bible and ask:
 - a. Which is the first book of the OT? Genesis. Find it in your bible. Give the Pupils time to find the first page of the book. Then ask: Now close your bible and open it again at the book of Genesis.
 - b. Which is the first book of the NT? Gospel of Matthew. Find it in your bible. (Pause) Now close your bible and open it again at the Gospel of Matthew.
 - c. Look again carefully at the contents pages of your bible. Where do you find the book of Numbers? It is the 4th book in the Bible which is part of the Jewish law. (The first five books are the Books of the Law of Moses.) Make sure your bibles are closed. Now try opening to the book of Numbers. Do this a few times until you know where to find it.
 - d. Now find the first book of Chronicles. It comes later among the books that tell of the history of the Jewish people as they grew to become God's people. It comes after the books of Kings. Open it up and practice opening in the right place a few times.
 - e. Open the book of the prophet Isaiah. The book of the Prophet Isaiah is nearly in the middle of your Bible. Practice opening at the place of the book of the prophet Isaiah. He was one of the great prophets who warned the people of the destruction that was going to happen but also gave the people great consolation when they were defeated and crushed by the Syrian armies and led into exile.
 - f. Finally, find the book of Psalms. It is not far from Isaiah, coming before the book of Proverbs and Isaiah. Practice opening your Bible at the book of Psalms.

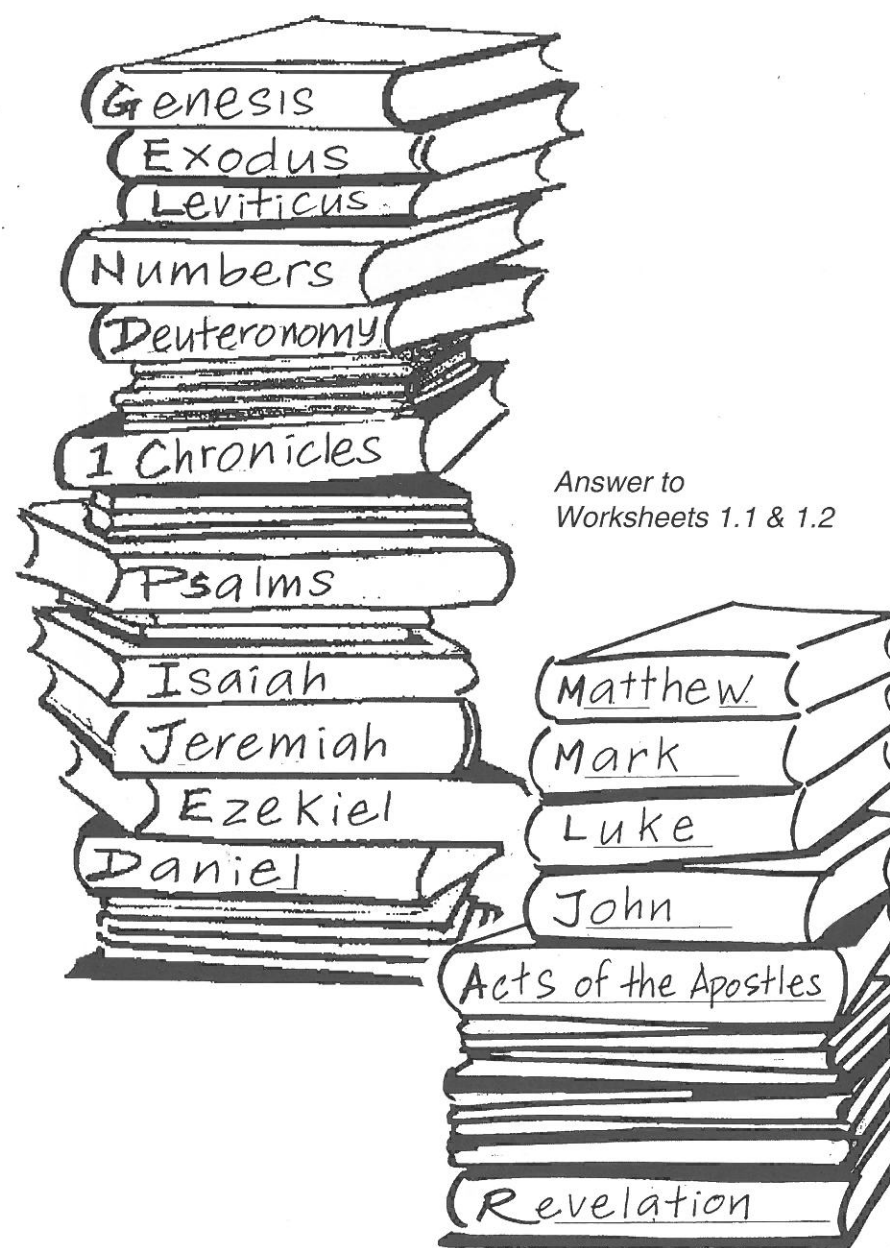
Review and Reflect

Do the next part of worksheet 1.1, 'Introduction to the books in the Bible', with the pupils. Help the pupils to fill in the names of the books of the Bible. See Teacher's Resource 1.2 answer sheet.

Conclusion

1. Remind the pupils to be respectful of their Bible. It is the Word of God and God speaks to them through the stories and words and teachings. They should use it to pray also. In the next lesson we will explore further why we read the Bible and use it in all our prayer and worship gatherings.
2. Lead the pupils in prayer:

"Thank you God for the way you have told us about yourself through the Bible. Thank-you for speaking to us today in your word. Thank-you for sending Jesus to speak to us plainly about you and about how much you love us. We want to always listen to your word and put it into practice. Help us to do this with your Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"



Answer to Worksheets 1.1 & 1.2

