



The Bible

A Project Pack for Seniors (age 11yrs +)

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About Project Packs

Project packs are a series of themed activities for use in CYCs, holiday clubs or as additions to the syllabus. They are intended to be a starting point for ideas because the children you are working with will dictate the activities you use and the way you use them.

Most of the activities need quite a lot of preparation such as collecting items and making games so it's worth reading through what you might want to do well in advance. It is also advisable to try out beforehand what you are expecting the children to do later.

If you need to make board games or cards the pages are free to photocopy. You could copy and print onto paper and stick onto card or print straight onto card if your printer allows for this. If this project pack is on our website www.cssu.org.uk you could download the page and print straight onto the paper or card.

Feel free to pick and choose which activities will suit your needs and adapt for your particular class.

Sometimes in this pack it is suggested that the students make on-line searches. Make sure they know that they should be careful with with these searches so that they don't discover unsuitable sites. Ideally you should do the research first or discuss it with a parent and one of you do it with them.

This pack is designed for the teacher but there are suggestions of things to do for the students in this font.

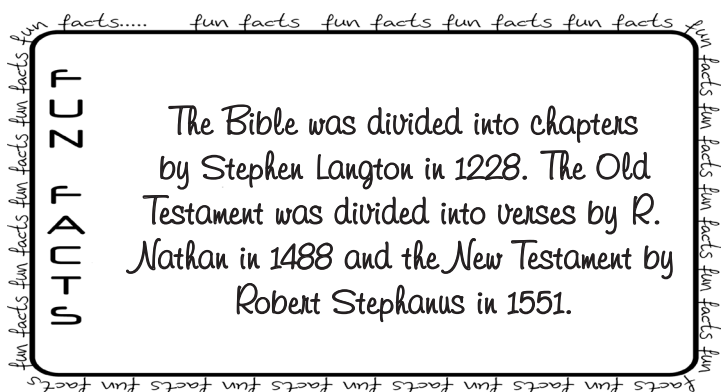
Talk to the students while they are working. Some children will talk when they don't feel the pressure of you waiting for an answer. Some of course won't shut up so should be encouraged to listen to what others are saying.

Scripture quotations taken from :

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or the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved."

First edition February 2014

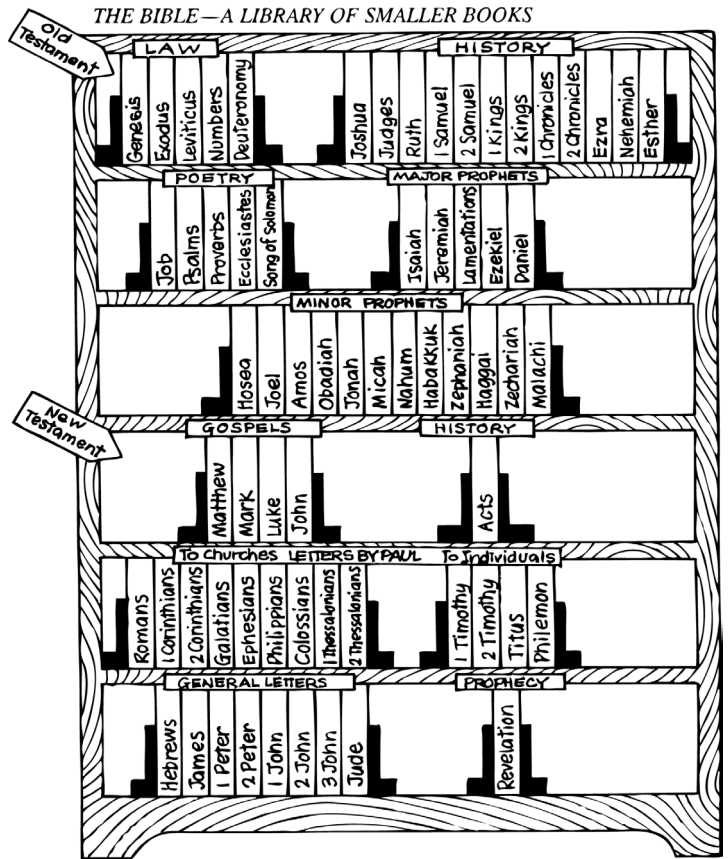


Unit 1 - One book or lots?

2 Tim 3:16-17
 "All Scripture is Godbreathed, and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work". NIV

The Bible as we know it today is a collection of 66 books which can be divided into categories as the bookshelf shows. For a long time Bibles contained 80 books but the protestant movement against the Roman Catholic church in the 14th and 15th centuries got the extra 14 books removed. They were not considered to be in the canon of scripture.

Look up what the canon of scripture is. Has it got anything to do with guns?



When was the Old Testament written?			
	Time of the Patriarchs (Founders of the Jewish Nation)	In Egypt	In the promised land
ABRAHAM			
ISAAC			
JACOB			
JOSEPH			
		MOSES	
		WILDERNESS WANDERINGS	
			JOSHUA
2000 BC		1500 BC	1000

[]

[]
 [] Leviticus
 [] Numbers
 [] Deuteronomy

[]
 []
 []

[] Job

Unit 1 - One book or lots?

So when were the books of the Bible written? Scrolls and ancient writings rarely carried a date and even if they did, dating systems have changed radically over the past millennia. So we can't be absolutely certain.

The bookshelf on the left shows all the books of the Bible. The chart below has many of these books placed to show when they were written as nearly as we can tell.

Ask the students to fill in the empty boxes by working it out from what they know of the missing book or looking in their Bibles at the start of the relevant book. A study Bible is often helpful.

What would these early writers have used to record God's word? Many materials were used including stone, clay tablets, wooden tablets, animal skins, papyrus paper and parchment. See how they made paper and parchment later in this unit.

S T A F N U F

- The longest name in the Bible is found in Isaiah ch.8 v 1. The name is "Mahershalalhashbaz"
- A Bible in the University of Gottingen is written on 2,470 palm leaves!
- The Bible would take someone approximately 70 hours to read!

SAUL DAVID SOLOMON	A Divided Kingdom AHAB End of the Northern Kingdom Fall of Jerusalem	EXILE IN BABYLON	Return to the land 400 years between Old and New Testaments.
BC	500 BC		0 BC/AD

1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Chronicles	1 Kings	2 Chronicles	2 Kings		Nehemiah	Esther												
Psalms	Proverbs	Ecclesiastes	Song of Solomon	Joel	Jonah	Amos	Hosea	Micah	Isaiah	Nahum	Zephaniah		Lamentations	Habakkuk	Obadiah			Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi

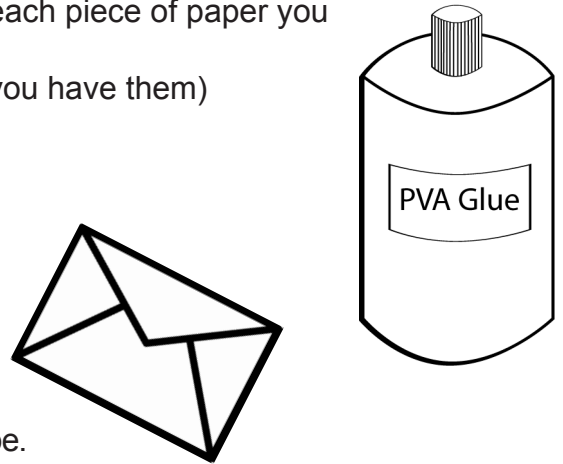
Unit 1 - One book or lots?

Make Paper!

Paper making is fun and very messy. Make sure you cover everything with dust sheets or aprons. Teachers - this is an activity that needs a lot of planning so that you know how it's going to work and how long it will take.

You will need:

- Wire coat hangers (one for each piece of paper you want to make)
- Rubber bands
- Used nylon tights (knee highs work well), one for each piece of paper you want to make at a time.
- Newspaper / used paper / envelopes (coloured if you have them)
- Blender (wash it thoroughly afterwards)
- Sink or large bowl
- Rolling pin
- Lots of towels (not the best ones and not too big)
- Water
- 2 tbsp. white PVA glue
- An Iron



- 1 Bend the coat hanger into a square or rectangular shape.
- 2 Make a screen by stretching the nylon tights over the hanger until the material is taut, and securing with a rubber band.
- 3 Tear the different papers into strips and place them in the blender with enough water to get them wet and pulpy.
- 4 Blend the papers with the blender on a high setting. Keep going until there is no longer any recognisable paper, but only a pulpy mass.
- 5 Add more water if the blender seems to be struggling, and more paper as the mass grows bigger. You want the blender to be full of smooth uniform coloured pulp.
- 6 Fill a sink or bowl with 4 inches of water. Add the white glue and mix it by hand until the glue has dissolved.
- 7 Add the paper pulp to the sink or bowl.
- 8 Use the screen to scoop up a layer of pulp. Allow all the water to drain out of it back into the sink or bowl. You should be left with a thin layer of what will be your paper.
- 9 Place the screen on a few towels and put towels on top and another screen on that. Add a few layers of towel and use your rolling pin to squeeze extra water from the pulp. This will speed the drying time.
- 10 Put the hanger out into a warm or sunny place to dry. The process may take several hours or longer, depending on the heat.
- 11 When it is completely dry carefully peel the new paper off of the frame.
- 12 Apply a hot iron to the paper to steam out any lingering moisture. The iron should be set to its highest setting. (You may need to clean the bottom of the iron afterwards to remove any glue)



Unit 1 - One book or lots?

Make your own Bible library

You can make a reference library of your own by making a book box for each category of books in the Bible. If you use 6 boxes they can cover the categories - Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy, Gospels and Letters. Label each box with the books it covers. When you find an interesting fact or explanation about a passage that you want to keep, it can be stored in the relevant box.

You will need:

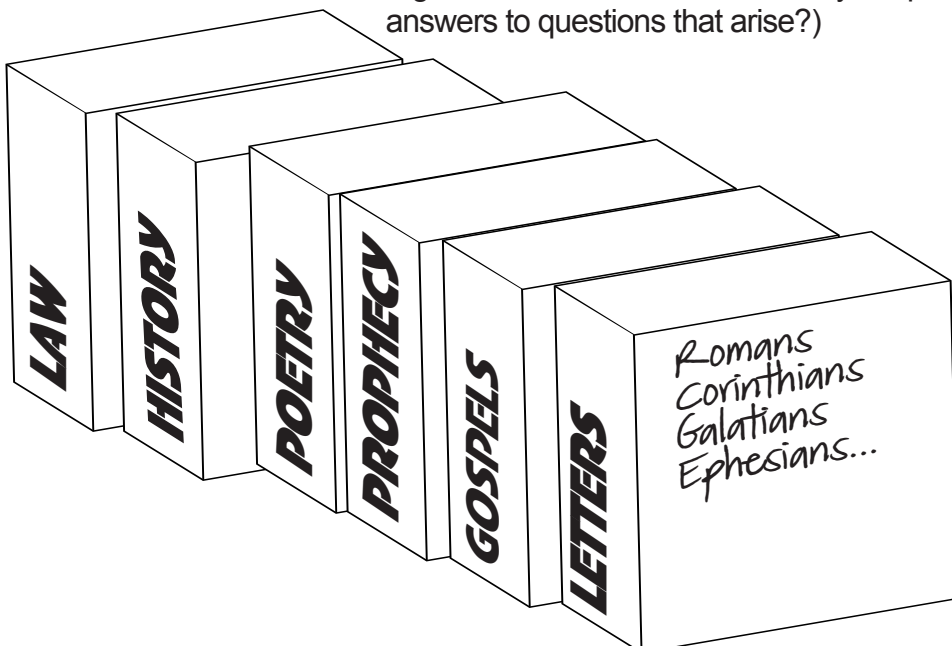
- Cereal boxes of approximately the same height (or purchase box files if your budget allows)
- Coloured paper
- Glue
- Pens
- Scissors
- Paper fasteners
- Rubber band



1. Use the paper to cover the boxes. (Choose a colour scheme for each section and you could make the colours into a Bible marking scheme)

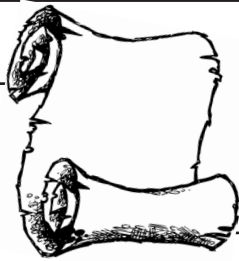
2. Once the boxes are covered, label them and write on them the books of the Bible that each section covers.

3. Store them in a prominent place where you have Sunday school and when you make an interesting discovery or have a question you can add it to the relevant box for later consideration. (You could maybe organise an answers session every couple of months to find out the answers to questions that arise?)



Unit 2 - Who wrote it? God of Course

Old Testament	Author
Genesis	Moses
Exodus	Moses
Leviticus	Moses
Numbers	Moses
Deuteronomy	(Deuteronomy 1:1)
Joshua	Joshua
Judges	Samuel
Ruth	Samuel
1 Samuel	Samuel
2 Samuel	Samuel, Gad & Nathan?
1 Kings	Jeremiah?
2 Kings	Jeremiah?
1 Chronicles	Ezra?
2 Chronicles	Ezra?
Ezra	(Ezra 9:1)
Nehemiah	(Nehemiah 1:1)
Esther	Mordecai?
Job	Some think Moses, others Job
Psalms	David (Korah, Asaph, Heman, Ethan, Hezekiah, Solomon & Moses as well)
Proverbs	Solomon (Agur and Lemuel helped!)
Ecclesiastes	Solomon
Song of Solomon	Solomon
Isaiah	(Isaiah 1:1)
Jeremiah	(Jeremiah 1:1)
Lamentations	Jeremiah
Ezekiel	(Ezekiel 1:3)
Daniel	Daniel
Hosea	(Hosea 1:1)
Joel	(Joel 1:1)
Amos	(Amos 1:1)
Obadiah	(Obadiah 1:1)
Jonah	Jonah
Micah	(Micah 1:1)
Nahum	(Nahum 1:1)
Habakkuk	(Habakkuk 1:1)
Zephaniah	(Zephaniah 1:i)
Haggai	Haggai
Zechariah	(Zechariah 1:1)
Malachi	(Malachi 1:1)



Some books in the Bible have a very obvious author, because they tell us! For example, the title of some of the Psalms often tells us the author. It might say 'A Psalm of David'.

Other books are not as obvious and theologians and Bible scholars have pondered this for centuries. The table on the left has some of the harder to work out authors filled in. The blanks can be filled in by looking at the references in brackets.

FUN FACTS

- The strongest man in the Bible was Samson. (with God's help)
- The wisest man in the Bible was Solomon.
- The greatest warrior was Gideon. With God's help he defeated 135,000 Midianites.
- The tallest man in the Bible was Goliath who was massive at 9 and a half feet tall!

In summary

- The Bible was written over approximately 1500 years.
- God used over 40 authors from many walks of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen and scholars.
- The Bible was written from many different places including the wilderness, dungeons and palaces. Its books were written in times of war, peace, famine and plenty.
- Its pages take you from the heights of joy to the depths of despair.
- Its authors lived on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe).
- They wrote in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek

Talk about how consistent and precise the Bible is.

Unit 2 - Who wrote it? God of course

The table below is like the Old Testament table. Some of the authors have been filled in. They are the ones that it's difficult to work it out from the book itself.

Once again the blanks can be filled in by looking up the reference in brackets.

After you have filled in a few you might get the hang of what to fill in but don't be fooled, it changes after a while.

F • The oldest person in the bible was actually Methuselah. He died at the age of 969 years old. Imagine living that long!

U

N

F

A • There were two men in the Bible who appear not to have died. It says of Enoch and Elijah that God took them. Very cool!

C

T

S

New Testament	Author
Matthew	Matthew
Mark	Mark
Luke	Luke
John	John
Acts	Luke
Romans	(Romans 1:1)
1 Corinthians	(1 Corinthians 1:1)
2 Corinthians	(2 Corinthians 1:1)
Galatians	(Galatians 1:10)
Ephesians	(Ephesians 1:1)
Philippians	(Philippians 1:1)
Colossians	(Colossians 1:1)
1 Thessalonians	(1 Thessalonians 1:1)
2 Thessalonians	(2 Thessalonians 1:1)
1 Timothy	(1 Timothy 1:1)
2 Timothy	(2 Timothy 1:1)
Titus	(Titus 1:1)
Philemon	(Philemon 1:1)
Hebrews	Paul? Apollos? Barnabas? Luke?
James	(James 1:1) (probably Jesus' half brother)
1 Peter	(Peter 1:1)
2 Peter	(Peter 1:1)
1 John	John
2 John	John
3 John	John
Jude	(Jude v 1) (maybe Jesus' half brother)
Revelation	(Revelation 1:9)



Bible Biographies.

If you look on the back or inside cover of most books today you get a mini biography of the author. Things like where the person lives; how old they were when they started writing and what other books they have written. It often helps us to understand why they write the way they do. There is often a photo as well.

It is also interesting to know a little more about the people God used to write the books of the Bible. Sometimes their character is reflected in their writing.

Write a Biblical Biography

Get the students to do some biographical research on a Bible author and then write a biography for him or her. Use Bible dictionaries, concordances, encyclopedias and on-line resources to discover what you can. There are many excellent on-line sites that can help the research. For an Old Testament character there are many Jewish web sites that contain records of their own oral and written legends. The Jewish people were meticulous record keepers.

(Note the comment on working on line on the introductory page - About Project Packs.)

Over the page are a couple of examples and space to write you own Bible Biography

Unit 2 - Who wrote it? God of Course

Write your own bible biography

Find a modern novel or two (or a biography if you prefer to stick to a true story) for the students to see the sort of things that are written about the author. Here are two examples of Bible biographies to show how they could use their research as described on the previous page. They could draw a picture of how the author might have looked.

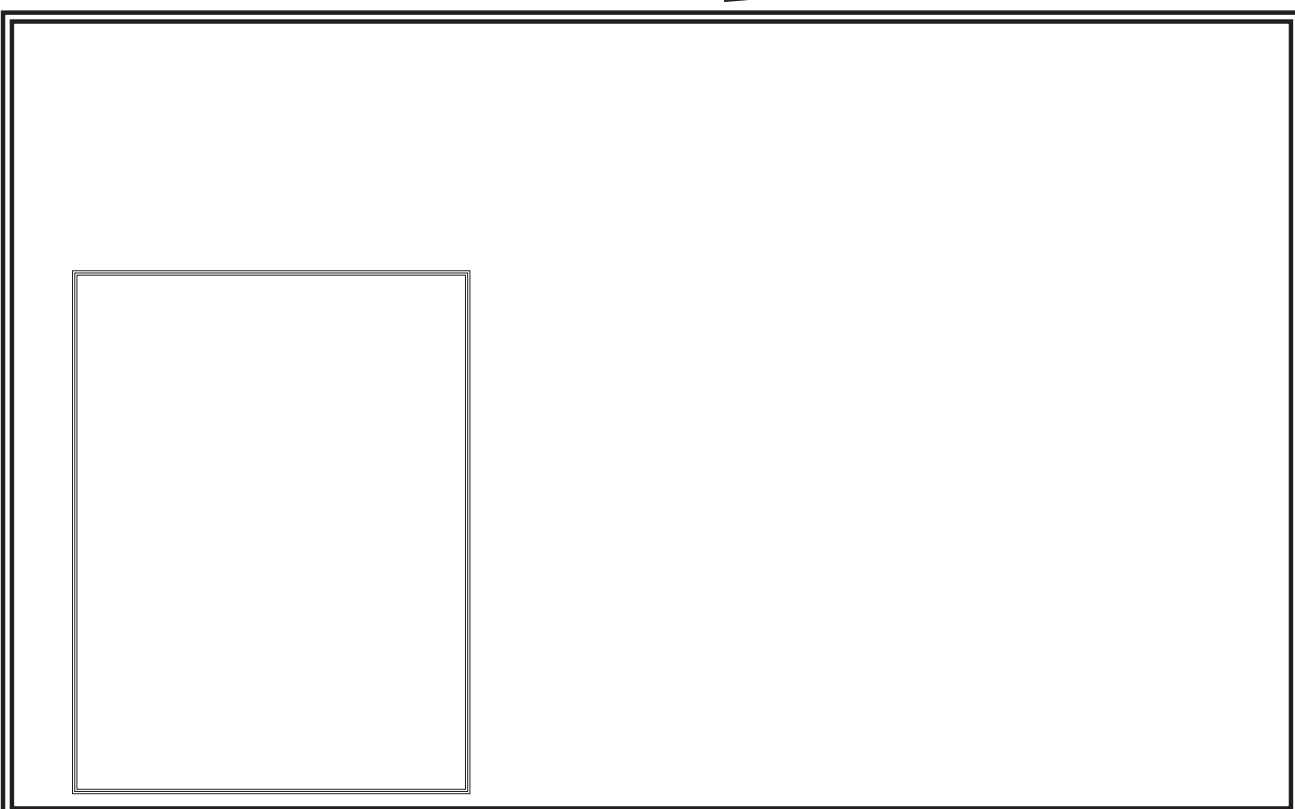
When done put the biography to one of the Bible Library boxes made in Unit 1 for future reference.

Ezra is the son of Seraiah, the high priest taken captive by Babylonians and a descendant of Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron. In the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes, Ezra obtained leave to go to Jerusalem and to take with him a company of Israelites. Artaxerxes showed great interest in Ezra's undertaking, granting him his requests, and giving him gifts for the house of God. Ezra assembled a band of approximately 5,000 exiles to go to Jerusalem. They rested on the banks of the Ahava river for three days and organized their four-month march across the desert.

After observing a day of public fasting and prayer, they left the banks of the river for Jerusalem. There he enthused the Jews to rededicate themselves to God and had the entire scroll of their scriptures read to the people. He encourages the people to observe and fulfill all of the Lord's commandments, laws and decrees.



The apostle Paul has written more books of the Bible than any other author - over half of the New Testament. He was born a Roman citizen at Tarsus; his father a Pharisee, his mother a Jewess of the tribe of Benjamin. He was brought up in Jerusalem at the feet of Gamaliel, becoming a rabbi. His enthusiasm for ancestral traditions and his zeal for the Jewish law was second to none. In his youth he embarked on a campaign to suppress and persecute the early church. It was on a mission to Damascus that Paul's life was turned on its head. He met Jesus Christ. himself and Paul became the leading champion of the cause which he had previously tried to overthrow. He began to carry out this commission at first in Damascus and later on at least three gruelling missionary journeys to preach the Gospel of the Son of God. Despite being imprisoned and shipwrecked at various points along the way his faith never wavered.



Unit 2 - Who wrote it? God of course

Write a Psalm or Proverb

Research isn't everyone's favourite activity so maybe writing some poetry or wise sayings like Solomon's is. Use this page for the students to compose a psalm or wise saying. Keep it handy because Unit 3 describes how turn it into a work of art.

Title
by



The writing area is a large rectangle with a decorative border of small diamonds. It contains 25 horizontal lines for writing. The top-left corner is labeled "Title" and "by".

Unit 3 - What language did they write in?

The Bible was written in 3 languages: **Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek**

Hebrew

- Hebrew is the language of the Old Testament.
- It is a Semitic language (named after Shem, Noah's oldest son).
- It dates from about 1500 BC.
- It is called the 'language of Canaan' in Isaiah 19:18 and sometimes called the 'Jews' language' or the language of Judah in 2 Kings 18:26, 28; Nehemiah 13:24 and Isaiah 36:11.
- The Hebrew language has twenty-two consonants (not a, e, i, o or u).
- It is written from right to left
- Most Hebrew words consisted of only three consonants.
- Because the original Hebrew didn't have any vowels, it is sometimes difficult to say what a word is.

Hebrew Alphabet									
י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Yod (Y)	Tot (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V)	He (H)	Dalot (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alaf (silent)
ע	ס	נ	מ	ל	כ	ק	פ	צ	ת
Ayin (silent)	Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	ט	ז	ח	פ	ש
Tav (T)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Feh (F)	Peh (P/F)		

Look up Genesis 37:3 in different versions to see how they translate 'ketoneth passiyim'. We usually talk of Joseph's coat 'of many colours' but passiyim is a very rare word and is translated in several different ways.

Try writing your name from right to left.
Can you write it with Hebrew characters?

Look at Psalm 119 in an NIV, ESV

Our English language uses the Latin alphabet which has evolved from the Greek alphabet. In turn the Greek alphabet evolved from the Phoenician which is very like the Ancient Hebrew Alphabet. Below is a chart comparing our own English letters (slightly altered to see the similarities) with the original Hebrew letters.

T	א	ב	ג	ד	ה
A	ו	ז	ח	ט	י
U	כ	ל	מ	נ	ס
N	ע	פ	ק	ר	ש
S	ת	צ	ץ	כּ	כּ
H	ח	ט	ז	ז	ז
I	י	י	י	י	י
K	כ	כ	כ	כ	כ
L	ל	ל	ל	ל	ל
M	מ	מ	מ	מ	מ
N	נ	נ	נ	נ	נ
O	ו	ו	ו	ו	ו
P	פ	פ	פ	פ	פ
R	ר	ר	ר	ר	ר
S	ש	ש	ש	ש	ש
T	ת	ת	ת	ת	ת
X	כּ	כּ	כּ	כּ	כּ
Z	ז	ז	ז	ז	ז

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek but now the Bible is written in about 6,000 different languages around the world!

Unit 3 - What language did they write in?

Aramaic

- Aramaic is a closely related language to Hebrew. (actually a group of Semitic dialects)
- Sometime after the sixth century B.C., they began using Aramaic for everyday conversation and writing. By the first century A.D., Aramaic was the common tongue of the Jews but many Jews probably also spoke Hebrew and Greek.
- In the New Testament a number of Aramaic expressions are left in the Greek e.g. Talitha qumi (Mark 5:41) and Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani (Mark 15:34). In the Epistles, there are several Aramaic words such as Abba (Galatians 4:6) and Maranatha (1 Corinthians 16:22).
- Some short portions of the Old Testament were written in Aramaic (Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Jeremiah 10:11; Daniel 2:46-7:28. Aramaic papyri of these works have been discovered at Elephantin in Egypt which date to the fifth century B.C.

Look up the New Testament references to see what the translations of the Aramaic are. (For Maranatha you will need an AV and a modern translation)

Try writing your name in Aramaic.

English	Aramaic	Hebrew	Greek
.	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	α
b	ⲃ	ב	β
g	Ⲅ	ג	γ
d	ⲅ	ד	δ
h	Ⲇ	ה	η
w	ⲇ	ו	ω
z	Ⲉ	ז	ζ
?	ⲉ	ח	?
t	Ⲋ	ט	τ
y	ⲋ	י	ψ
k	Ⲍ	כ	κ
l	ⲍ	ל	λ
m	Ⲏ	מ	μ
n	ⲏ	נ	ν
s		ס	σ
.	Ⲑ	פ	.
p	ⲑ	פ	π
š	Ⲓ	ש	ς
q	ⲓ	ק	θ
r	Ⲕ	ר	ρ
š	ⲕ	ש]
t	Ⲙ	ת	τ

Greek

- The New Testament was written and put together during what is known as the Koine age - when the Greek language became used throughout the known world.
- The Greek language was freely spoken throughout the world from the 9th century B.C. to about the 3rd century A.D.
- It was the normal street language in Rome, Alexandria, Athens and Jerusalem.
- Even when the Romans finally conquered the Greeks, Greek influence still pervaded throughout the empire.
- When Paul wrote to the saints in Rome - the capital city of the empire, he used Greek, not Latin!
- It was accurate in expression and beautiful in sound.

Look at a map of the Greek and Roman empires.
How do you think Greek was a good language for the world-wide communication of the Gospel?

Unit 3 - What language did they write in?

Medieval scribes used to decorate the pages of their manuscripts lovingly with very ornate lettering and coloured inks. Illuminated text doesn't mean it lights up. It's just that they liked to use a lot of gold.

Here's a chance for the class to be 13th century scribe and illuminate their favourite Bible Passage. You can use some of the hand made paper created in Unit 1 or if or it didn't work as well as you hoped most stationery and craft shops sell handmade paper or similar.

Illuminate a Text!

You will need

- Your own handmade paper or a suitable alternative
- Fine tip pens - silver and gold are good
- Pencils and rubber
- Tracing paper and soft graphite pencils
- A set of an ornate font letters to copy. Choose your own from a computer or copy those opposite.
- A Bible (to copy your favourite passage from)
- Lots of patience!

Google Medieval Fonts to find a font to copy

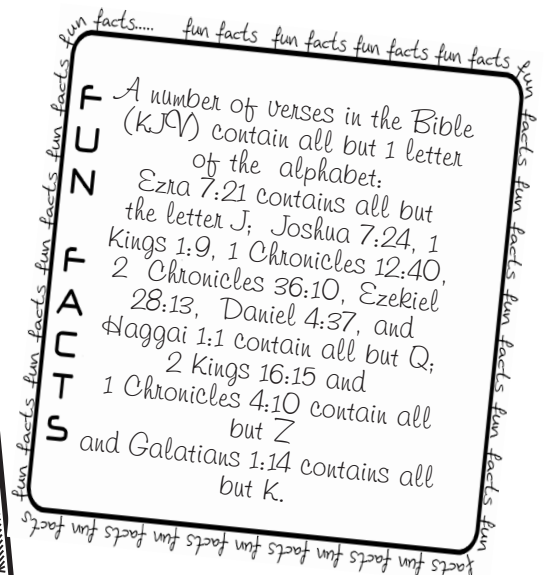
ANGLO SAXON 8TH,
Blackadder JTC,
CAMPBELL,
French script MT,
ROSEWOOD STD,

Decide on the passage you want to illuminate and set it out on your paper very lightly in pencil first.



When you are happy with your composition trace and add your capital letters at the start of your sentences, especially your first letter. Once you have the passage completely pencilled in, its time to illuminate!

Use your pens to outline and fill in the letters and add flourishes and small pictures all around the margins. Let your imagination and artistry loose!



Unit 3 - What language did they write in?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z	a	b
c	d	e	f	g	h	i
j	k	l	m	n	o	p
q	r	s	t	u	v	w
x	y	z	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	0	



Unit 4 - How did the Bible get to us?

Can we trust the accuracy of our Bibles?

The answer of course is yes! Thanks to the dedication and reverence of the Jewish scholars over the past 4000 years or so, the Jewish Bible or Tanakh has been preserved in a near perfect copy of the original. The Jewish Bible is our Old Testament.

The story of how our Bible has been copied, translated and preserved, is fascinating. You could do some research in books or on line or read what is written here. If there are several of you, you could research a different topic each and prepare a little talk for each other. Or you could read these pages and then give each other a quiz.

How did they do it?

When a new copy of the **Old Testament** was needed the scribes had to stick to a very strict set of transcription rules. Each copy was meticulously inspected and counted! They counted the number of words in each section and also the number of letters. Each Jewish letter has a number attached to it and these also were all added up. If the totals all were in agreement they could be sure that the letters were the correct ones. If they weren't, the whole scroll might have to be destroyed so that God's word would not be corrupted by inaccurate copying.

The **Dead Sea Scrolls** were written down about 300 or 400 BC but when they were found by a shepherd in a cave in Qumran around 1947 and inspected it was discovered that they weren't very different from what we have today.



The **New Testament** was probably written down by the apostles on papyrus. Papyrus is frail and flimsy so only fragments have survived and no complete manuscripts from the first three centuries and only one from the fourth.

1	א	10	י	100	ק
2	ב	20	כ	200	ר
3	ג	30	ל	300	ש
4	ד	40	מ	400	ת
5	ה	50	נ	500	תק
6	ו	60	ס	600	תר
7	ז	70	ע	700	תש
8	ח	80	פ	800	תת
9	ט	90	צ	900	תתק



Two of the pots the dea sea scrolls were found in

Unit 4 - How did the Bible get to us?

So starting with and Moses and Joshua

Look up Joshua 8:32

and the prophets and apostles the Bible began to be written down.

The Old Testament Hebrew manuscripts were put together; the Greek New Testament was put together and both Testaments were put together in Greek.

What happened after that to help us get our Bibles today, we can see in the next four pages.

The 3 oldest, most complete and reliable manuscripts of the whole Bible now in existence are the **Vatican, Sinaitic** and **Alexandrian Manuscripts**.

The Vatican Manuscript

This is thought to be the oldest of the three and has been in the Vatican library since 1475. It is written in uncials (like capital letters) with no breaks between the words, and no accents or punctuation. This, and the way the books of the Bible are divided, show it to be very old. Could be as early as 350AD.

The Sinaitic Manuscript

This was discovered by Constantine Tischendorf, a German scholar in an ancient convent at the foot of Mount Sinai. In 1844 the monks showed him to their library and in the middle of the room he found a waste paper basket filled with torn pieces of parchment. He had discovered 120 leaves of a Bible which seemed to be very old. He was allowed to take 43 of them. In 1853 he returned but they would not show him the book or even admit it existed. Six years later, he returned again with a letter from the Emperor of Russia and the head of the Greek Church. He got permission, first to take the manuscript to Cairo to be copied and later permission for it to be removed to St Petersburg where it has been ever since.

It seems that in 331AD, Emperor Constantine had had 50 costly and beautiful copies of the scriptures made and that this was one of those Bibles.

The Alexandrian Manuscript

This Bible was presented to King Charles 1 of England by Cyril Lucar, patriarch of Constantinople, who had brought the Bible from Alexandria. In 1753 the Bible was transferred from the King's private library to the British Museum. It is bound in 4 volumes, 3 of which contain the text of the Old Testament and 1 the New.

Differences

The 3 manuscripts described above are not completely alike but the differences are mostly differences in spelling and isolated mistakes by scribes. Over the years the text has altered very little but by comparing copies scholars can tell what the words should have been.

These translations eventually became the basis for the Latin Vulgate Bible - the predecessor of our English translation.

BIBLE TRANSLATION BLOOPERS!

Find out why some Bibles were called Breeches Bible.

Find out why some Bibles were called 'he' Bibles and some 'she' Bibles.

Unit 4 - How did the Bible get to us?

A timeline of how the Bible came to us in its present form and some of the men responsible.

**1,400 BC
Moses**

The first written Word of God: The Ten Commandments delivered to Moses.

400 BC

All the original Hebrew manuscripts which make up the 39 Books of the Old Testament were completed.

**1st Century
AD**

The Original Greek manuscripts which make up the 27 Books of the New Testament were completed.

**315 AD
Athenasius**

Athenasius, the Bishop of Alexandria, identified the 27 books of the New Testament which are today recognized as the canon of scripture.

**382 AD
Jerome**

Jerome's Latin Vulgate manuscripts were produced which contain all 80 Books. (39 Old Testament + 14 Apocrypha + 27 New Testament) (vulgar means common)

500 AD

The Scriptures have been translated into over 500 languages.

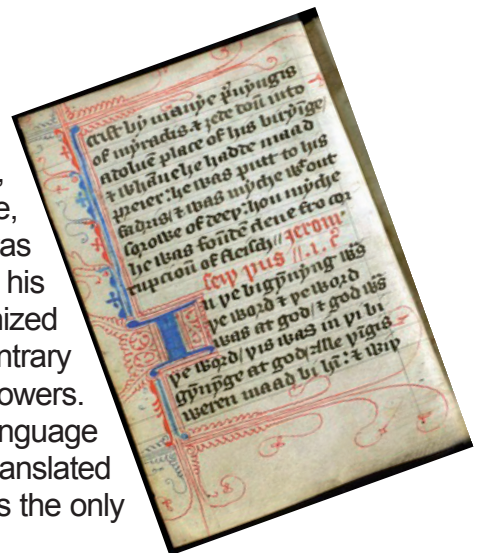
600 AD

Latin was the only language allowed by the Roman Catholic Church for the scriptures.

1384 AD

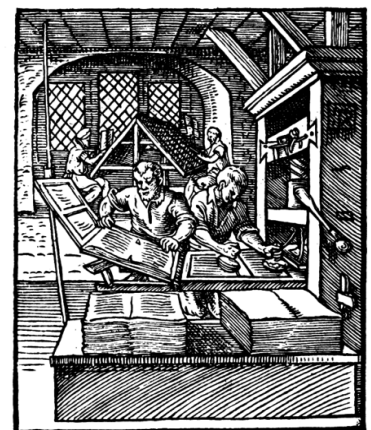
**John
Wycliffe**

The first hand-written English language Bible manuscripts were produced in the 1380's AD by John Wycliffe, an Oxford professor, scholar, and theologian. Wycliffe, (also spelled 'Wycliff' and 'Wyclif'), was well-known throughout Europe for his opposition to the teaching of the organized Church, which he believed to be contrary to the Bible. With the help of his followers. Wycliffe produced dozens of English language copies of the scriptures. They were translated from the Latin Vulgate Bible, which was the only source text available to Wycliffe.



**1450s AD
Johann
Gutenberg**

Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 1450's and the first book to ever be printed was a Latin Bible printed in Mainz, Germany. Gutenberg's Bibles were surprisingly beautiful, as each leaf Gutenberg printed was colourfully illuminated. Gutenberg was a victim of unscrupulous business associates who took control of his business and left him in poverty. Nevertheless, the invention of the movable-type printing press meant that Bibles and books could now be effectively produced in large quantities in a short period of time



Some more people to look up if you want to

Peter Waldo

Thomas Linacre

John Hus

John Colet

Cyril and Methodius

Unit 4 - How did the Bible get to us?

**1516
Erasmus**



MS 2049
Bible, Leviticus. Eg. pt. late 2nd c.
The oldest MS of this part of the Bible

The scholar Erasmus decided to produce a Greek language Bible and in 1516, with the help of printer John Froben, he published a Greek-Latin Parallel New Testament. The Latin part was his own translation of the Greek text. He had collected several partial old Greek New Testament manuscripts. This was the first Latin translation of the scripture to be produced in a millennium.

(Erasmus's first name was Desiderius but hardly anyone knows him as that)

**1522
Martin
Luther**

Martin Luther, translated the New Testament into German for the first time from the 1516 Greek-Latin New Testament of Erasmus, and published it in September of 1522. Luther also published a German Pentateuch in 1523, and another edition of the German New Testament in 1529. In the 1530's he went on to publish the entire Bible in German.

**1525
William
Tyndale**

William Tyndale holds the distinction of being the first man to ever print the New Testament in English. He used the Erasmus text as a source. Tyndale fled England to Germany in 1525, where he went to Martin Luther and there translated the New Testament into English. Tyndale was forced to flee England, by the church causing inquisitors and bounty hunters to chase Tyndale to arrest him and prevent this work. However in 1525-1526 the Tyndale New Testament was the first printed edition of the scripture in English. Later editions of the Tyndale New Testament in the 1530's were often elaborately illustrated.

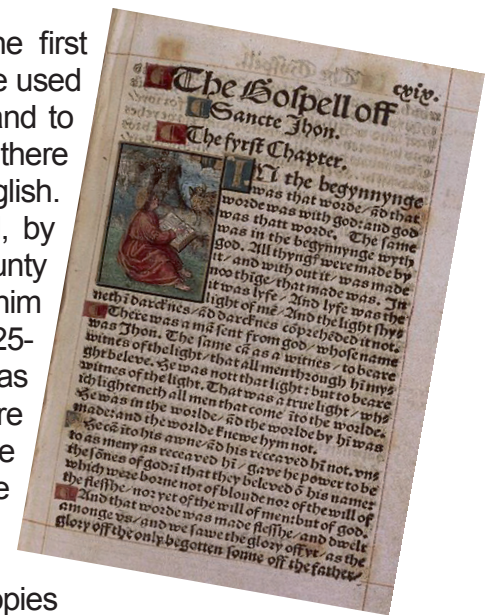


They were burned as soon as the Bishop could confiscate them, but copies trickled through and one ended up in the bedroom of King Henry VIII. People risked death by burning if caught in mere possession of Tyndale's forbidden books. Tyndale was eventually

caught and imprisoned for 500 days before he was strangled and burned at the stake in 1536.

Today there are only two known copies of Tyndale's 1525-26 First edition.

Tyndale was fluent in eight languages!



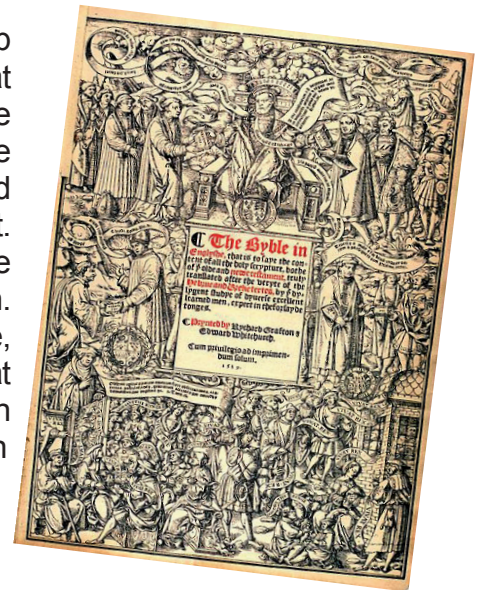
**1535 Myles
Coverdale**

Myles Coverdale and John 'Thomas Matthew' Rogers were loyal 'disciples' in the last six years of Tyndale's life. They carried the English Bible project forward and accelerated it. Coverdale finished translating the Old Testament, and in 1535 he printed the first complete Bible in English, making use of Luther's German text and the Latin as sources. Thus, the first complete English Bible was printed on October 4, 1535, and is known as the Coverdale Bible.

Unit 4 - How did the Bible get to us?

1539 Thomas Cranmer

In 1539, Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, hired Myles Coverdale at the request of King Henry VIII to publish the 'Great Bible'. It was the first English Bible authorized for public use. It was distributed to every church and chained to the pulpit. A reader was provided so that the illiterate could hear the word of God in plain English. Cranmer's Bible, published by Coverdale, was known as the Great Bible due to its great size; measuring over 14 inches tall. Seven editions of this version were printed between April of 1539 and December of 1541.



1577- 1560 John Calvin John Knox

John Calvin's Translation of the New Testament (called the Geneva Bible because it was translated in Geneva) was completed in 1557 and the complete Bible was published in 1560. John Knox added numbered verses to the chapters and also extensive marginal notes and references so making cross referencing easier. The Geneva Bible is therefore considered to be the first English 'Study Bible'. It retained over 90% of William Tyndale's original English translation. It was also was the first Bible to be taken to America.

1560 -1582

The Anglican Church, now under Queen Elizabeth I, reluctantly tolerated the printing and distribution of Geneva Bibles in England, but the marginal notes were vehemently against the institutional Church of the day. So in 1568, a revision of the Great Bible known as the Bishop's Bible was introduced. In 1582, the Church of Rome gave up their fight for 'Latin only' and decided that if the Bible was to be available in English, they would at least have an official Roman Catholic English translation. And so, using the inaccurate Latin Vulgate as the only source text, they went on to publish an English Bible with all the distortions that Erasmus had revealed 75 years earlier. Because it was translated at the Roman Catholic College in Rheims, it was known as the Rheims New Testament. The Douay Old Testament was translated by the Church of Rome in 1609 at the College in Douay. The combined product is commonly referred to as the 'Douay/Rheims' Version.

FACTS

In the 1400's the Church threatened anyone possessing a non-Latin Bible with execution by burning at the stake!

FACTS

Johann Gutenberg's (John Beautiful Mountain) name when he was born was "Johann Gensfleisch" (John Gooseflesh!). He changed it; it's understandable to see why!!

FACTS

The Pope was so infuriated by John Wycliffte and his translation of the Bible into English, that 44 years after Wycliffte had died, he ordered his bones to be dug up, crushed, and scattered in the river!

Unit 4 - How did the Bible get to us?

**1611
King
James I**

When James VI of Scotland became King James I of England, the Protestant clergy approached the new King in 1604 saying they wanted a new translation to replace the Geneva Bible and the Bishop's Bible.

Fifty scholars worked on the translation and they took into consideration the Tyndale New Testament, the Coverdale Bible, the Matthews Bible, the Great Bible, the Geneva Bible, and even the Rheims New Testament. The great revision of the Bishop's Bible had begun. From 1605 to 1606 the scholars did private research. From 1607 to 1609 the work was assembled. In 1610 the work went to press, and in 1611 the first of the pulpit folios (16 inch tall) came off the printing press. It is known today as the King James Version or the Authorised Version.



A year later these huge King James Bibles were printed and chained to every church pulpit in England. Printing then began on the earliest normal-size Bibles which were produced so that individuals could have their own personal copy.

This King James Version turned out to be the most printed book in the history of the world, and the only book to have one billion copies printed.

- 1885 AD** The English Revised Version Bible (RV)- The First Major English Revision of the KJV.
- 1901 AD** The American Standard Version -The First Major American Revision of the KJV.
- 1952 AD** The Revised Standard Version (RSV) - A revision of the American Standard Version.
- 1961 AD** New English Bible (NEB) - a translation into modern English using original texts.
- 1966 AD** Jerusalem Bible - A Catholic Bible using additional texts such as the Dead Sea scrolls.
- 1971 AD** The New American Standard Bible (NASB) - a modern word-for-word English translation. (Each word is translated individually into more modern English)
- 1973 AD** The New International Version (NIV) - a modern and phrase-for-phrase English translation. (The sense of each phrase is translated into English)
- 1982 AD** The New King James Version (NKJV) - a modern English Version maintaining the original style of the King James version.
- 2002 AD** The English Standard Version (ESV) - an update of the RSV.
- 2002 AD** The Message Bible - not a word by word translation but aiming to capture the tone and conversational feel of the original.

Think about how much time and effort went into making papyrus or parchment.

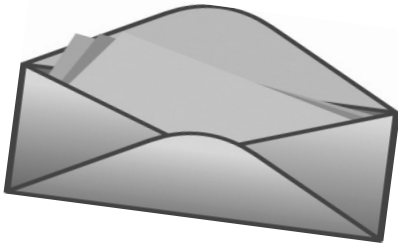
In unit 3 we thought about translating and copying all the words.

All this so that we can have a Bible in our hands today.

A bit different to writing an email and deleting it tomorrow

Unit 5 - What does your Bible mean to you?

Make a time capsule



Time capsules can be a lot of fun and help us understand our own a bit about how we mature. Ask the group what they think they would like to include in their 'capsule'. The idea is to reflect the Bible influences their lives at this moment in time.

They could write themselves a letter about their life in the meeting and what they enjoy most about Sunday school including their favourite Bible passage and a brief explanation of why.

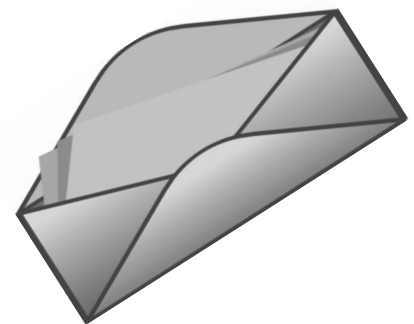
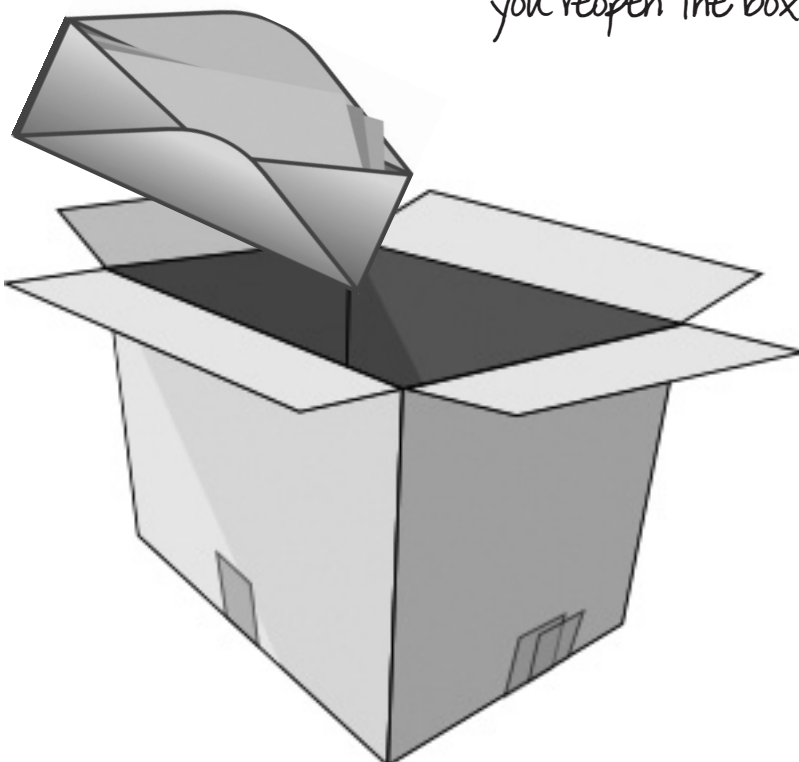
They could record a favourite hymn or even make a video diary entry and make a DVD if you have the available hardware and know how in your ecclesia.

They could include items that they have either made in Sunday school or at home that reflect the sort of person they are at this time and as part of the ecclesia.

Once the letters are written and gathered together with any items or recordings that are to be included, prepare a box or container large enough to hold everything and seal the Time Capsule. The box could be decorated and labels added saying what the box is and to request that it is left undisturbed until the decided opening.

Set a time for when the capsule will be opened. The longer you leave it the more fun you will have discovering your treasure. Five years would be good. Ten would be better but you need to decide whether it is likely they will all be in touch in ten years.

Talk about how you think the Bible will have changed you by the time you reopen the box.



Consider: 1 Cor 13v11

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" NKJV

THE BIBLE PROJECT

Time Capsule

Names

Date of packing

Ecclesia

Complete these labels and glue to the front of your time capsule.

THE BIBLE PROJECT

Time Capsule

**Don't open until
December 2024**

Unit 5 - What does your Bible mean to you?

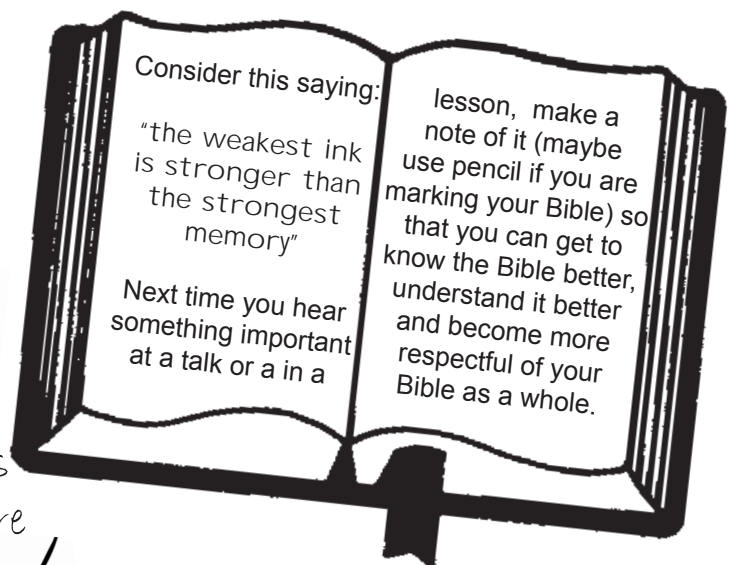


Is your Bible just another book to read in a spare minute?

Where do you keep your Bible? Does it have a special place in your house or is it just left in the boot of the car from one Sunday to the next?

Do you make notes of the things you find out from the Bible? How do you remember all you've learnt?

Have you ever considered how fortunate you are to own a copy of God's word? What if you had to share one with your whole ecclesia?



Unit 5 - What does your Bible mean to you?

Make a dust jacket for your Bible.

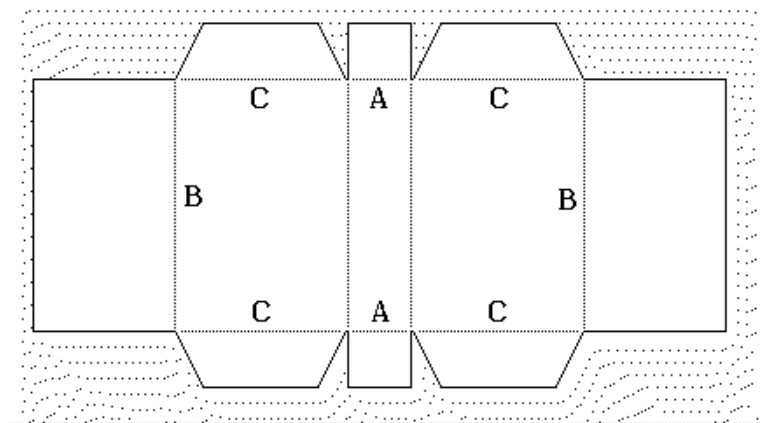
Dust jackets help to make your books last longer. Protecting your Bible should be high on your list of priorities. Here are instructions to help you make one for your Bible.

You will need:

- Thick paper or thin card large enough to wrap round the whole of your Bible plus an extra 10cm in each direction.
- Stickers, pens, paint, photographs - anything you would like to use that is appropriate to personalise the outside of your Bible. Keep it respectful.
- A roll of self adhesive book cover film
- Scissors
- Lots of patience

What to do

1. Place the paper or card on a flat surface with the side you want showing, face down.
2. Place the spine of Bible book in the centre of the paper and carefully fold it round the covers of the book making creases, A B and C, as shown in the diagram. Do the vertical ones first then unfold and do the horizontal ones.
3. Open out the paper and put the book to one side.
4. On the inside of the cover, use a pencil and ruler to mark the tabs at A and C and the flaps at B, as shown in the diagram. Tabs need to be about 2 cm wide and the flaps need to be about half the width of the Bible.
5. When you are happy that you have got the lines right, cut round the edges of the book cover. Don't scrimp on any measurements because your Bible needs space to close. You can always cut more away later if you need to.
6. Place your Bible spine back onto the paper in the right place and start folding the paper round the book beginning with the tabs at A pushing them into the top and bottom of the spine.
7. Open the book and fold the remaining tabs and flaps over the book's cover making sure you use the creases you have already made. If the paper needs help to make a crisp fold, turn it over and lightly score the creases with something like a paper knife and a ruler. You have to be very careful not to cut the paper. Carefully close the book to make sure it fits. If it's OK, mitre the corners (as illustrated). If it needs trimming now is the time to do it.



Unit 5 - What does your Bible mean to you?

8. Refold the paper round the book and tape the book jacket at the corners to hold in it place but without being permanently attached to your Bible so you can change your cover when this one wears out.
9. Decorate the outside of your Bible dust jacket. Use stickers, glue photographs or draw with markers that do not smudge. Personalize your dust jacket to make it yours.
10. To help it to last longer you can cover the whole thing in self adhesive clear book cover film. You may need to get someone to help you with this as it can be tricky to keep it smooth.

If you are feeling very adventurous and want to create something more durable try making your cover out of Fabric. Felt or denim can be a great base to which you can add decoration to either by sewing or using fabric glue. Let your creative side run wild for a while.

