

# Contents

Introductory Chapter ..... 10

## UNIT 1

Jesus Christ Is With Us Always ..... 17

**1** Jesus Is the Son of God ..... 19

- God the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to be with us.
- Jesus is human like us. • Jesus did things only God can do.
- Jesus, the Son of God, taught us about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 8:14–15; Luke 8:22–25

*As Catholics* ..... Parables

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring The Sign of the Cross

**Take Home** Respecting all people

**Chapter Test**

**2** Jesus Christ Gives Us the Church ..... 31

- Jesus gathered many followers to be his disciples.
- Jesus died and rose to new life. • Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. • The Holy Spirit helps the Church to grow.

Matthew 4:18–22, 28:1–5;

Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4, 38–41

*As Catholics* ..... Celebrating the Resurrection

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Disciple Pledge

**Take Home** Talking about Apostles and disciples

**Chapter Test**



## SEASONAL CHAPTERS

**6** The Church Year ..... 79

- The Church year helps us to follow Jesus.
- Mark 2:14

**3** We Celebrate God's Love ..... 43

- We belong to the Catholic Church. • Catholics celebrate God's love by praying and worshipping.
- Our Church celebrates with seven special signs called sacraments. • Jesus is present with us in the sacraments.

Psalm 100:1–5; Mark 11:1, 8–10

*As Catholics* ..... Our Parish

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring The Seven Sacraments

**Take Home** Sharing ways to worship God

**Chapter Test**

**4** We Celebrate Baptism ..... 55

- At Baptism we become children of God and members of the Church. • At Baptism we receive grace, a share in God's life. • We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with special words and actions. • We can show that we are children of God by what we say and do.

Rite of Baptism

*As Catholics* ..... Godparents

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Welcoming Church Members

**Take Home** Talking about family Baptisms

**Chapter Test**

**5** We Celebrate Confirmation ..... 67

- We celebrate the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. • Confirmation seals us with the Gift of the Holy Spirit and strengthens us.
- We celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with special words and actions. • The Holy Spirit helps baptized Catholics and confirmed Catholics.

Rite of Confirmation

*As Catholics* ..... Sacred Chrism

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring The Holy Spirit as Helper

**Take Home** Working to spread the Gospel

**Chapter Test**

Unit 1 Test ..... 91

**7** Ordinary Time ..... 85

- In Ordinary Time, we celebrate Jesus Christ and learn to follow him.

Psalm 145:2; Matthew 6:9, 19:14

# UNIT 2

## Jesus Calls Us to Penance and Reconciliation ..... 93

### 8 We Learn About God's Love ..... 95

• The Bible is the book of God's Word. • The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible. • The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. • Jesus wants us to listen to his teachings.

Isaiah 48:17; 2 Samuel 7:22; Luke 4:42–43;  
Matthew 7:24–27

*As Catholics* ..... Scripture

**PROJECT DISCIPLINE** featuring Favorite Bible Stories

**Take Home** Discovering news about the Church

**Chapter Test**

### 9 God Gives Us Laws ..... 107

• Jesus taught us the Great Commandment. • The Ten Commandments help us to live as God's children. • God wants us to show him our love and respect. • God wants us to show that we love others as we love ourselves.

Psalms 119:64; Matthew 22:35–39

*As Catholics* ..... Aspirations

**PROJECT DISCIPLINE** featuring Living the Commandments

**Take Home** Listing important family rules

**Chapter Test**

### 10 We Follow God's Laws ..... 119

• Jesus wants us to follow the commandments. • God gives each person free will. • Friendship with God is hurt by sin. • Jesus taught us about God's forgiveness.

John 15:9–10; Luke 15:11–24

*As Catholics* ..... Saint Philip Neri

**PROJECT DISCIPLINE** featuring Making Loving Choices

**Take Home** Discussing the qualities of a good friend

**Chapter Test**

### 11 We Prepare for the Sacrament of Forgiveness ..... 131

• Jesus invites us to celebrate God's forgiveness. • Jesus shares God's forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. • We examine our conscience. • We tell God we are sorry for our sins.

Luke 15:4–6

*As Catholics* ..... Examination of Conscience

**PROJECT DISCIPLINE** featuring The Sacrament of Penance

**Take Home** Performing a scriptural puppet play

**Chapter Test**

### 12 We Celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness ..... 143

• We ask for God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. • We celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. • We celebrate the Sacrament of Penance with our parish community. • Jesus wants us to forgive others.

Matthew 18:21–23; Rite of Penance

*As Catholics* ..... Seal of Confession

**PROJECT DISCIPLINE** featuring Saint Francis of Assisi

**Take Home** Discussing the Sacrament of Penance

**Chapter Test**

### Unit 2 Test ..... 167



### 13 Advent ..... 155

• Advent is a season of waiting and preparing.  
Isaiah 9:1

### 14 Christmas ..... 161

• Christmas is a season to give glory to God.  
Luke 2:1–20

# UNIT 3

## Jesus Gives Himself in the Eucharist..... 169

### 15 Jesus Gives Us the Eucharist ..... 171

• Jesus brings us life. • Jesus celebrated a special meal with his disciples. • In the Eucharist we remember and celebrate what Jesus did at the Last Supper. • The Mass is a meal and a sacrifice.

John 6:2–14, 51; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19

*As Catholics*..... The Altar

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Sharing with the Hungry

**Take Home** Preparing and sharing a family meal  
**Chapter Test**

### 16 We Gather for the Celebration of the Eucharist ..... 183

• We are united to Jesus Christ and to one another. • The Church celebrates the Mass. • The parish gathers for the celebration of Mass. • When Mass begins, we praise God and ask for his forgiveness.

Matthew 18:20; John 15:5; The Roman Missal

*As Catholics*..... Mass Obligation

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Welcome to the Celebration

**Take Home** Participating at Mass  
**Chapter Test**



### 17 We Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word..... 195

• We listen to God's Word during the Liturgy of the Word. • We listen and respond to readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament. • We listen as the Gospel is proclaimed. • Together we pray the Creed and the Prayer of the Faithful.

Luke 8:1; The Roman Missal

*As Catholics*..... The Letters of Saint Paul

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Praying for World Leaders

**Take Home** Praying for the needs of others  
**Chapter Test**

### 18 We Celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist ..... 207

• We bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. • The Eucharistic Prayer is the great prayer of thanks and praise. • We pray the Our Father and ask God for forgiveness and peace. • We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

John 14:27; The Roman Missal

*As Catholics*..... Communion Vessels

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring First Holy Communion

**Take Home** Presenting the gifts at Mass  
**Chapter Test**

### 19 We Go in Peace to Share God's Love..... 219

• We are sent to share God's love with others. • Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament. • Jesus is with the Church as we share God's love. • Jesus is with us as we share his peace with others.

John 13:34–35; The Roman Missal

*As Catholics*..... Visits to the Blessed Sacrament

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Early Christian Disciples

**Take Home** Promoting peace in the family  
**Chapter Test**

## Unit 3 Test..... 243

## SEASONAL CHAPTERS

### 20 Lent..... 231

• Lent is a season of preparing.  
Luke 15:8–10

### 21 The Three Days..... 237

• The Three Days celebrate the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.  
Galatians 3:26–28



# UNIT 4

## We Live Our Catholic Faith ..... 245

### 22 God Calls Us to Love and Serve ..... 247

- We are called by God. • Married people and single people are called by God. • Priests are called by God. • Religious sisters and brothers are called by God.

Isaiah 43:1

*As Catholics* ..... Deacons

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Take Home** Discussing your child's vocation

#### Chapter Test

### 23 The Church Lives Today ..... 259

- Catholics belong to parish communities. • Bishops lead and serve the Church. • The pope is the leader of the Church. • The Church is in every part of the world.

Philippians 4:4–5

*As Catholics* ..... Vatican Radio

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Missionaries

**Take Home** Sharing family faith traditions

#### Chapter Test

### 24 We Pray ..... 271

- Prayer keeps us close to God. • Jesus prayed to God his Father. • Jesus teaches us to pray. • We pray as Jesus did.

Luke 11:1

*As Catholics* ..... Morning and Evening Prayer

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring The Our Father

**Take Home** Praying an evening prayer

#### Chapter Test

### 25 We Honor Mary and the Saints ..... 283

- The Church honors the saints. • The Church honors Mary. • We honor Mary with special prayers. • We honor Mary on special days.

Luke 1:28–30, 38–42

*As Catholics* ..... The Rosary

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Saint Frances of Rome

**Take Home** Finding works of art depicting Mary

#### Chapter Test

### 26 We Show Love and Respect ..... 295

- We live in God's love. • Jesus taught us to love others. • We love and respect others. • We respect God's creation.

1 Corinthians 13:4, 8, 13; John 13:34–35

*As Catholics* ..... Stewardship

**PROJECT DISCIPLE** featuring Respect for Creation

**Take Home** Being a disciple of Jesus Christ

#### Chapter Test

## Unit 4 Test ..... 313



### PROJECT DISCIPLE RESOURCES

Grade 2 Log .....	315
End-of-Year Prayer Service .....	317
My Parish Church .....	318
Grade 3 Sneak Peek .....	320
My Mass Book .....	321
My Prayer Book .....	325
Sacraments .....	329
The Ten Commandments .....	329
Glossary .....	330
Index .....	334



### 27 Easter ..... 307

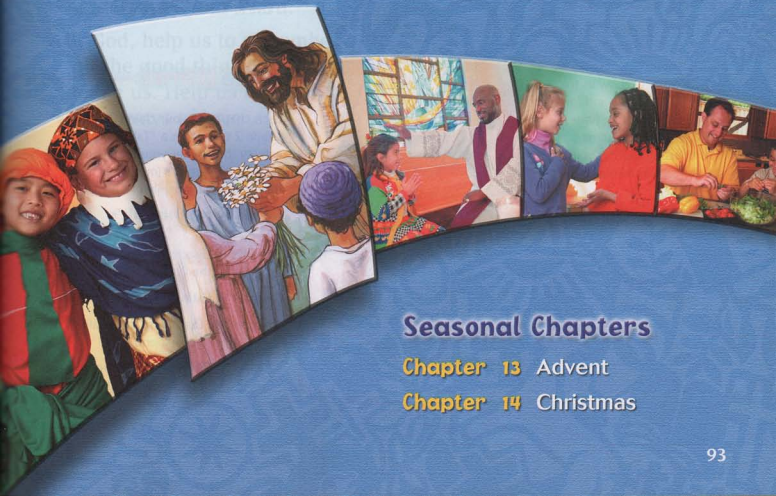
- Easter is a season to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

Luke 24:1–9

# Jesus Calls Us to Penance and Reconciliation

## UNIT 2

<b>Chapter 8</b>	We Learn About God's Love.....	95
<b>Chapter 9</b>	God Gives Us Laws .....	107
<b>Chapter 10</b>	We Follow God's Laws.....	119
<b>Chapter 11</b>	We Prepare for the Sacrament of Forgiveness.....	131
<b>Chapter 12</b>	We Celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness.....	143



### Seasonal Chapters

**Chapter 13** Advent

**Chapter 14** Christmas

**In Unit 2 your child will grow as a disciple of Jesus by:**

- understanding the importance of listening to the Word of God as found in the Old Testament and the New Testament
- learning how to live the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment
- making choices that show love for God and others and avoiding sin
- recognizing that God always loves us and shows us mercy and asks us to forgive others
- preparing to celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

**What's the Word?**

In Chapter 11, the children hear the story of the shepherd and the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-6). Jesus told this story to show us that God will always love and forgive us. Read the story on pages 132-133 with your family. This month, make it a point to ask God for his forgiveness. And pray:



*Jesus, may we never wander far from you.*



Review the list of the Ten Commandments on page 111. Then pray with your child:

*God, thank you for the Ten Commandments. They help me to show love for you, for myself, and my wonderful family.*

**Reality Check**

"The relationships within the family bring an affinity of feelings, affections and interests, arising above all from the members' respect for one another."

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2206)*

**Celebrate!**

Jesus has given us a way to receive God's forgiveness. The Church celebrates this forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Take a moment to consider if you are receiving God's forgiveness through the sacrament on a regular basis.

**Show That You Care**

Point out that we can always show our love for God by forgiving one another.

**Take Home**

Each chapter in your child's *We Believe* Grade 2 text offers a "Take Home" activity that invites your family to support your child's journey to more fully become a disciple of Christ.

**Be ready for this unit's Take Home:**

- Chapter 8: Discovering news about the Church
- Chapter 9: Listing important family rules
- Chapter 10: Discussing the qualities of a good friend
- Chapter 11: Performing a scriptural puppet play
- Chapter 12: Discussing the Sacrament of Penance



# We Learn About God's Love

8

## ✝ We Gather in Prayer

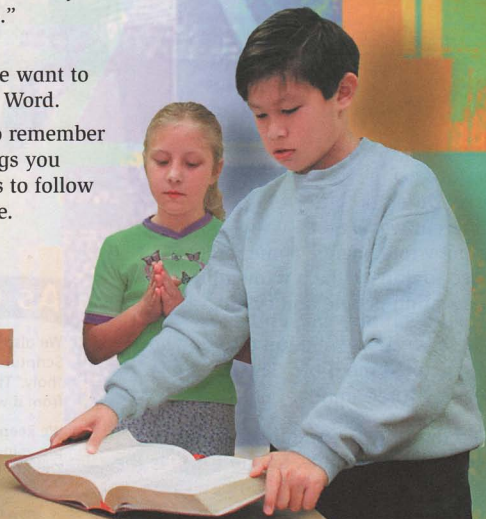
**Leader:** Let us gather to listen to  
God's Word.

**Reader:** God said,  
"I, the LORD, your God,  
teach you what is for  
your good,  
and lead you on the way  
you should go."

(Isaiah 48:17)

**Leader:** Oh God, we want to  
understand your Word.

**All:** God, help us to remember  
all the good things you  
teach us. Help us to follow  
your ways of love.



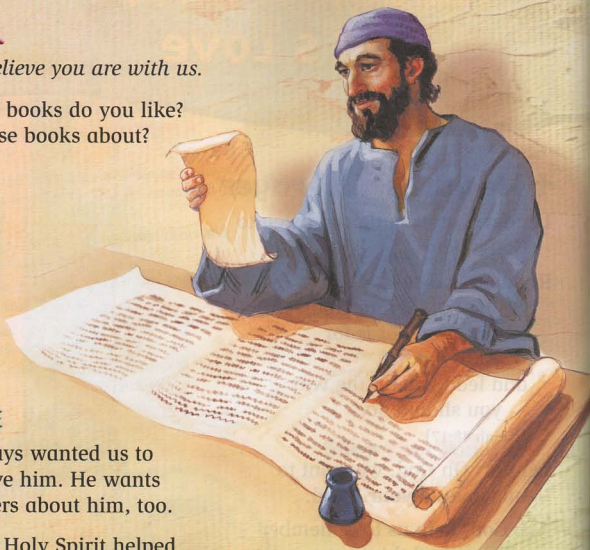
## The Bible is the book of God's Word.

### WE GATHER

✝ *God, we believe you are with us.*

What kind of books do you like?

What are these books about?



### WE BELIEVE

God has always wanted us to know and love him. He wants us to tell others about him, too.

Long ago the Holy Spirit helped certain people to write about God's love. Different writers wrote in different ways. Some wrote stories. Some wrote poems. Some wrote wise sayings. Others wrote about interesting people and events.

These writings were put into one large book called the Bible. The Bible has seventy-three smaller books in it.

God the Holy Spirit guided the people who wrote the Bible. So the **Bible** is the book in which God's Word is written.

### As Catholics...

We also call the Bible Sacred Scripture. The word *sacred* means "holy." The word *Scripture* comes from a word that means "writings."

We keep the Bible in a special place in our homes and churches. Together make a special place in your classroom for the Bible.




When we read the Bible, we learn:

- what God has told us about himself and his love
- what God wants us to do to live as his children.

## WE RESPOND

The Bible is the most important book of all time. Why do you think this is true?



 Draw a cover for the Bible. It should show that the Bible is a very special book about God.

**Key Word**

**Bible** the book in which God's Word is written

## The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible.

### WE GATHER

✝ *O God, thank you for speaking your Word to us.*

How do you learn about people who lived long ago?

🕒 Circle your favorite ways.

read books

watch movies

listen to stories

go to museums

check the Internet

listen to songs

### WE BELIEVE

The Bible has two parts. The first part is called the **Old Testament**. In this part we learn about God's people who lived before Jesus' time on earth. We read about the many wonderful things God did for his people. We read about the ways God showed special love for them. We also learn how they showed their love for God.

In the Old Testament we learn about the lives of many people. One of the people we read about is David. When David was young, he was a shepherd. He took care of sheep near the town of Bethlehem.




God was pleased with David. God loved him very much. David was chosen by God to become king.

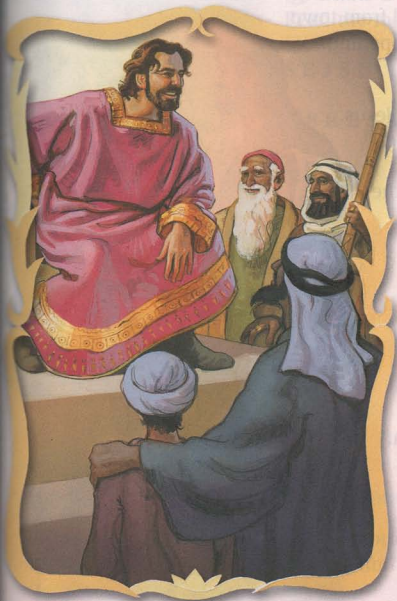
David showed his great love for God by praising him. David said, "Great are you, Lord GOD!" (2 Samuel 7:22)

**Key Word**

**Old Testament** the first part of the Bible

### WE RESPOND

 There are many ways to praise God. Share the words and actions you use to praise God.





## The New Testament is the second part of the Bible.

### WE GATHER

✝ God, thank you for all those who tell us about your love.

👤 Imagine you have just heard good news. You heard that the new playground opened today. Show what you would do to share this good news.

### WE BELIEVE

In Jesus' time, some people traveled from town to town to tell people what was happening.

📖 Luke 4:42-43

One morning a crowd went to see Jesus. They tried to stop him from leaving their town. But Jesus said, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." (Luke 4:43)

This reading is from the second part of the Bible. The second part of the Bible is the **New Testament**. The New Testament is about Jesus Christ and his disciples. It is also about the beginning of the Church.

Four of the books in the New Testament are called the **Gospels**. They are very special. They are about Jesus' teachings and his life on earth.



The word *gospel* means “good news.” Every word and action of Jesus is Good News for us. We learn the Good News of Jesus Christ in the Gospels.


- God is our Father who loves and forgives us.
- Jesus is with us always. He teaches us how to love and do good.
- The Holy Spirit helps us and guides us.

**Key Words**

**New Testament** the second part of the Bible

**Gospels** four of the books in the New Testament that are about Jesus’ teachings and his life on earth



 Make a word from each group of letters. Read the message.

SEJSU    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

HSRESA    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

EHT    T H E

ODOG    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

ESNW    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

OF    O F

ODSG    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

VEOL    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**WE RESPOND**

When and where have you heard stories about Jesus?  
What is your favorite story about him?

## Jesus wants us to listen to his teachings.

### WE GATHER

✦ *Jesus, we will share your Good News.*

Imagine you are having a fire drill in school. Why does your teacher tell you to listen carefully to the directions?

### WE BELIEVE

Jesus told us that it is very important to listen to his teachings. One day Jesus had been teaching for a long time. Jesus had taught people about believing in God and praying to him. Jesus ended by telling this story.



Matthew 7:24-27


A man built his house on rock. When storms came, the wind blew. The rain beat against the house. But the house did not fall. It had been built on rock.

Jesus told the people, "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

(Matthew 7:24)

When we listen to God's Word in the Bible, we hear with our ears. We remember in our minds and hearts. We show we have listened by loving God and helping others.

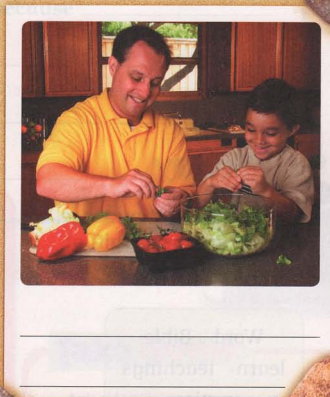


 Look at the pictures.  
Write how the people are showing  
that they have listened to Jesus.



## WE RESPOND

What are some things you can  
do to show Jesus that you have  
listened to him?

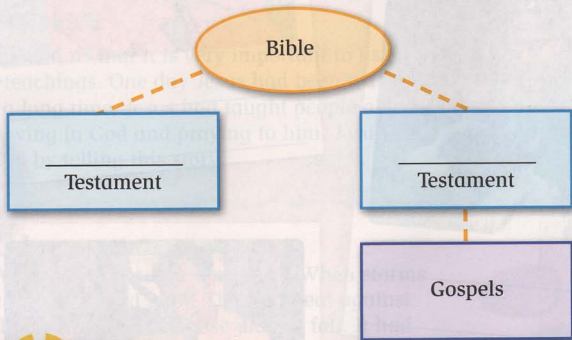


## PROJECT

Pray  
Learn  
Celebrate  
Share  
Choose  
Live

# Show What *you* Know

Use what you know about God's Word to complete the web.



Write God a text message.  
Thank him for the gift of  
his Word. Use these words:

Word Bible  
learn teachings  
praise

To: GOD

[Blank area for writing a text message]

# DISCIPLE

Pray  
Learn  
Celebrate  
Share  
Choose  
Live

## Make it Happen

Recommend your favorite Bible story to a friend. Use the form below.

I recommend \_\_\_\_\_.

It can be found in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament.

In this story, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It is my favorite story because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Fast Facts

More copies of the Bible have been sold than any other book ever written.

**Now, pass it on!**

## Take Home

Ask a family member to get a copy of your local Catholic newspaper. Find out what is happening in the Catholic community.



# CHAPTER TEST

Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

1. The Bible is the book of \_\_\_\_\_ Word.  
 God's                       David's
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Testament is the first part of the Bible.  
 Old                               New
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Testament is the second part of the Bible.  
 Old                               New
4. We can read about Jesus' life and teachings in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament.  
 Old                               New
5. The word \_\_\_\_\_ means "good news."  
 Bible                               gospel

Circle the correct answer.

6. Did the Holy Spirit guide the writers of the Bible?                      **Yes**      **No**
7. Are the four Gospels about God's people before Jesus' time on earth?                      **Yes**      **No**
8. Did all the writers of the Bible write in the same way?                      **Yes**      **No**

9-10. Write two things we can learn when we read the Bible.