

The Teen Timeline (T3) Parent Resource:

Overview:

Many modern Christians don't really read the Bible on a regular basis because it is just too confusing. And since everyone is busy, any activities which don't immediately gratify and enliven us usually fall by the wayside. The Bible becomes "another way" of knowing God, but not the primary way.

T3 will help the students begin to understand the basic "story" of the Bible and how the 73 books go together and which ones they'll need to read in order to see the "plot" and learn how the characters fit together.

The Bible looks intimidating. It can be even more intimidating to teens because often teens aren't used to reading something unless it is mandatory. By taking advantage of the timeline as well as DVD lecture sessions and workbook, this course will help them to better navigate the books of the Bible.

This course is divided into eight lessons, each one focusing on a different time period and the corresponding books of the Bible.

Things to Remember When Talking with Teens About T3:

1. Honor your children's opinions, learning, and experiences.
2. Listen actively to them; make eye contact to show your interest.
3. Be fair towards them and comments made about 'friends' or 'classmates'. If your children feel you are picking on a person they will resist and ultimately tune you out.
4. Do not make generalizations about their experiences with the Bible.
5. Encourage inquiry and conversation about the Bible and be willing to admit your own knowledge may be limited; use it as a learning experience.
6. Turn negatives into positives, affirming their ability and the worth of Bible study along the way.

If you start to feel overwhelmed- don't be! Christ is the Teacher, not us. Christ is the Savior-not us. Don't be intimidated by the Bible, but be humbled that the God of the universe would call every parent to such an awesome task of passing on the richness of the Catholic faith to our children.

The Teen Timeline:

Week 1: An Introduction to the Bible

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- Define the words “bible” and “canon”.
- Have a general feel for how the Bible is organized and how it was put together.
- Have an introduction as to how the Bible is still very relevant today.

Questions to ask:

- What would it take for you to read the Bible more on your own, even daily?
- What do you think your friends at school think about the Bible? About living your faith?
- What do you think God’s hope is for you and for the Bible in your life? Explain.
- Do you believe that God’s word has the power to change your life? Why or why not?

Faith Activities:

Read Genesis 3:1-24. Here are a few questions for Adam and Eve:

Why was the tree of life so enticing?

What did the serpent look like?

Why didn’t Adam say anything?

Was the “forbidden fruit” an apple?

What is your advice to young people dealing with temptation in their own lives?

Talking it out:

1. In your opinion, what does it mean to be selfish?
2. Are you a selfish person? Why or why not?
3. In what aspects of your life-in what situations or with which people-do you most often see yourself become more selfish?

Verse for Thought:

Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” ~Mark 10:15

Biblical Joke of the Week:

Where is baseball in the Bible? “In the big-inning God created...” (Gen. 1:1)

The Teen Timeline:

Week 2: The Early World

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- Have a basic understanding of the creation story in Genesis
- Be able to list the order of creation without their bibles
- Know the story of Noah
- Understand how the early world fits in with the bible timeline

Questions to ask:

- What truths do you think God is trying to teach us through the story of Creation and through Adam, Eve, and the Fall?
- The devil cannot deny God's existence, but he can make us doubt God's love. In what ways do you see the devil at work in the world? In your life?
- What can we learn from Noah's experience today?
- In what areas of your life do you struggle with trusting God?
- Do you trust God with your future? Your family relationships? Your health?

Faith Activities:

Read Genesis 7:24-8:21 Here are a few questions for Noah:

What were your thoughts and feelings knowing that all everyone outside the boat would die?

Did you ever want to stop building the ark?

What is your advice for young people who are afraid of "sticking it out" if they follow God?

Talking it out:

1. Define faith. What is it to you?
2. Who in your life is a good example of faith? Why? In what way has their faith made a difference in your life?
3. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your faith right now? Explain.
4. What would need to happen for you to grow in your faith? What stops you from having more faith in God's ultimate plan for you? Explain.

Verse for Thought:

"The joy of the Lord will be my strength" Nehemiah 8:10

Biblical Joke of the Week:

Why did Adam and Eve become mathematicians? God told them to be fruitful and multiply.

The Teen Timeline:

Week 3: The Patriarchs

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- Have a basic idea of who the patriarchs of the bible are and why their stories are important.
- Understand the covenant God made with Abraham.
- Learn of the twelve tribes of Israel

Questions to ask:

- What was the sign of the covenant with Abraham?
- What does it mean to “re-member” in Genesis?
- Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Would you have had a similar faith? Why or why not?
- Would it be more difficult to be Leah or Rebecca? Explain.
- If you were Joseph, what would you have done when your brothers showed up in Egypt?

Faith Activities:

Read Genesis 22:1-18 Here are a few questions for Abraham:

Did you want to stay in Ur even though God called you to move?

Was Sarai a faithful woman or did she struggle with doubt?

Did you need to understand God’s promises to you or did trust come easily?

Talking it out:

1. Have you ever wanted to stand still or stay put even though God called you to move?
2. Have you ever doubted God like Sarah did? Why do you doubt God?
3. Do you need to “understand” where God leads you or does trust come easily?
4. What do you suppose was going through Abraham’s mind as he tied Isaac up?
5. What would be Abraham’s advice for young people who doubt God’s love for them?

Verse for Thought:

“Consider it joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials.” ~James 1:2

Biblical Joke of the Week:

Why couldn't Cain please his parents? He just wasn't Abel.

The Teen Timeline:

Week 4: Egypt & Exodus, Joshua , and Judges

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- Understand the timeline for Moses and the Exodus out of Egypt
- Explain Joshua's story and how it fits in to the story line of the Bible
- Learn about the importance of the book of Judges

Questions to ask:

- What does the name Moses mean?
- What was the sign of the covenant with Moses?
- If God called you to do something that made you uncomfortable, would your first reaction be, like Moses, to give Him excuses and ask Him to choose someone else, even if it meant giving your life?
- Do you think that you have sinned too much for God to use you (like Rahab) or forgive you? Explain.

Faith Activities:

Read Exodus 3:4-20 Here are a few questions for Moses:

Were you scared when you saw the angel and the burning bush?

Did you always lack confidence in yourself and your abilities?

What went through you when you saw the different plagues taking place?

Talking it out:

1. Share a story when you were determined to accomplish something in your life and did.
2. What are you determined to accomplish in your life now?
3. Are you determined to live a life of holiness? Why or why not?
4. Are you more determined to accomplish your answers to #2 or #3?
5. Have you ever turned your back on or mistreated God even after He has blessed you? Explain.

Verse for Thought:

“Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him: and if he repents, forgive him.”
~Ephesians 6:10

Biblical Joke of the Week:

Why didn't Pharaoh stop swimming when the plagues started? He was in da Nile.

The Teen Timeline:

Week 5: The Kingdom of God: United and Divided

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- Walk through the history of the Northern and Southern Kings
- Be able to navigate through the line of prophets
- Know the story of King David, a man beloved of God

Questions to ask:

- What was the name of the prophet God sent to the house of Jesse?
- What was the name of Bathsheba's husband who was killed in battle?
- What are the "giants" you face in your life? What things, situations, or people stand between you and God?
- What are five "stones" you could use to defeat your giants?
- Do you feel like God has allowed bad things to happen in your life, and thus helped you to rely more on Him? Give an example.

Faith Activities:

Read Samuel 17:32-54 Here are a few questions for David:

What were the best and worst parts of being a Shepard?

What was your first thought when you saw Goliath?

What was the most painful moment of your life?

Talking it out:

1. List some areas about yourself on in your life you struggle with the most and how the devil uses these things to keep you from drawing closer to God.
2. What concrete things have you done (or could have done) to more actively and courageously deal with your fears?
3. David was chosen by God yet still sinned. What does this how about your on life and God's relationship with you?
4. After the incident with Bathsheba, David repented by still suffered. Does God want us to suffer? What does this situation teach us about God?

Verse for Thought:

"He who hates correction walks the sinner's path, but he who dears the LORD repents in his heart." ~Sirach 21:6

Biblical Joke of the Week:

How could people tell David was a Shepard when he fled from Saul? He went on the lam.

The Teen Timeline:

Week 6: The Exile, The Return, and the Revolt

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- List several of the OT prophecies of Jesus Christ
- Understand the significance of the Maccabean revolt
- Know the story of Esther and the festival of Purim

Questions to ask:

- How many kingdoms are included in Daniel's vision to the king?
- How did Esther demonstrate her humility and repentance to God?
- What does the name 'Maccabee' mean and why is it an appropriate name?
- Like Daniel, have you ever prayed for God to save your life? Explain.
- Would you, like Esther, risk your life to save others? Explain.

Faith Activities:

Read Esther 7:1-10 Here are a few questions for Esther:

What was it like to lose your parents at a young age?

How did you feel to be viewed and seen only for your exterior appearance?

What went through you when you approached the king?

Talking it out:

1. Who is your favorite superhero and why.
2. Who is a hero in your life? What have they done that makes them a hero?
3. What traits do you possess or wish you possessed that people find heroic in you?
4. Who would you risk your life for? Explain.

Verse for Thought:

"Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." ~James 5:10

Biblical Joke of the Week:

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible? Noah: he was floating stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

The Teen Timeline:

Week 7: Jesus and the Gospels: The Messianic Fulfillment

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- Understand the importance of Mary's acceptance of God's plan for her and what we can learn from it.
- Understand how the gospels are put together.
- Know key events in Jesus' life.

Questions to ask:

- How many of Jesus' miracles can you name without opening your Bible?
- Which do you think would have been more difficult – being Mary or being Joseph? Explain.
- Why did Jesus give us the Holy Eucharist?
- We are called to be disciples. Do you think this a challenge or a blessing?
- In your opinion, what is the most important quality for a disciple to have? Do you have it? If not – how do you attain it?

Faith Activities:

Read Luke 1:47-55 Here are a few questions for Mary:

What was it like when the angel Gabriel appeared to you?

What was it like during His final days and hours? What were you praying for?

What is your advice to young people who are fearful of what God might call them to do?

Talking it out:

1. How far will you go to be a disciple of Christ? What are you unwilling to surrender to Him?
2. What strengths do you have that will help you in being a disciple?
3. What was the most confusing or interesting moment of Mary's life, in your opinion, and how does her response to God in that moment reflect on her perfect discipleship?

Verse for Thought:

“Our mouths were filled with laughter; our tongues sang for joy. Then it was said among the nations, the Lord has done great things for them.” ~Psalm 126:2

Biblical Joke of the Week:

Why did Jesus perform His first miracle at Cana? He mother “wined” about it.

The Teen Timeline:

Week 8: The Early Church and the Church Today

Objectives for that week: By the end of this lesson, the teens should know and be able to:

- Understand how the Catholic Church was founded by Christ and how that mission is continued to be carried out today
- Why Jesus chose Peter and Paul to be the first great carriers of his Church in the world
- Know the biblical evidence of the seven sacraments
- Understand the bible study process ‘Lectio Divina’

Questions to ask:

- What does the word ‘apostle’ literally mean?
- Why didn’t God pick someone “better” than Saul to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles? What does that teach us today?
- What do you think it means to surrender?
- Are you willing to completely surrender everything and follow the will of God right now, this day? Why or why not?

Faith Activities:

Read 2 Cor. 11:16-30. How does this differ from Saul in Acts 8? Here are a few questions for Paul:

What annoyed you most about the early Christian followers before your conversion?
What was the one thing you always tried to get across to people when you preached?
What is your advice to young people who know the faith in their head but don’t know God in their hearts?

Talking it out:

1. What is the one thing you do best? What do you want to be remembered for? What plan do you have for your life?
2. Could you give up that one thing (your plan) if God was calling you to do something different? Would you be bitter at God, resent Him?
3. In your opinion, was it more difficult for Saul to come face to face with God or for Paul to come face to face with people he had been persecuting, now seeking their forgiveness and to preach to them? Explain.
4. What elements of Paul’s story can you relate to?

Verse for Thought:

*“My lips will shout for joy as I sing your praise; my soul, too which you have redeemed.”
~Psalm 71:23*

Biblical Joke of the Week:

What did Zacchaeus use on his bulletin board? Tax. (tacks).