



Sacred religious texts and stories

(part of this unit will be spent looking at the Guru Granth Sahib)

- *How do we know that a book is sacred?*
- *How is the Bible regarded and handled by Christians?*
- *Why is the Bible special to Christians?*

1. Respect for Books

- Have a class discussion about books which are special to the children.
- Explain that the Bible is a very special book for Christians - many read it every day because they believe God can communicate through the words. It is still the world's best-selling book and has been translated into more than 2000 languages.

The word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word biblia meaning 'books' and it is in fact a collection of 66 books, written by many people over a long time. Each of the 66 books is divided into chapters and each chapter is divided again into verses.

The Bible is divided into two parts - the Old Testament is shared with the Jewish faith and the New Testament tells about the life of Jesus and the first churches.

- Watch the episode from the BBC video Pathways of Belief - Torah.
There is a Pathways of Belief video on the Bible, in two parts, covering the Old and New Testaments.

2. Why and how do people read the Bible?

Christians see the Bible as a guide to life.

- Watch the episode from the BBC video Pathways of Belief - The Bible.
- Read the story of [Mary Jones](#) (courtesy of the Bible Society) and click [here](#) for a sample discussion plan to use with the story.
- Look at our web page on The Bible (produced for Year 1).
- Ask a Christian parent to come in and talk about why the Bible is important to them.

3. Bible Structure

We have a worksheet available which looks at the Bible bookcase.

- Have a look at various forms of the Bible. It is also available on the Internet, on CD ROM and audio tape.
- Visit the website www.request.org.uk and look at their section on the Bible. A list of the 66 books of the Bible is available [here](#).

4. Bible Passages

- Read Psalms 121 and 139 from a children's version of the Bible.
- Design a postcard from God entitled 'You are Amazing'.

5. The Bible as a Story of Love

- Look at the picture 'Tell Me!' by Andr s Simon (click [here](#) to view). What might the father and child be talking about? Notice that the artist has depicted the two as one continuous line.

John chapter 3 verse 16 says:

'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.'

- Read some parables 'The Lost Sheep', 'The Lost Coin' and 'The Lost (Prodigal) Son'.
- Look at Rembrandt's painting of 'The Return of the Prodigal' and ask the children who the different characters represent. Look closely at the father's hands. One is like a gentle woman's hand, the other a strong man's hand. Why has the artist depicted them like this? Look also at the elder brother. Why is he so angry? Explain that he represents the religious leaders of Jesus' day.
- Think about how the person felt when they found what they were looking for.

We have half class sets of children's Bibles available for short-term loan.

We recommend the International Children's Bible by Word because although it is an accurate Bible translation (rather than a paraphrased version) it has short, easy sentences, colour pictures, maps and a dictionary of unusual words.

Contact us for details of how to obtain free children's Bibles for your school.