

## LEVEL SIX: THE OLD TESTAMENT - SALVATION HISTORY

<b>MESSAGE (Knowledge of the Faith)</b>	<b>WORSHIP (Liturgy)</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN MORALITY</b>	<b>COMMUNITY (Service)</b>
<p><b>1. What is the Bible?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is a collection of sacred writings about God's relationship with humankind and the revelation of God's will.</li> <li>- It is a collection of writings that tell us what Jews and Christians believe about God.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Authors of the Bible.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authors of the books of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit to communicate God's message of salvation.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Structure of the Bible.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are 73 books:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46 in the Old Testament</li> <li>• 27 in the New Testament</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>4. The Old Testament can be divided into 3 categories:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <b>Law</b> (or <b>Torah</b> or <b>Pentateuch</b>). They are the first 5 books of the Bible which recount:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the origin of humankind</li> <li>• stories of the Patriarchs</li> <li>• the Fathers of the Jewish people</li> <li>• how God cared for His people and called them to live by His Law.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceremoniously begin the year by enthroning the Bible. Prepare a "Bible candle" to be lit at the enthroning.</li> <li>• Pray the Psalm of the Sunday at each class this year.</li> <li>• Invite a commissioned lector of the parish to speak about the ministry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how we show reverence toward the Word of God.</li> <li>• Discuss the place of the Bible in families. Is the Bible read in the family, as a family?</li> <li>• Review the Ten Commandments, and discuss how they are applied in daily life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with the parish Lector Ministry to read the First Reading at a Sunday Mass.</li> <li>• Coordinate with the parish Lector Ministry to act out the First Reading at a Sunday Mass.</li> <li>• Decide on five action steps that you can take to show that we are stewards of God's creation.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <b>Prophetic Books</b> tell about the prophets and their message to God's people:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that God continues to love them, even when the people turned away from Him</li> <li>• that the people should remain faithful to God and their covenant with Him.</li> <li>• that the people should be just toward one another.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The <b>Writings</b> are books that contain psalms, poems, prayers, sermons, proverbs, and parables that show us how to act as God's people and how to pray.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. The Law: God's Call and Promise.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first humans (represented by Adam and Eve) misused their free will and sinned by disobeying God and rejecting His love.</li> <li>- The consequences of that original sin are present in today's world.</li> <li>- The stories about Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, and the Tower of Babel record the progress of sin in the world after the Fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View and discuss the musical "Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat".</li> <li>• Compare three or four different translations of an Old Testament story (the Jerusalem Bible, the Good News Bible, the St. James Bible...).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss: "<i>God writes straight with crooked lines.</i>" Discuss what this proverb means, and how it applies to the first sin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a temple or synagogue to learn of Jesus' Jewish heritage and traditions.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abram, father of faith, followed God's command: migrated with his family to Canaan. His name was changed to Abraham. God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.</li> <li>- Isaac married Rebekah and they had a son named Jacob.</li> <li>- The twelve tribes of Israel were descendants of Jacob's twelve sons.</li> <li>- Joseph was one of Jacob's twelve sons. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave in Egypt, but Joseph won the Pharaoh's favor. Jacob's sons journeyed to Egypt.</li> <li>- The book of Exodus tells of how the Israelites fled Egypt under the leadership of Moses. In this book is found the "Sinai Covenant" (the Ten Commandments).</li> <li>- God raised wise judges, prophets, and kings, both men and women, to shepherd His people: Othniel, Deborah, Samuel, Saul...</li> <li>- King David brought the Ark of the Covenant to stay in Jerusalem.</li> <li>- After King David ruled his son, King Solomon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a collage of signs of God's presence recounted in the Old Testament (rainbow, manna...)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a modern day prophet, and discuss how they are prophetic.</li> <li>• Discuss the difficulties in being "prophetic" in today's world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make bookmarks, choosing a favorite quote from the Old Testament. Give them as gifts to the elderly parishioners.</li> <li>• Contrast the plight of the Hebrew people with other people in the world today.</li> <li>• In solidarity with those who flee their homeland, think of five activities to help the refugees.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- King Solomon broke the covenant with his many sins, and the kingdom became divided.</li> <li>- Ten northern tribes formed the Kingdom of Israel.</li> <li>- The two tribes who lived in the south, Benjamin and Judah, formed the Kingdom of Judah.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. The prophets.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During the time of division, God spoke through prophets, so that they might reform and be united again as one people. The prophets reminded people of God's love, demanded justice and respect for the rights and property of others.</li> <li>- The major prophets include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaiah</li> <li>• Jeremiah</li> <li>• Ezekiel</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>7. Writings.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- King David is the author of many of the psalms.</li> <li>- Psalms are prayers and songs of God's people, that expressed their longing for a Saviour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a litany, using names for God found in the Old Testament (Rock, Shepherd...)</li> <li>• Write out or paraphrase your favorite psalm and illustrate.</li> <li>• Pray Psalm 8 and Psalm 104.</li> <li>• Pray the Liturgy of the Hours. (You might want someone to come to class and explain this official prayer of the Church beforehand.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: Choose a symbol of God found in the Old Testament to which you can relate. Explain why.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: How are we modern day prophets ourselves - in our families, in school, among our friends, in the parish?</li> <li>• Organize a class Mass in which the First Reading is re-enacted.</li> <li>• Create a music video based on one of the psalms, and share it with the congregation at Sunday Mass.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>8. The Old Testament prepared the way for our salvation.</b>                      - God inspired the authors of the Old Testament to write about the men and women who were instruments of God's revelation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruth, a model of faithful love</li> <li>• Jonah, a heroic prophet</li> <li>• Job, who was tested by God and remained faithful</li> <li>• Daniel, obedient, courageous, and faithful to God</li> </ul> <p><b>9. Introduction to the New Testament.</b>                      - John the Baptizer called Israel to repent and prepare for the coming of the long-awaited Saviour.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct a timeline of salvation history, using the events in the Old Testament.</li> <li>• Recite the <i>Shema</i>, the Hebrew word that begins the most important prayer in Judaism. It is found in Deuteronomy 6:4, which begins with the command "Hear." The whole <i>Shema</i> prayer, which includes verses 4-9, is spoken daily in the Jewish tradition:   <i>Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct the timeline of your own salvation history and how God has acted in your life thus far.</li> <li>• Reflect and write: Suppose God called you to be a prophet. What message do you think He would have you deliver today?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a timeline of salvation history using stories of the Old Testament, and display it in the church.</li> <li>• Locate references in the Old Testament to the coming of the Messiah.</li> </ul>