

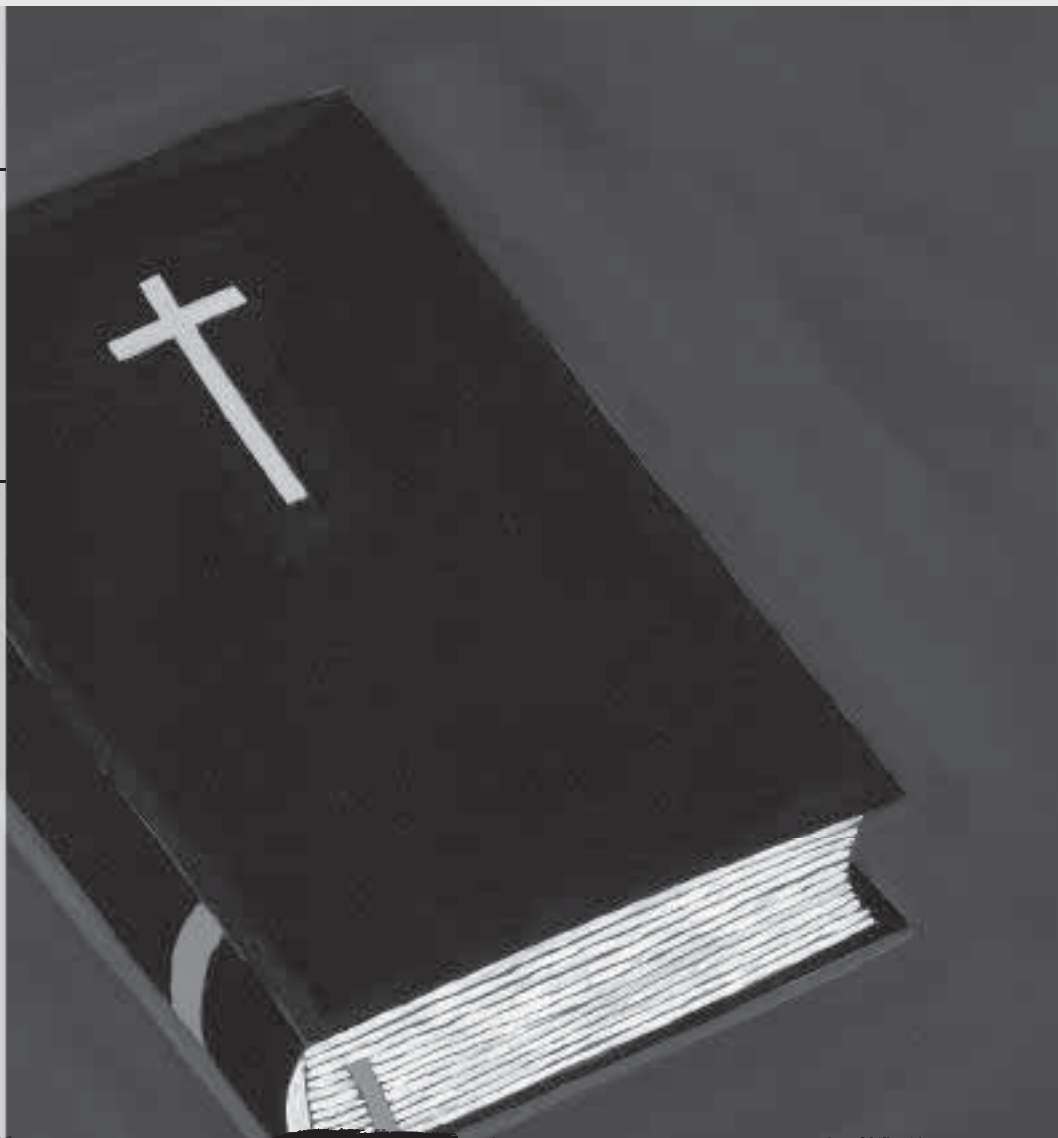
THE BIBLE (PART 1)

Objective

The children find out that the Bible is a collection of holy writings which testify of the triune God and his activity.

Contents

- The genesis of the Bible.
- The significance of the Bible for us.



Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Workbook, Exercise 1

After roles have been allocated, the children read the conversation in the workbook.

Implementation

Teacher's Presentation

In many cases, what the prophets proclaimed was put in writing. A document which came into being in this manner was called a "book", bearing the name of the respective prophet. Later there were gatherings in the synagogues (i.e., the Jews' meeting-place and house of prayer) at which these highly respected books were read.

For example, the Bible reports that Jeremiah the prophet had a scribe named Baruch. One of the children reads the following aloud.

Bible

Jeremiah 36:4:

"Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book."

Books were copied by those who knew how to write. They copied them out again and again.

Question Prompt

What do you think books looked like then?

First, let the children guess.

Workbook, Illustrations

Then look at the illustrations in the workbook with the children and let them describe what is to be gathered from this. Emphasize the following:

- In the past, materials were written on which were then sewn together and rolled up.
- These scrolls were stored in clay jars.
- The Book of the Prophet Isaiah was written in Hebrew.

Teacher's Presentation

The books of the Old Testament were gathered and compiled over the course of several centuries. Around 100 BC they were compiled—according to scope and content—into what we today call the Old Testament. The Old Testament is written in Hebrew; a few brief sections were handed down in Aramaic.

Statement Prompt

Workbook, Exercise 2

Discussion

The books of the New Testament originated during the first one hundred years after Christ's birth. They were written mainly in Greek by Apostles or contemporaries of Jesus.

We call the collection of Old and New Testament books the "Bible", a term derived from the Greek word *biblia*, meaning "the books".

The most common material used for the biblical scrolls was parchment. This is shaved and treated goat skin. In the Jewish divine services the five books of Moses are still used in the form of parchment scrolls even today.

Papyrus was also written on later. Papyrus was produced from the pith of the papyrus plant. The pith was cut into thin strips, placed crosswise one on top of the other, pressed together, and dried to form a smooth, thin writing surface.

Leather was the most expensive material on which biblical texts were written.

Since about early Christian times, sheets of parchment or papyrus were written on and glued together to make a book.

However, all texts still had to be copied out by hand.

Give the children time here to imagine that they had to copy out a Bible.

There were only very few copies of the Bible because the task of copying out was so laborious. Only few people were able to read it.

Around AD 1450 (i.e., after Christ's birth), Johannes Gutenberg from Mainz, Germany, invented the art of printing. Now it was possible to produce the Bible in larger quantities and at lesser cost. As a result, the Bible became more widely distributed.

The children work on exercise 2.

We all have access to a Bible and all of us are able to read.

What does the Bible mean to us as children of God?

■ The Bible is the basis for the teaching of the New Apostolic Church.

■ The Bible furthers our knowledge about God's plan of salvation and redemption.

■ The Bible gives us advice in how to reach the goal of our faith by

- providing commandments and rules of conduct,
- reporting about those who are examples for us (e.g., Jesus, Abraham, Noah, etc.), and
- warning us about dangers, e.g., disobedience (Saul), or arrogance (Pharisees).

■ The Bible

- testifies of God's omnipotence,
- reports about how God led his people, and
- shows us how God stands by those who love him.

■ The Bible is the basis for the sermon of the ministers in the divine service.

It is important for us as God's children to read the Bible regularly. It is just as important to hear the living, timely word from the altar and receive the sacraments in every divine service.

Conclusion

Workbook, Exercise 3

Finally, the children complete exercise 3.

Notes
