

Bible Knowledge

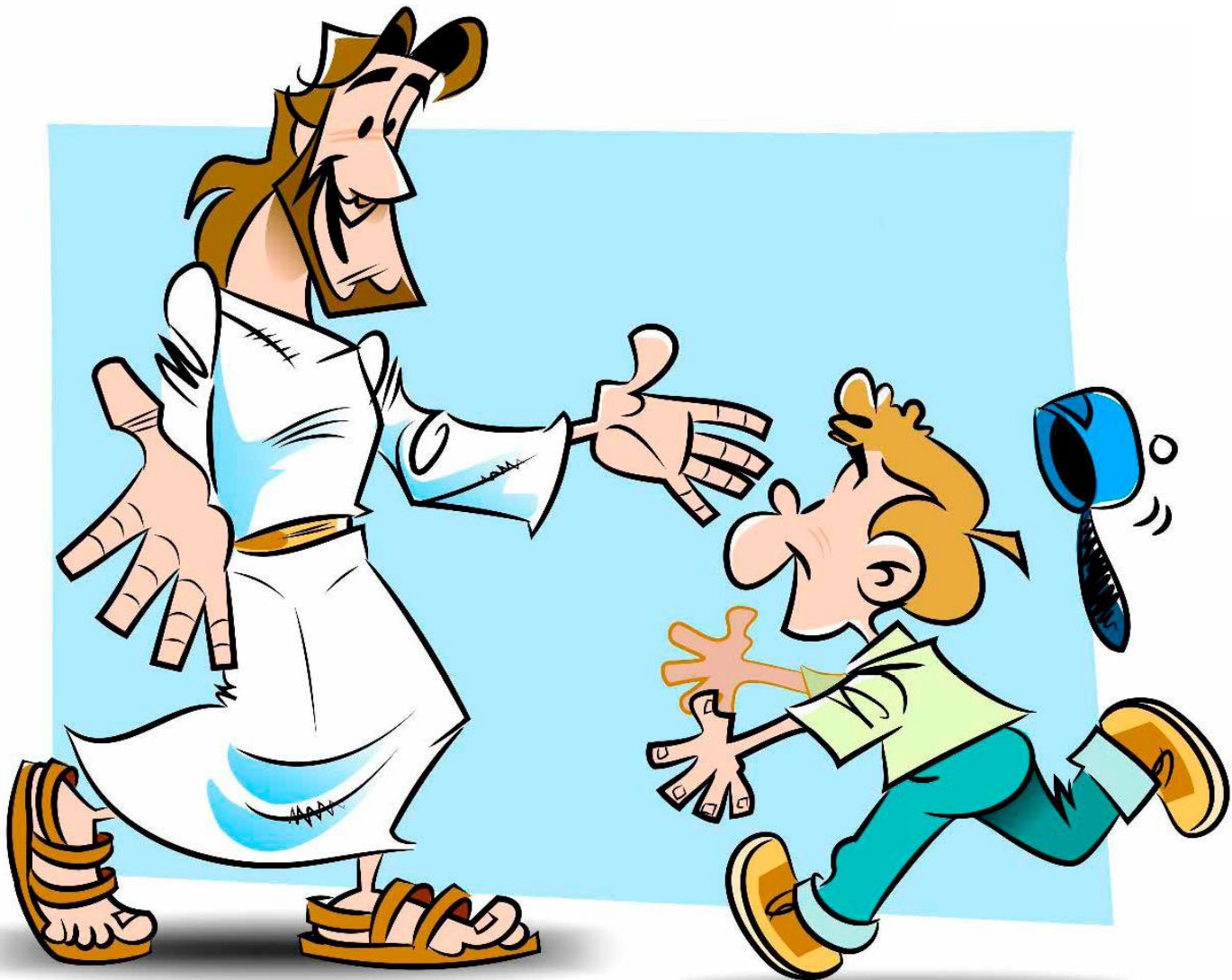
Know the Book



12 Foundation Stones Class 6A for younger children

Class Section 1: Why Study the Bible?

The Bible is the most marvelous book in the whole world. It tells us: how we got here, why we're here, how to be happy while here, and how to have love, happiness, joy, and peace forever. And the most wonderful thing about the Bible is that through its words we can get to know its author: Jesus



Soul food



The Bible tells us:

1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies hungry for milk, you should want the pure teaching that feeds your spirit. With it you can grow up and be saved.

Like a baby needs milk to be healthy and grow or even survive, you must be fed spiritually in order to stay healthy and grow spiritually.

The Bible tells us what's going to happen!

The Bible contains hundreds of specific prophecies about people, nations, places, times, and events that have already been fulfilled down to the smallest detail. Some of these were fulfilled almost immediately, others took hundreds of years, but each came to pass exactly as God said they would. There are also many other prophecies in the Bible that are yet to be fulfilled, which will be fulfilled just as surely.

Class Section 2: Basic Bible Knowledge

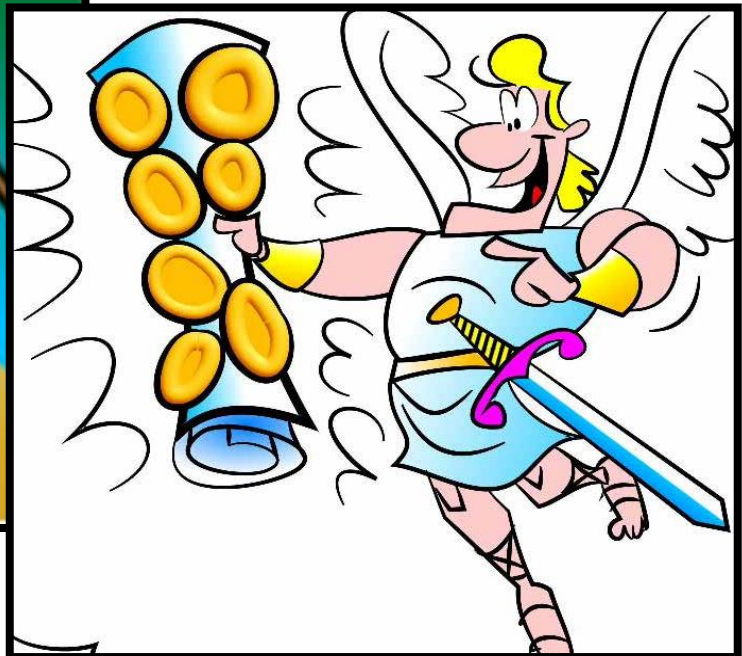
Who wrote the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of 66 books. God used about 40 men to write the Bible. In some cases quite a few books were written by the same man.—But that's not really the most important thing because God is the Author of the Bible!

2 Timothy 3:16—All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true ... It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Peter 1:21b—Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The books of the Bible were written during a 1,500-year period. That 1,500-year period began with Moses about 3,400 years ago and ended with the book of Revelation over 1,900 years ago.



* Difference between Old and New Testaments and what they are

The Bible contains two major sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.



The Old Testament is a compilation of the Holy Scriptures of the Jews, written over a 1,100-year period. The Old Testament has many prophecies about the Messiah. These prophecies were written hundreds of years before Jesus Christ was born.

The New Testament contains the writings of the early Christian period. The 27 books of the New Testament tell of Jesus' life and ministry and the growth of the Early Church, and present the basics of Christian faith.



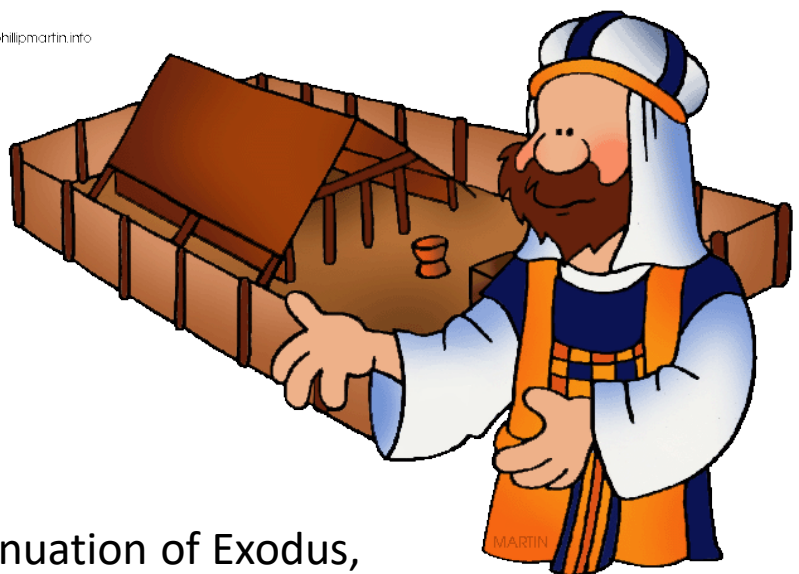
* Old Testament Books

Genesis. The first part of the book covers the history of early mankind, narrating the events of the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the people scattered across the world following the Tower of Babel. The second section concerns the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.



Exodus. The bondage, deliverance, and beginnings of the history of Israel on the way to Canaan, under the leadership of Moses.

Leviticus. The book of Mosaic laws. Those who are saved are no longer under these laws since Jesus died.



Numbers. The book is a continuation of Exodus, describing the forty years' wanderings in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy. A repetition of the laws given shortly before Israel entered Canaan.

Joshua. This tells the story of Joshua, Moses' successor. It was Joshua who led the people into the Promised Land after the death of Moses.

Judges is so called because it relates of the times of various rulers, or judges, of Israel from the possession of Canaan until the time of the prophet Samuel.

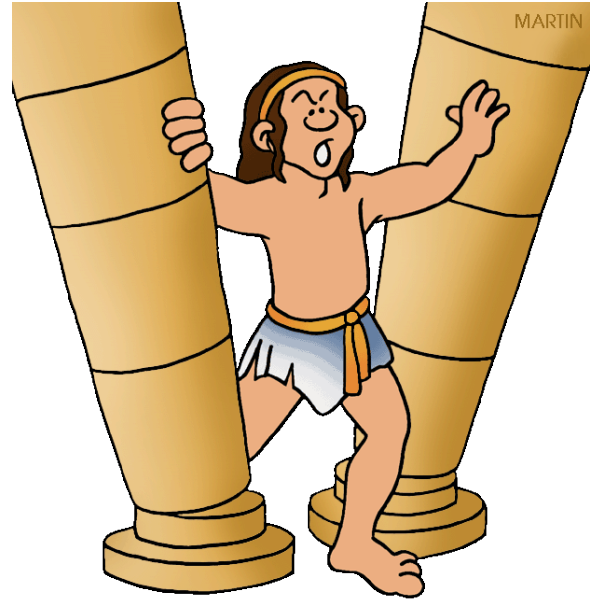
Ruth. A beautiful story of how Ruth, a widow, goes to Judah with her mother-in-law, Naomi. There Ruth meets and marries Boaz.

1 and 2 Samuel. The history of Samuel (priest and prophet) and the beginning and early years of the reigns of Saul and David.

1 and 2 Kings. The early history of the kingdom of Israel, and later of the divided Kingdom. (Israel and Judah split.) Includes the lives of Elijah and Elisha, prominent prophets.

1 and 2 Chronicles. Largely a record of the reigns of David, Solomon, and the kings of Judah up to the time when they were conquered by Babylon and carried away to Babylon.

Ezra. A record of the return of the Jews from captivity in Babylon, and the rebuilding of the temple.



Nehemiah. An account of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

Esther. The story of Queen Esther's (Jewish wife of the Persian king) deliverance of the Jews from the plot of Haman in the courts of the king of Persia.



Job. The problem of affliction, showing the malice of Satan and the patience of Job. This is generally accepted as the oldest book in the Bible, and probably was written before the time of Moses.

Psalms. A collection of 150 spiritual songs, poems, praises, prayers, and prophecies.

Proverbs. A collection of moral and religious maxims, and discourses on wisdom.

Ecclesiastes. Solomon's reflections on man's duties and obligations to God, etc.

Song of Solomon. A beautiful love poem.





Isaiah. A book rich in Messianic prophecies, and other prophecies of the future, mingled with woes pronounced upon sinful nations.

Jeremiah. Jeremiah received the call to prophesy while very young. It was his mission to predict doom upon his nation for its many sins. For this the priests and the people hated him. Jeremiah warned the Jews not to fight Babylon, but to surrender.

Lamentations. Also written by Jeremiah. A dirge over the desolation of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel lived during the exile (in Babylon). The book is divided into two sections: The first denounces the sins of Jerusalem and the second looks to the future with the hope that the city will be restored after it has been cleansed. It also contains prophecies about the coming Kingdom of Heaven and of Jesus.

Daniel. Prophecies of the future.



Hosea. Lived at the same time as Isaiah and Micah. He urges a return to God.

Joel. This book contains discussion of repentance and its blessings, and predictions of the Holy Spirit.

Amos was a herdsman prophet who denounced selfishness and sin. The book contains a series of five visions and predicts the ultimate universal rule of the Lord. Amos proclaimed that God was the ruler of the whole world.

Obadiah. Leading topic—the doom of Edom and final deliverance of Israel. The shortest book in the Old Testament, it has only one chapter.



Jonah. The story of the "reluctant missionary" to the great city of Nineveh. This is the man who was "swallowed by the great fish" or whale.

Micah. This book foretells the establishment of the Kingdom of the Lord in which righteousness shall prevail.

Nahum. The destruction of Nineveh, capital of Assyria.

Habakkuk. It was revealed to Habakkuk that the Babylonian armies were to be God's means of punishing the wicked and that evil would destroy itself. The book ends with a poem of thanksgiving and great faith.

Zephaniah. This book is filled with God's threatenings to the rebellious, but ends with a vision of the future glory of God's people.

Haggai. A colleague of Zechariah. He reproves the Jewish people for slackness in building the second temple.

Zechariah. He had a series of eight visions, and saw the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom. Zechariah gives very specific predictions about the coming of Jesus the Messiah: His death to remove sin, Christ as King and Priest, His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, being betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, His hands pierced at the crucifixion, and more.

Malachi. He shows the necessity of reforms before the coming of the Messiah. The final message to a disobedient people.



New Testament Books

Matthew. Matthew had been a tax collector and became one of the apostles. His book was written mostly with the Jews in mind, to convince them that Jesus was the Messiah.

Mark was a companion of Peter, as well as Paul. His Gospel contains what he heard Peter recount. He emphasized the supernatural power of Jesus over nature, disease, and demons.

Luke was a Greek physician (the only non-Jewish author in the New Testament) and was a companion of Paul. He wrote the most complete biography of Jesus, portraying Him as the Son of man, full of compassion for the sinful and the poor.

John was one of the original 12 apostles. John understood the spiritual depths of the Love of God and His salvation and what Jesus meant to the whole world. The book of John contains more of the actual quoted words of Jesus than any other book.



Acts tells what happened to Jesus' disciples after His resurrection, then going on to explain the history of the Early Church, the conversion of Paul and his journeys, etc.

Romans. Addressed to Roman Christians. Chapters 1-11 discuss the plan of salvation. Chapters 12-16 are largely exhortations relating to spiritual, social, and civic duties.

1 Corinthians. Addressed to the Corinthian church. Leading topics—the cleansing of the church from various evils, together with doctrinal instructions.

2 Corinthians. The characteristics of the ministry and Paul's apostleship.

Galatians. Important book because it explains clearly the concept of salvation by faith, not works.

Ephesians. The plan of salvation.



Philippians. A letter to the Philippian church. It reveals Paul's devotion to Christ and his experience in prison.

Colossians. Counsel to abandon worldly philosophy and sin. Jesus is the head of the Church.

1 Thessalonians. Exhortations and counsel.

2 Thessalonians. More about Jesus' Second Coming and warnings to believers.

1 Timothy. Counsel to a young pastor concerning his conduct and ministry.

2 Timothy. Paul's last letter, written shortly before his death, giving counsel to his beloved "son in the Gospel."

Titus. Counsel given to a trusted friend.

Philemon. A private letter written to Philemon, beseeching him to receive and forgive Onesimus, a runaway slave.

Hebrews. Author is most likely Paul. Written to Jewish Christians, this explains the doctrine of salvation. Also contains very inspiring history of God's people (Chapter 11).

James. Probably written by James, the brother of Jesus. The main theme is practical religion, manifesting itself in good works.

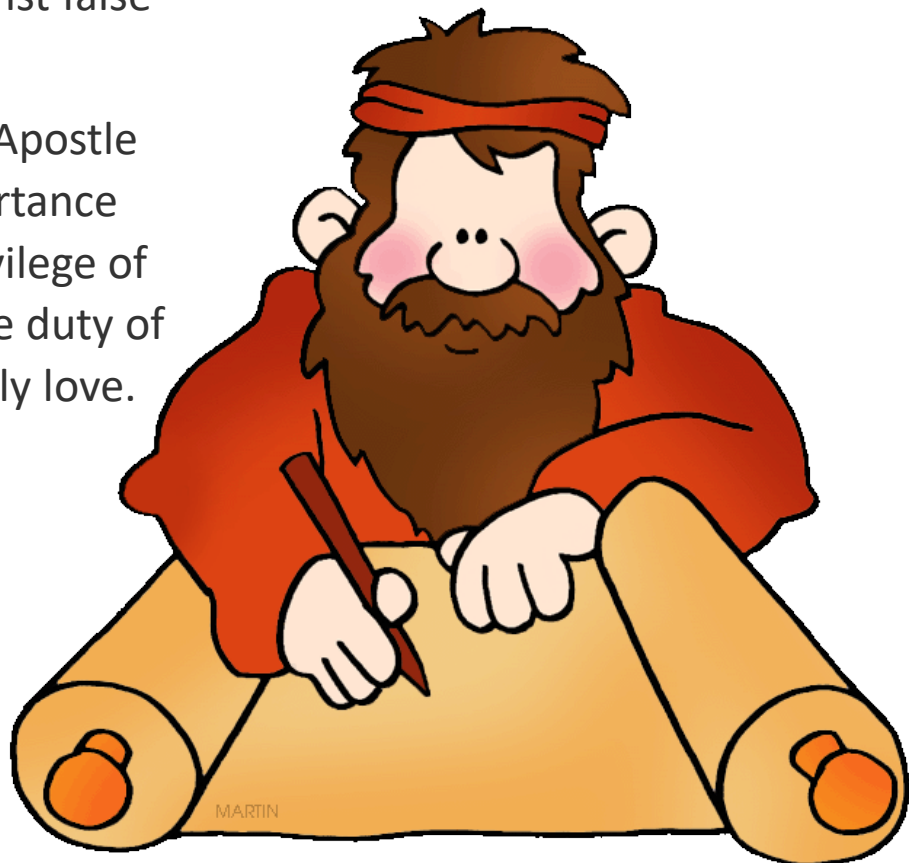
1 Peter. A letter of encouragement written by the Apostle Peter.

2 Peter. A warning against false teachers and scoffers.

1 John. Written by the Apostle John. It lays great importance upon the believer's privilege of spiritual knowledge, the duty of fellowship, and brotherly love.

2 John. A brief message on divine truth and worldly error.

3 John. A letter of commendation written to Gaius.

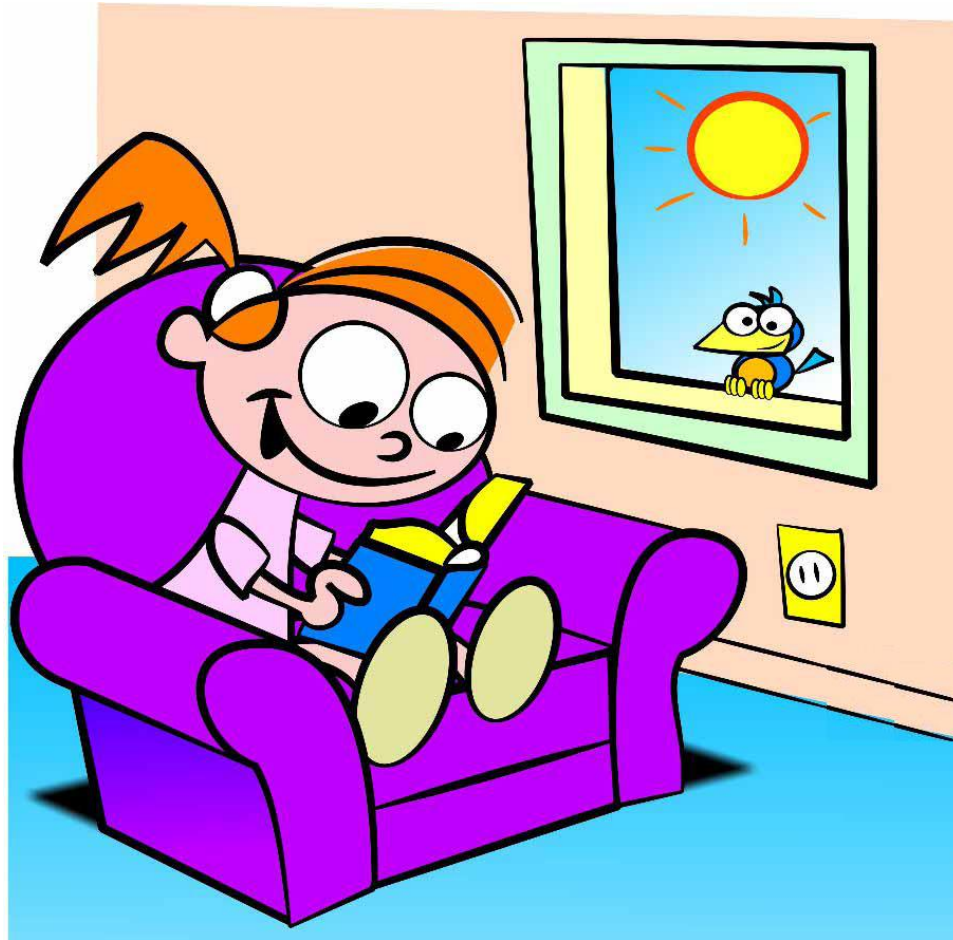


Jude. The writer was probably the brother of James, and brother of Jesus. Historical examples of apostasy and divine judgments upon sinners.

Revelation. It was written by the Apostle John (while in exile), who was also the author of the Gospel of John and three Epistles. The book of Revelation contains complex and detailed prophecies about the future, with much detail on the events preceding and following Jesus' Second Coming. It concludes with a wonderful description of Heaven.



It's quite amazing when you realize that here is a Book that was written over a 1,500-year span—40 generations. It was written by over 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, shepherds, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc. Yet the Biblical authors wrote in harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation. There is one unfolding story: God's redemption of man.



* Points to Ponder

- How can reading the Bible help us?
- What do you like most about the Bible?
- What do you think God's purpose was in giving us the Bible?