

SPARK Youth Night

KICK IT
OLD TESTAMENT

February 20, 2018

SMALL GROUP AGENDA

MIDDLE SCHOOL 7:00-7:45	HIGH SCHOOL 7:45-8:30
ALWAYS START Small Group with <u>High, Low & God Moment</u>	ALWAYS START Small Group with <u>High, Low & God Moment</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FIND IT<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Have Youth Pair Up○ Give a Bible to each pair○ Pass out "Intro to Old Testament" Papers○ Have them complete the page using the bible○ ● SHARE IT<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Read the 'Intro to Old Testament' Leader page to the group.○ Have them check their answers with the provided answer key ● REFLECT ON IT<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ You will need a some Breakthrough Bibles for this○ Discuss the 2 reflection questions at the bottom of the leader page.○ ● Closing Prayer<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Close with a Group Prayer for Special Intentions	Same as Middle School
6th Grade w/ Carolyn & Jesus 7th & 8th Grade w/ Christy, Marcos	9th Grade w/ Keith 10th Grade w/ Karl 11th & 12th Grade w/ Katie & Aaron

INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament in Catholic Bibles contains forty-six books. The Bibles that most Protestants use has thirty-nine books in the Old Testament. That is the main difference between Catholic and Protestant Bibles.

The Old Testament books include many different kinds of writings. You will find history, poetry, legends, laws, wise sayings, short stories, and the words of prophets. The Old Testament books are primarily about God's special relationship with his Chosen People. At different times these people are called Hebrews, Israelites, Judeans, and Jews. During their history God breaks through and calls the Chosen People to recognize him as their one and only God. God promises to bless them in a special way, and he asks the Chosen People to be faithful in following his commands.

This holy promise between God and the Chosen People is called a covenant. *Testament* is another word for *covenant*, so the Old Testament is the story of the Covenant between God and his special people—who eventually become the Jewish people. Because of this, most of the books of the Old Testament are also the sacred Scriptures of the Jewish people, sometimes called the Hebrew Scriptures.

To fully understand God's plan for the human race, we need both the Old and the New Testaments. In the Old Testament, God reveals the love he has for us. The stories teach us how sin keeps us from being in a completely loving relationship with God. The Old Testament shows how, through various people, God broke through to put his Chosen People on the right path.

REFLECTION

1. Page through the Old Testament of your Bible. What stories do you recognize? If you have any favorite stories in the Old Testament, what are they? What do they teach you about God?
2. Flip through the interview pages of the Old Testament Bible people (Adam and Eve to Lady Wisdom) in *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics*. Which Old Testament Bible people are you most curious about? Why?



SECTIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament in Christian Bibles is usually divided into four different sections. Here's some information on each section:

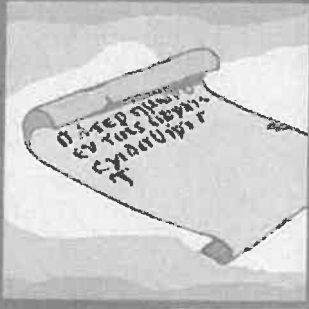
The Pentateuch or Torah. These five books are the heart of the Old Testament. They contain the stories of Creation and stories about how sin entered the world. They tell how God broke through to first make his Covenant with Noah and Abraham. The Book of Exodus tells how God led his people out of slavery through the leadership of Moses. At Mount Sinai, God extended the Covenant to all his Chosen People and gave them the Ten Commandments.

The Historical Books. These sixteen books are mostly religious history and some short novels. They tell how the Chosen People settled in the Promised Land. Eventually they became a kingdom led by kings like Saul, David, and Solomon. But the rulers and the people often worshiped false gods and ignored the poor. So God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to call the people to be faithful to the Covenant. The historical books have imaginative stories about heroes like Ruth, Tobit, Judith, and Esther.

The Wisdom Books. These seven books contain the collected wisdom of the Chosen People. They contain the songs they used in worship and prayer. They contain advice for living a good and holy life. The Song of Songs has poetry about the goodness of sexuality. The Book of Job is a debate about why good people suffer bad things.

The Books of the Prophets. These eighteen books contain the messages of important prophets. The prophets delivered God's message to the Chosen People. They warned the Chosen People against worshipping false gods. They challenged the Chosen People to act fairly and to care for the poor. The prophets also offered comfort and hope when the people thought God had abandoned them. And some of the prophets promised a future savior, the Messiah, who would bring God's love, justice, and peace to the world.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT



Turn to the table of contents in the beginning of your Bible and use it to answer the following questions on the Old Testament.

1. How many books are in the Old Testament?
2. What is the first book of the Old Testament?
3. What is the last book of the Old Testament?
4. Which book of the Old Testament is the shortest?
5. Which book of the Old Testament is the longest?
6. What are the four sections of the Old Testament?

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Genesis

Malachi

Obadiah

Psalms

Pentateuch

History

Wisdom

Prophets

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Proverbs

7. List the five books of the Pentateuch.

8. Which book comes after Psalms?

9. In which section do you find each of the following books?

1 Kings History

Nahum Prophets

Song of Songs Wisdom

Jonah Prophets

Now try looking up some Bible passages. Look up each passage below and write the word indicated to complete a sentence about the Old Testament.

10. Exodus 12:37 Write the second word of the passage in the space before the (10).

11. Judges 10:14 Write the tenth word of the passage in the space before the (11).

12. Isaiah 32:18 Write the second word of the passage in the space before the (12).

The Old Testament is the story of the Israelites (10).

God's Chosen (11) People (12).