



**STUDENT SUNDAY SCHOOL
FIRST TWO WEEKS CURRICULUM
TEACHERS' GUIDE**

*Imprimatur: + William Bower, SSC, Episcopus,
Diocese of the Eastern United States
Anglican Catholic Church*

First Two Weeks Teacher's Guide

Grades 3rd–8th | **Imprimatur:** + *William Bower, SSC, Episcopus, Diocese of the Eastern United States, Anglican Catholic Church*

TEACHER PREPARATION

Before teaching the week's lesson, teachers need to read the Lesson Scripture so that they can tell the story and lead the discussion. Use an NKJV Bible or the same Bible version used in class.

OPENING ROUTINE

1. Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

2. The Lord's Prayer (Anglican Version)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

3. Opening Prayer (Anglican)

Heavenly Father, we gather today with open hearts and minds to learn about your love and grace, as revealed through your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our ears to hear your word, guide our understanding, and fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit, that we may grow in faith and live as your children. Amen.

CLOSING ROUTINE

Have students clean up all projects and put everything away.

2. Closing Prayer (Anglican)

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the time we've spent together learning about Your love and grace. Thank You for the lessons we've heard, the stories we've shared, and

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the friendship we've built today. Help us to carry these lessons with us, and may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Bless each of these students, their families, and our church community.

Guide us through the week ahead and help us to live out the teachings of Your Word in all that we do.

As we leave this place, may Your peace go with us. Keep us safe, and may we always remember to walk in the light of Your love. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST TWO WEEK OVERVIEW

This **two-week Introduction Unit** is taught each year **before starting any seasonal curriculum** (Trinity, Advent, Lent, Easter, etc.). It establishes:

- Anglican identity and worship rhythm
- Bible basics and reverence for Scripture (NKJV)
- Classroom expectations and Christian conduct
- Spiritual habits that will be practiced throughout the year

This guide is intentionally structured to **match the curriculum format**, allowing teachers to move seamlessly into the next unit.

Note: There is an optional Bible Navigation Curriculum you can choose to make this a third week.

Classroom Context: • Mixed-age group (Grades 3–8) • Students leave worship during announcements and return at Communion • Older students are encouraged to model leadership and service. Children return for Communion and remain in church. This means you may only have about 30-40 minutes of teaching time.

TEACHER PREPARATION & GUIDANCE

This May Be Your First Time Teaching — That's OK

This Introduction Unit is written assuming **you may be a volunteer with little or no formal teaching experience**. Everything you need is explained step-by-step. You do not need to rush, and you do not need to cover everything perfectly. Your role is

to **welcome students, share God’s Word faithfully, and create a safe, loving classroom environment.**

If something feels awkward the first week, that is normal. The Introduction Unit exists to help *both students and teachers* settle into a rhythm before beginning a full curriculum.

TEACHING A COMBINED AGE GROUP (GRADES 3–8)

Because students are at different developmental stages, lessons are designed to be **taught together, then discussed by age.**

- **Grades 3–4**
 - Think concretely and literally
 - Prefer short explanations, visuals, repetition, and hands-on activities
 - Best questions begin with *what* or *why*.
- **Grades 5–6**
 - Beginning abstract thought
 - Enjoy discussion and responsibility
 - Can help younger students with reading or crafts.
- **Grades 7–8**
 - Capable of reflection and leadership
 - Benefit from journaling, Scripture study, and modeling Christian behavior
 - Should be gently encouraged to serve, not dominate.

Helpful Tip: Ask the same question but allow answers at different levels. Affirm all sincere responses.

ANGLICAN TEACHING EMPHASIS

- **The Bible is central and must be read reverently.** Teachers should treat Scripture with respect and help students understand that the Bible is God’s Word. While individual churches may choose which Bible translation they use, **this curriculum uses the New King James Version (NKJV).** The NKJV stays faithful to the language and tradition of the King James Version while using clearer, more modern wording that is appropriate and accessible for

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students in Grades 3–8. Teachers should consistently use the NKJV when reading aloud and teaching lessons.

- Prayer includes both **spoken and written forms**.
- Worship forms us over time through repetition and participation.
- Tradition supports and explains Scripture.

You are not expected to lecture. Read Scripture clearly, explain simply, and invite conversation.

For questions or support in using this Anglican Lesson Plan, please contact: Linda Simmen — Christian Education & Curriculum Development •
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BIBLE NAVIGATION PRACTICE (WEEK 1, 2, OR 3)

This activity teaches students how to find Scripture on their own. It may be used in either Week 1, 2, or optional Week 3 and may be repeated later in the year as needed.

Scripture List with Difficulty Levels

- ★ Genesis 1:1 (Old Testament)
- ★ Psalm 133:1 (Old Testament)
- ★★ John 3:16 (New Testament)
- ★★ Proverbs 3:5 (Old Testament)
- ★★★ 2 Timothy 3:16 (New Testament)

HOW TO TEACH BIBLE NAVIGATION (STEP-BY-STEP)

- Hold up a Bible and explain that the Bible is made up of many books.
- Show students the Table of Contents.
- Explain Book – Chapter – Verse using large and small numbers.
- Say the Scripture reference slowly.
- Walk around and help students turn pages.
- Do not rush. Confidence matters more than speed.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: “FIND IT IN THE BIBLE” GAME

Materials: Bibles, Scripture list (teacher only)

How to Play:

- Say one Scripture reference aloud.
- Students work individually or in pairs.
- When found, students raise their hands quietly.
- One student reads the verse aloud.
- Encourage kindness and teamwork at all times.

BIBLE NAVIGATION PROGRESS TRACKER (OPTIONAL)

Teachers may use this simple tracker to help students build confidence.

Student Name ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Students may color or check a box as skills develop. * A copy of this is available as a separate document.

BIBLE NAVIGATION GAME CARDS (TEACHER PREP)

Prepare small cards ahead of time or reuse them year to year (Index Cards).

Each card should include:

- Scripture reference only (no verse text)
- Difficulty star(s)
- Example Cards:
 - ★ Genesis 1:1
 - ★ Psalm 133:1
 - ★ ★ John 3:16
 - ★ ★ Proverbs 3:5
 - ★ ★ ★ 2 Timothy 3:16
- Cards may be drawn randomly during review weeks.

CONNECTION TO FUTURE CURRICULUM

The Bible navigation skills learned here will be used throughout every seasonal curriculum. Students are not expected to master this immediately; growth comes through repetition and encouragement.

WEEK 1

THEME: WHO WE ARE: GOD'S FAMILY & OUR CLASSROOM COVENANT

SCRIPTURE (NKJV REFERENCE ONLY):

1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 27 & Psalm 133:1

LESSON OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

Students learn that they are part of **God's family** and that the Sunday School classroom is a sacred space marked by **respect, kindness, safety, and shared responsibility**.

Explain that just as the Church is one Body with many members, the classroom functions best when everyone follows Christ-like behavior. Emphasize that this covenant will guide how the class treats one another all year.

KEY TRUTH

We belong to Christ and to one another.

SCRIPTURE READING

Have a student or teacher read 1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 27 & Psalm 133:1 (NKJV or the Bible used in class).

- God created the Church as **one body with many members**, each with an important role.
- Though believers have different gifts and abilities, all belong to Christ.
- No part of the body is unimportant; every person matters in God's family.
- God calls His people to live together in **unity, love, and mutual care**.
- Psalm 133 celebrates the beauty and blessing of God's people living together in peace.
- Unity among believers brings joy and honors God.
- These passages teach that belonging to God also means **responsibility toward one another**.

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- God’s design for His people includes cooperation, respect, and shared purpose.
- The Church reflects God’s love when its members work together as one.
- This Scripture helps students understand how their classroom reflects the larger family of God.

Teacher Emphasis

- Every student belongs and has value in God’s family.
- Differences among students are gifts meant to strengthen the community.
- Christian unity requires kindness, patience, and respect.
- Older students are called to model leadership through service and example.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (BY AGE)

- **Grades 3–4:** What makes you feel welcome at church or in class?
- **Grades 5–6:** Why is respect important when learning together?
- **Grades 7–8:** How can older students help set the tone for the class?

CRAFT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS (CHOOSE 1–2)

Teachers may choose **1-3 activities** depending on time and age mix. All five are provided.

1. Bible Bookmark (All Ages)

Materials:

- Cardstock strips
- Markers
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon

Steps:

1. Read Psalm 119:105.
2. Write verse reference.
3. Decorate and add ribbon.

2. Liturgical Seasons Wheel (Grades 4–8)

Materials:

- Printed wheel template
- Crayons
- Brass fastener

Steps:

1. Explain church seasons.
2. Color and assemble the wheel.

3. Prayer Ladder (Grades 3–6)

Materials:

- Paper strips
- Glue or tape
- Markers

Steps:

1. Label prayer types.
2. Assemble ladder.
3. Pray together.

4. Lord’s Prayer Hand Motions (Grades 3–5)

Materials:

- Printed Lord’s Prayer sheet

Steps:

1. Read the prayer slowly.
2. Add simple hand motions.
3. Pray together.

5. Scripture Journaling Craft (Grades 7–8)

Materials:

- **Materials (per student):**
 - Journal or lined paper.
 - Pen or pencil

Steps:

1. Provide **7–10 minutes of quiet writing time**.
2. Invite students to write a **3–4 sentence reflection** responding to the lesson's guiding question(s) below.
3. Emphasize that journaling is **private**; students may share **one sentence only if they wish**.
4. Close with a **brief prayer** asking God to help students apply the lesson to their daily lives.

Primary Prompt

“How does God teach me through Scripture?”

Teacher Note:

Journaling encourages personal reflection and prayer. Sharing is always optional.

WEEK 2

THEME: HOW WE LEARN: THE BIBLE, PRAYER, AND ANGLICAN WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE (NKJV REFERENCE ONLY):

- **2 Timothy 3:16**
- **Psalms 119:105**
- **Luke 11:1–4**

LESSON OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

Students learn what the Bible is, how we use it, why we pray, and how Anglican worship shapes our faith.

Demonstrate how to find books of the Bible, explain why Anglicans value Scripture, and introduce the Lord's Prayer as the prayer Jesus taught His disciples.

KEY TRUTH

God teaches and guides us through His Word and prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (BY AGE)

- **Grades 3–4:** Why do we pray?
- **Grades 5–6:** How does the Bible help us make good choices?
- **Grades 7–8:** Why do Anglicans use both Scripture and tradition?

CRAFT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS (CHOOSE 1–2)

1. Bible Bookmark (All Ages)

Helps students remember that God's Word guides us.

Materials:

- Cardstock strips (2 x 6 inches)
- Markers or crayons

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- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon

Steps:

1. Read Psalm 119:105 aloud.
2. Students write or trace the verse reference.
3. Decorate and add ribbon through the punched hole.

2. Liturgical Seasons Wheel (Grades 4–8)

Introduces the Church Year.

Materials:

- Pre-printed wheel template
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Brass fastener (brad)

Steps:

1. Explain that the Church year helps us follow Jesus' life.
2. Color each season.
3. Assemble the wheel with a brad.

3. Prayer Ladder (Grades 3–6)

Teaches different kinds of prayer.

Materials:

- Paper strips
- Glue or tape
- Markers

Steps:

1. Write prayer types on strips (thanksgiving, asking, praise).
2. Glue into a ladder shape.
3. Say one prayer together.

4. Scripture Journaling Craft (Grades 7–8)

Encourages reflection and spiritual maturity.

Materials:

- **Materials (per student):**

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- Journal or lined paper.
- Pen or pencil

Steps:

1. Provide **7–10 minutes of quiet writing time**.
2. Invite students to write a **3–4 sentence reflection** responding to the lesson's guiding question(s) below.
3. Emphasize that journaling is **private**; students may share **one sentence only if they wish**.
4. Close with a **brief prayer** asking God to help students apply the lesson to their daily lives.

Primary Prompt

1. "Read 2 Timothy 3:16- *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

Teacher Note:

Journaling encourages personal reflection and prayer. Sharing is always optional.

CONNECTION TO FUTURE CURRICULUM

The habits learned in this Introduction—reverence for Scripture, respectful discussion, prayer, and Anglican worship—will be practiced throughout every 12-week seasonal unit.

This Introduction does not replace seasonal lessons; it prepares students to engage them faithfully and confidently.