

LESSON 3: LEARNING ABOUT GOD

We believe God is with us because He gives us many signs of His presence. Mountains and vast forests reveal that our Creator is majestic and great. Oceans and rushing waterfalls tell us of His power. Sunsets, fresh flowers reflect God's beauty. The growth and seasons of living things show us that God is wise. And the company of good loving people, teaches us about God's own goodness and love.

When the world was waiting for the Savior, God sent a message to His people through holy men called Prophets. God inspired the Holy men to write down His laws and teachings which are recorded in the Bible. Later God revealed Himself through his son, Jesus Christ.

Bible (the Word of God) has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Old Testament teaches us about creation, our first parents, and the long wait and preparation of God's people for a Savior. The New Testament tells the story of Jesus and how the church began. Scripture and Tradition teach us how to live a good and happy life pleasing to God.

Jesus, our Teacher, called himself the Good Shepherd. He often taught in parables, which had a clear message from God: "Love God with all your heart and soul and might and love your neighbor as yourself". The Pope or the Vicar of Christ takes Jesus' place and teaches and guides us. He is also the Head of the Bishops all over the world.

Words to Know:

Pope:

The chief leader and teacher of the Catholic Church who takes the place of Jesus on earth.

Bishop:

A man who does the work of the apostles and takes care of a large group of Catholics.

Bible:

The Holy Book God gave us.

Old Testament:

The first part of the Holy Bible. It tells us the history and preparation of God's chosen people for the coming of the Savior.

New Testament:

The second part of the Holy Bible. It tells us about the life and teachings of Jesus and the early Church.

Saint:

A holy person who loved God very much on earth and now is in Heaven.

Questions and Answers

1 Can God do anything evil?

No. God cannot do evil, because He cannot will evil, for He is infinite goodness. But He tolerates evil in order to leave creatures free, and He knows how to bring good even out of evil.

2 Who are the Prophets of God?

God sent messages to His people through Holy Men called Prophets. Through these messengers of God or Prophets, God taught mankind to be good, to stop sinning, to love Him, to serve Him, and to trust in Him and wait for the promised Savior.

3 Why is the Holy Bible called the Word of God?

God inspired holy men from the earliest times to write down His laws and teachings. These are recorded in the Bible. That is why we call it the Word of God. We also call it Scripture which means writings.

4 What does the Old Testament teach us?

The Old Testament teaches us about

- i) Creation,
- ii) our first parents,
- iii) the sin,
- iv) the Ten Commandments,
- v) the Prophets, and,
- vi) long wait for a Savior.

5 What does the New Testament teach us?

The New Testament teach us about i) the birth and life of Jesus, ii) Beginning of the Church, iii) Persecution of the early Christians, iv) Acts of the Apostles, v) Journey of the Apostles to various countries, and vi) Letters and Teachings of the Apostles.

6 Why do we call Jesus the Good Shepherd?

We call Jesus the Good Shepherd because He is our God. He watches over us and leads us to God the Father.

Bible Versus:

Therefore, brothers, stand firm and cling to the traditions we taught you, whether by speech or by letter. 2 Thessalonians 2:15

He who has seen me has seen the Father. John 14:9