The conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God is a fundamental belief held by Christians throughout the ages. The Catechism teaches that we call the Scriptures the Word of God “because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.” (1979 Book of Common Prayer, page 853).

The Old Testament: God’s Word to Israel
Christians believe that the Old Testament is as much God’s Word as the New. But the Old Testament is quite different from the New in that it is addressed to the people of Israel from ca. 2000-200 B.C. Anglican worship services usually include separate Old and New Testament readings. The Old Testament contains a wide variety of writings:

- The Pentatuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), in which God chooses, saves, and establishes His covenant with Israel, the children of Abraham.
- The Historical Books, which recount the repeated failure of Israel to keep the covenant and God’s gracious provision of kingship through David's lineage.
- The Prophets, who speak of God’s coming day of judgment and salvation.
- The Wisdom Books and the Psalms, which are Israel’s proverbs for good living, and its prayers and praises for communion with God.

The New Testament: God’s Word Made Flesh in Jesus
God’s Word in the Old Testament prepared the way for His Son. The Old Testament establishes the truth that the Lord is the one God, Creator of heaven and earth; the New Testament reveals the fullness of this God: the Father, who sent His Son into the world to redeem us, and who sends the Holy Spirit into our hearts to bring us to Himself (Gal. 4:4-6). The New Testament also contains a variety of writings:

- The Gospels are “theological biographies” of Jesus, telling the story of His birth, ministry, suffering, death (“passion”), and resurrection.
- The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how the Holy Spirit guided the church to preach the Gospel from Jerusalem, the center of Judaism, to Rome, the center of the Gentile world.
- The Epistles show in various ways what it means for Christians to “live by faith” in the context of the Church as Christ’s Body.
- The Book of Revelation is a vision of Christ’s Second Coming and of the Church’s patient endurance and witness in a hostile world until He comes.

Feeding on the Word of God
Archbishop Thomas Cranmer’s collect (printed on the left) specified several ways we are to feed on God’s Word. Pray it as you Read God’s Word. What will you do this quarter?

- Read the Bible. Spend time reading through the entire Bible. You can follow the “Daily Office Lectionary (1979 Prayer Book, pages 934-1001) or some other plan.
- Study the Bible. “Mark” the Bible by reading commentaries or study guides that explain and relate different parts of the Old and New Testaments.
- Learn the Bible by heart. Memorize key passages and verses. What are some ways you can help your students with this?
- Meditate on the Bible and apply it to your life. As you spend time in God’s Word, ask His Spirit to nourish your life with it.
As Sunday school emphasizes the Bible this quarter, spend time discovering God's Word in your family. Take some time each week (or every other week) to create a family tradition. Spending time in God's Word together can draw your family closer to God and each other. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

Get it on the calendar: Put your Family Bible Night on the calendar. Be flexible in adjusting the time if need be.

Create a plan: How is the evening going to work? You might want to have a favorite dinner to start the evening's fun. Or you may want to have a snack or at the end of your Bible time. Based on the ages of your family members, determine how long you want your activity to last.

Choose a leader for the week: Let each family member take a turn leading the night—even a preschooler. The leader should choose a favorite Bible story or passage, or the Gospel lesson from Sunday's worship, and then decide how to explore it. If a young child is the leader, help him or her prepare by reading the story several times during the week and talking about it. Maybe a family acts out Jesus calling the disciples from Luke 5 with the couch as a boat and a towel as a net. Another week could be a movie night to watch a DVD of a Bible story and then compare it with the passage in the Bible that the movie covers. Be creative! Have fun!

Here's how a FBN (Family Bible Night) went for a family with a ten-year-old boy named Justin and Ella, an eight-year-old girl.

For our first FBN we decided to act out the story of Jesus walking on the water from Mark 6:45–51. After reading the story from the Bible (Our family uses the New International Reader's Version [NIrV] for FBNs because the kids can read it themselves), we acted out the story. Dad was Jesus while Justin, Mom, and Ella were the disciples in the boat. We used our couch for the boat and scattered lots of blue towels around it for the sea. Justin is a hockey player so we used his hockey sticks for oars. After “Jesus” climbed into the boat we had a good talk about things that make us afraid and how we don’t have to be terrified when we are focused on Jesus. We had a short prayer and then pretended to row the boat to shore.

We finished our FBN by making banana splits. Next week is Justin's week to lead our FBN. He's trying to decide between an activity on the Feeding of the 5,000 or watching the oldie, but goodie movie, “The Prince of Egypt” and comparing it the story of Moses in Exodus.
The Annunciation, March 25, celebrates when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be Jesus’ mother. Luke 1:26-38 recounts Mary’s willingness to serve. As an unmarried woman in a culture that emphasized honor, Mary’s “Yes” to God risked everything. However, Mary’s training in the Scriptures as a child and youth prepared her to serve God. Traditional color used in churches is white for purity.

Easter, April 24, is the biggest celebration in the Christian year. The Resurrection is a core Christian belief. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, our faith would be in vain. (See 1 Cor. 15:12-18.) The Resurrection is not a mere comforting myth, but a historic event that demonstrates God’s power. Traditional colors used in churches are white or gold for celebration.

Good Shepherd Sunday, May 15, is the informal name for the fourth Sunday of Easter because the Scripture readings feature John 10 where Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd. Traditional color used in churches throughout Easter is white for celebration.
Lighting the Lamp
Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus’ Love to Toddler/2s and Preschoolers

In your Toddler/2 Classroom

MARCH ACTIVITIES
Reproduce and send home Passing the Torch–Family Edition (Page 2 of this supplement).

The Bible (All month) Set out Bible storybooks in your Books Center. Be sure to have a helper there to read Bible stories to the children and talk about the stories as being from the Bible.

APRIL ACTIVITIES
Teach that The Bible is God’s Word as part of the Bible story on April 3. Use the activity for Toddlers on page 10 of this supplement.

Easter is April 24. At Easter we remember that Jesus died, but became alive again. The butterfly helps us remember that Jesus died and rose again. As an alternate Craft Step, help your toddlers create a butterfly bracelet. Cut 2 x 5 inch pieces of tissue paper or crepe paper streamers in a variety of spring colors. Use the pattern to cut the papers in the shape of wings. Let each child choose 4-5 papers for a butterfly. Help each child stack the papers. Lay the middle of a chenille stem on top of the middle of the stack of papers. Twist the chenille stem around the papers to create the butterfly, then twist the ends of the stem together to create the bracelet. You will need to trim the chenille stems to fit a child’s wrist.

MAY ACTIVITIES
Continue learning about the Bible this month by continuing the Books Center activity from March.

May 15 is Good Shepherd Sunday. Set out several stuffed animal sheep in the Blocks Center. Psalm 23 is a special prayer song from the Bible. It tells us that God is our Shepherd. Let the children play with the sheep. If your toddlers have good verbal skills, help them learn the Bible verse [Jesus said], “I am the Good Shepherd.”

In your Preschool Classroom

MARCH ACTIVITIES
Reproduce and send home Passing the Torch–Family Edition (Page 2 of this supplement).

The Bible (All quarter) Create a picture book in your preschool classroom throughout the quarter. At the end of each lesson’s Bible story, talk about what the Bible tells about what God did or who Jesus is. Draw a simple picture to show what you learned as a class and write it as a sentence on the paper. Put all the pages together in a book and read the book each week during Step 2 of your lesson.

APRIL ACTIVITIES
Teach about The Bible as God’s Word as part of the Bible story on April 3. Use the activity for Preschoolers on page 10 of this supplement.

Easter is April 24. At Easter we remember that Jesus died, but became alive again. The butterfly helps us remember that Jesus died and rose again. As a Step 3 activity, help your preschoolers create butterfly rings. Use the pattern to cut 2 x 4 inch pieces of tissue paper or crepe paper streamers in a variety of spring colors. You will also need two chenille stems for each child cut into 4-inch lengths. Let each child choose 4-5 papers for a butterfly. Help each child stack the papers. Put a chenille stem next to the stack. Help the child place the middle of the second chenille stem on top of the middle of the stack of papers. Twist the chenille stem around the papers and chenille piece to create the butterfly, then shape the ends of the stem together to form the ring. Trim off any excess. To create the antennae, have the child fold the straight chenille stem into a “V”. Curl the ends.

MAY ACTIVITIES
Finish the Bible book from March this month. Let families “check out” the book.

May 15 is Good Shepherd Sunday. Create a worship activity this week. Set several stuffed sheep around the room. Psalm 23 is a special prayer song from the Bible. It tells us that God is our Shepherd. Let the children play with the sheep and take care of them as if they were shepherds. Gather the children together and talk about how they took care of the sheep. Deepen the discussion by asking, “How does Jesus take care of you?” Help your preschoolers learn the Bible verse [Jesus said], “I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11).
Lighting the Lamp
Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus’ Love to Elementary Children

Open up the Bible in the classroom each week. Physically showing children each week where the day’s lesson is in the Bible helps them understand that the passages are in God’s Word. Elementary students are at an age to learn how to find Bible verses and read from the Bible.

Encourage children to either bring Bibles from home each week or supply them in your classroom. You will need Bibles for them to open up and jump into God’s Word! A good example is The NIV Adventure Bible because it includes study note for kids. The New International Reader’s Version would work better for younger elementary students.

In your Early Elementary Classroom

MARCH ACTIVITIES
Reproduce and send home Passing the Torch–Family Edition (Page 2 of this supplement).

The Bible is God’s Word (all quarter) Let children be your helpers while they get into the Bible each week. Designate a Bible to be the one you use when telling the Bible story. Place a colored bookmark in the Table of Contents. Each week, write out the Bible reference for the day’s story as well as the reference of the unit memory verse. Write out the book of the Bible instead of abbreviating it to help children match the names in the Table of Contents with the name on your paper. Encourage a couple of children each week to find the Bible story and the memory verse in the Bible. Be sure to offer bookmarks so that a child can mark the pages. (You might have a helper assist with this as children learn how to find Bible verses.)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. During the season of Lent we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert. The devil tempted Jesus to not obey the Father. The desert is full of barren rocks. Gather several rocks, blank labels, and pencils to use during Lent. At the beginning of your class time each week, ask children to think about the wrong things they are tempted to do. Have them write or draw a temptation on a label and put the label on a rock. Pile the rocks in an area of your classroom. Spend time talking about asking Jesus for help in times of temptation. He knows what temptation is like.

The Annunciation, March 25, is the day to remember the angel Gabriel’s surprise announcement to Mary that she would be Jesus’ mother. As an Extra Time activity, look up Luke 1:26-38 for clues as to how she felt. Write each feeling on a cloudburst and post them in the classroom with a heading.

APRIL ACTIVITIES
Teach that the Bible is God’s Word as part of the Bible story on April 3. Use the activity for Early Elementary children on page 10 of this supplement.

Easter (April 24) is a day for joy! Jesus died but rose again! Jesus is stronger than death. In church, there may be a large candle burning. It reminds us that Jesus is the light and has overcome the darkness of the world. As an additional Step 3 activity, let the children make a reminder of Jesus’ resurrection to take home. After sharing about Jesus as the light of the world, give each child a white taper candle and several Easter and cross stickers. Let the children decorate the candles with the stickers. To keep the stickers on the candles, let the children lightly brush over the stickers with white glue. Encourage the children to have their families use the candles as part of their Easter celebrations.

MAY ACTIVITIES
Good Shepherd Sunday (May 15) This day is nicknamed “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the reading from John 10. As part of a worship time in class, read John 10:1-16 together from the New International Reader’s Version. Use small manipulatives for a tiny scene. After laying down a towel as a field, create a circle with interlocking blocks or rocks with an opening. Using cotton balls for sheep and an action figure as a shepherd, let the children “act” out the verses about the Good Shepherd as you read it one more time. Why is Jesus our Good Shepherd?
MARCH ACTIVITIES
Reproduce and send home Passing the Torch–Family Edition (Page 2 of this supplement).

The Bible as God’s Word (all quarter) Let children be your helpers while they get into the Bible each week. Designate a Bible to be the Bible you use when telling the Bible story. Place a colored bookmark in the Table of Contents. Each week, write out the Bible reference for the day’s story as well as the reference of the unit memory verse. (Use the name of the book of the Bible instead of abbreviating it to help children match the names in the Table of Contents with the name on your paper.) Encourage a couple of children each week to find the Bible story reference and the memory verse page in the Bible. Be sure to supply bookmarks so that a child can mark the pages. (You might have a helper assist with this as children learn how to find Bible verses.)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. During the season of Lent we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert. The devil tempted Jesus to not obey the Father. The desert is full of barren rocks. Gather several rocks, blank labels, and pencils to use during Lent. At the beginning of your class time each week, ask children to think about the wrong things they are tempted to do. Have them write a temptation on a label and put the label on a rock. File the rocks in an area of your classroom. Spend time talking about asking Jesus for help in times of temptation. He knows what temptation is like.

The Annunciation, March 25, is the day to remember the angel Gabriel’s surprise announcement to Mary that she would be Jesus’ mother. As an Extra Time activity, look in Luke 1:26-38 for clues as to how she felt. Write each feeling on a cloudburst and post them in the classroom with a heading.

APRIL ACTIVITIES
Teach the Bible is God’s Word on April 3. Use the activity for Elementary students on page 10 of this supplement as part of the Bible Step.

On April 10, print out these facts:
Hero: Hannah More
When she lived: 1745–1833
Where she lived: England
What she did: Hannah More was a famous author in her time.
    Hannah’s friend William Wilberforce, who led the fight in England to end the slave trade, challenged Hannah to do something for the poor children in her neighborhood. When she visited the local church she found only one Bible; it was propping up a flower pot. She decided to help the children learn to read the Bible.
    Hannah and her sisters started over a dozen schools for children whose parents couldn’t pay for them to learn how to read the Bible. Hannah served Jesus by helping children learn to read the Bible so they could come to know Jesus, too.

Give each child a note card. How did Hannah More serve Jesus? Write a prayer on your card asking Jesus to show you what He wants you to do for Him.

On Easter (April 24) we celebrate that Jesus conquered death when He rose from the dead. As an alternative Step 3 activity, read Luke 24:1-8 together as a class. Let the children create eight-frame comic strips showing the events of the passage and how Jesus gained victory over both sin and death.

MAY ACTIVITIES
Continue your emphasis on the Bible throughout the month of May by continuing to have children find the day’s memory verse and Bible lesson in your classroom Bible.

May 15 is Good Shepherd Sunday. Create an extra Step 3 activity this week. Psalm 23 is a special prayer song from the Bible. It tells us that God is our Shepherd. Read Psalm 23 aloud from your classroom Bible. As a class, create a list on a whiteboard of all the ways a shepherd takes care of sheep. Extend the discussion by drawing parallels to how Jesus takes care of us. Give each child a 1 x 6 inch slip of paper. After the children have written on the strips of paper about one way Jesus takes care of them, have them glue a cotton ball onto one end of the strip. Then have them glue craft eyes onto the cotton balls to make sheep. Use this as a Good Shepherd bookmark.
MARCH ACTIVITIES

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch–Family Edition* (Page 2 of this supplement).

The Bible is God’s Word (all quarter) Encourage students to bring their own Bibles to Sunday school each week. Before beginning Step 2 of each lesson, give students time to find and mark the Bible passages they will study in their Bibles. Construction paper strips work well as bookmarks. The first week, have each student put a colored bookmark in the Table of Contents to help them find the passages easily. Talk about the context of the Bible passages before starting the lesson. Ask the children to read the passages used in the study directly from their Bibles rather than the reprinted sections in Bible Adventures. Encourage students to mark passages they find meaningful to them in their personal Bibles.

For March 6, print out these facts:

**Hero:** John Wesley  
**When he lived:** 1703–1791  
**Where he lived:** England  
**What he did:** John Wesley, a clergyman for the Church of England, traveled to Savannah, Georgia as a missionary. John knew a lot about God, but didn’t know how to trust Him. On the way, his ship was in a bad storm. Some German Christians traveling with him showed John how to trust in Christ, not himself. After returning to England, John began to preach that Jesus takes away sin. He even preached in fields where poor people could come hear him. He and his brother started Methodist societies, where people could learn about Jesus.

John wrote about coming to know Jesus: “I felt my heart strangely warned. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation.” Take an index card. Write down all the things for which you really trust Christ alone.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. During the season of Lent we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert. The devil tempted Jesus to not obey the Father. The desert is full of barren rocks. Gather several rocks, blank labels, and pencils to use during Lent. At the beginning of your class time each week, ask children to think about the wrong things they are tempted to do. Have them write a temptation on a label and put the label on a rock. Pile the rocks in an area of your classroom. Spend time talking about asking Jesus for help in times of temptation. He knows what temptation is like.

The Annunciation, March 25, is the day to remember the angel Gabriel’s surprise announcement to Mary that she would be Jesus’ mother. As an Extra Time activity, look up Luke 1:26-38 for clues as to how she felt. Write each feeling on a cloudburst and post them in the classroom with a heading.

APRIL ACTIVITIES

Expand your use of the Bible as you teach that the *Bible is God’s Word* as part of Step 2 on April 3. Use the activity for Upper Elementary students on page 10 of this supplement.

On Easter (April 24) we celebrate that Jesus conquered death when He rose from the dead. As an alternative Step 3 activity, read Luke 24:1-8 together as a class. Let the children create eight-frame comic strips showing the events of the passage and how Jesus gained victory over both sin and death.

MAY ACTIVITIES

Continue your emphasis on the Bible throughout the month of May by continuing to have students mark the Bible passages for Step 2. As part of your Link to Last week time, share verses with each other that you and students have found particularly encouraging. Challenge students to memorize those verses.

Good Shepherd Sunday (May 15) This day is nicknamed “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the reading from John 10. As part of a worship time in class, read John 10:1-16 together. On a whiteboard, make a list of characteristics of a shepherd. Then create another list of qualities sheep have. Divide the class into a group of boys and a group of girls. Have each group discuss how we are like sheep. Then have them spend time talking about how Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Gather the groups back together and close with a prayer.
Teaching about the Bible to Youth

PASSING THE TORCH

Lighting the Lamp

Reading and learning the Bible is essential to Christian life. Challenge your youth this quarter to grow in their knowledge of the Word of God. Throughout the quarter, take time in class to look at the different reading assigned in the Prayer Book for that week. The Daily Office or Psalms and Lessons for the Christian Year are readings assigned for daily Morning and Evening Prayer. The Lectionary or the assigned Collects, Epistles, and Gospels are the Scripture readings designated for the Sunday service.

If your church is using The Revised Common Lectionary, you can find the Daily Bible Readings at www.crvoice.org/daily.html along with an explanation of how the readings were determined. Use Year 1.

In your Middle School Classroom

MARCH ACTIVITIES
Reproduce and send home Passing the Torch–Family Edition (Page 2 of this supplement).

Set up a Bible exploration challenge for the quarter. First, work with students to make sure they have a Bible to use at home. The NIV Teen Study Bible has helpful notes on relevant issues for teens. Biblegateway.com has many electronic versions available for free on a computer. Teens could also go to the app store for their phone or electronic device to download a Bible app.

This month’s challenge: Explore one book of the Bible thoroughly. Learn as much as you can from that book.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9, and lasts for 40 days plus Sundays. Christians remember Jesus’ time in the desert. Share what the desert is like in Israel—desolate and lonely. (You have permission to print and display the picture on page 11.) Spend class time during Lent for partners to discuss times when they feel desolate and lonely. When are you tempted? Encourage students to share Scripture verses that give them strength.

The Annunciation, March 25, is when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be Jesus’ mother. As an alternate Step 3 activity, have your students read Luke 1:26-38. As an unmarried woman (not much older than they are now) in a culture that emphasized honor, Mary’s “Yes” to God risked everything. Talk about: What risks did Mary take in obeying God? When you are in a risky situation, what Bible verses do you find encouraging?

APRIL ACTIVITIES
Use the Youth activity (on page 10 of this supplement) as a Step 3 activity on April 3.

This month’s Bible challenge: Print out the Daily Office readings for students. Have them read the readings each day for two weeks. What themes or events are covered?

On April 10, set up a Step 3 table activity with Bibles. Reproduce the following:
John Wycliffe (December 31 on the English Church Calendar)
John Wycliffe (c1330–1384) was a leading scholar of his day at Oxford. He advocated that the Bible should be in the language of the people rather than in Latin as only the wealthy and well educated understood Latin. Under his supervision, the first English Bible was produced. Wycliffe also commissioned “poor preachers” to teach the Scriptures to people who had not heard them before.

EXPLORE THE WORD
Look up John 3:16 in your Bible. If you are taking a foreign language, put some of the words into that language? What difficulties would you have in reading the Bible in another language?

Easter is April 24. The Resurrection is a core Christian belief. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, our faith would be in vain. Spend time exploring what Scripture has to say about Easter as a Step 3 activity. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-18. Divide into four groups. Have each group look up the Easter account in a different Gospel. Work together to create a chart showing similarities and differences about the accounts.

MAY ACTIVITIES
Last Bible challenge for the quarter: Ask students to come up with two or three “life verses” and MEMORIZE them. “Life verses” are verses which especially encourage a person. Keep a running list in your classroom of these verses as a share-point for the class.

Good Shepherd Sunday (May 15) is the informal name for the Fourth Sunday of Easter. The Scripture readings feature John 10 where Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd. As a worship activity this day, read through John 10. Discuss how we can “follow him because we know his voice” (John 10:4). Close your worship time with the Collect for the day.

Back in Time

John Wycliff

John Wycliffe +
**In your High School Classroom**

**MARCH ACTIVITIES**

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch–Family Edition* (Page 2 of this supplement).

Set up a Bible exploration challenge for the quarter. First, work with students to make sure that they have a Bible to use at home. The NIV Teen Study Bible has helpful notes on relevant issues for teens. Biblegateway.com has many electronic versions available for free on a computer. Teens could also go to an app store for their electronic device to download a Bible app. This month's challenge: Explore one book of the Bible thoroughly. Learn as much as you can from that book.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9, and lasts for 40 days plus Sundays. Christians observe the 40 days to remember Jesus’ time in the desert. Share what the desert is like in Israel—desolate and lonely. (You have permission to print and display the picture of the desert in Israel on page 11.) Spend class time during Lent for partners to talk about times in their lives when they feel desolate and lonely. When are you tempted? Encourage students to share Scripture verses that give them strength.

The Annunciation, March 25, is when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be Jesus’ mother. As an alternate Step 3 activity, have your students read Luke 1:26-38. Remind students that Mary was probably around their age, or possibly younger. As an unmarried woman in a culture that emphasized honor, Mary’s “Yes” to God risked everything. Talk about: What risks did Mary take in obeying God? When you are in a risky situation, what Bible verses do you find encouraging?

**APRIL ACTIVITIES**

Use the Youth activity on page 10 of this supplement as a Step 3 activity on April 3.

This month’s Bible challenge: Print out the Daily Office readings for students. Have them read the readings each day for two weeks. Ask them to jot down the themes or events covered during that time. Check on what they found each Sunday.

On April 10, set up a Step 3 table activity with Bibles and hymnals. You may want to reproduce the following to place in the area:

**John Newton** (1725–1807) After a rebellious youth, John Newton began a career at sea. He was known to be a rough sailor leading other sailors to curse God. Newton finally became convinced of his sinfulness during a fierce storm. He also became convinced of God's grace to forgive him.

John Newton ended up a slave ship captain. He eventually gave this up and was ordained an Anglican priest. His preaching led many people to the Lord. He also encouraged William Wilberforce in his efforts to abolish slavery in England. Newton is most well know for writing the hymn “Amazing Grace.

**EXPLORE THE WORD**

Read through the words of “Amazing Grace” in a hymnal or online. Consider downloading and playing it for the class. What do the words say about grace? Then look up verses and passages on grace. (You may need to use a concordance or go to Biblegateway.com.) Which verse could become a “life verse” for you?

Easter (April 24) is the biggest celebration in the Christian year. The Resurrection is a core Christian belief. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, our faith would be in vain. The Resurrection is no mere comforting myth, but a historic event that demonstrates God’s power. Check out 1 Corinthians 15:12-18. Spend time exploring what Scripture has to say about Easter as an alternate Step 3 activity. Divide into four groups. Have each group look up the portion of a different Gospel that tells about the Resurrection. Have the groups work together to create a chart showing what is similar and what is different about the accounts.

**MAY ACTIVITIES**

Give one last Bible challenge for the quarter. Ask students to come up with two or three “life verses” and MEMORIZE them. “Life verses” are verses that are especially encouraging. Keep a running list in your classroom of these verses as a share-point for the class.

**Good Shepherd Sunday** (May 15) is the informal name for the Fourth Sunday of Easter because the Scripture readings feature John 10 where Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd. As a worship activity this day, read through John 10. Discuss how we can “follow him because we know his voice” (John 10:4). Close your worship time with the Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.
As Anglicans, we believe the Bible is the Word of God. This quarter, begin some new practices within your Sunday school classroom to bring the children you teach into God's Word each Sunday. Allow space for the Holy Spirit to open God's Word to them.

**Youth**

Give each student a Bible, a Prayer Book, pen and paper. Have the students pick a passage assigned by the Lectionary and spend about 15 minutes alone to answer the following questions:
1. What does the passage say? What happened in the passage?
2. How can one apply the passage to today's living?

At the end of the 15 minutes, hear their answers. Talk about how the Holy Spirit opens up God's Word to us. Encourage teens to spend this type of time in God's Word.

**Upper Elementary, Elementary**

**Teacher Prep:** You will need Bibles, service bulletins, and highlighters. Find the appointed Scripture readings for April 3 in either the Prayer Book or the Common Lectionary.

**Talk Time:** Every Sunday in church, parts of the Bible are read to teach us God's Word. Usually we hear an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a New Testament reading, and a reading from a Gospel. The Gospels tell us about events when Jesus was on earth.

**Explore:** Give each child a bulletin. Working together, find and highlight the Scripture readings and where they occur in the service. Help your older students find the passages in the Bibles. Talk together about the following questions:
1. Why is it important to read the Bible in church?
2. Why do you think we read different parts?

**Early Elementary**

**Teacher Prep:** You will need Bibles, markers, stickers, and 1 ½ inch x 6 inch pieces of cardstock in two different colors for each child. Be ready to show children how to find verses in the Bible as you go through Talk Time.

**Talk Time:** It can be hard to find a Bible verse. Using “BCV” can help us find verses. “B” stands for book. Show the Table of Contents and point to the book of the Bible for your memory verse for the day, then turn to that book in the Bible. “C” is for chapter. Each book is divided into chapters. The big numbers are the chapter numbers. Find the chapter for the verse pointing out the number. And lastly, “V” is the verse. Find the little number in the chapter and you’ve found the Bible verse! Find the verse within the chapter.

**Explore:** Let children make two bookmarks with the letters BCV on them. Help them place one bookmark in the Table of Contents of a Bible. The other bookmark can mark a verse once it’s been found. Give the children time to practice looking up verses. You might want to have several helpers for this activity.

**Toddler/2 and Preschool**

**Teacher Prep:** Print and reproduce several of the Bible coloring project on page 12 of this supplement. You will need crayons for toddlers. For preschoolers, use a white crayon to color a cross on each Bible. Be sure to color enough to leave a heavy wax cross on the paper. You will also need watercolor paints and cups as well as paint shirts.

**Talk Time:** Show the Bible coloring page. This picture can help us think of the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. The Bible tells us how God made the world. The Bible tells about Jesus.

**Explore:** Let the toddlers color the Bibles. Have preschoolers lightly paint with watercolor on their papers. The wax of the crayon cross will not absorb the paint so the cross will “appear” on the Bible. As the children work, talk together about what the Bible tells us.
THE WILDERNESS OF JUDEA

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use only.
The Bible Is God’s Word