

Lesson Plan for Lesson 3

The Bible's Big Picture

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 3, “The Bible’s Big Picture,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles, one for each participant.
- Make copies of the handout “The Prayer of Saint Anselm” (Document #: TX003365), one for each young person.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a meditation on one of the best known prayers in the Bible, known as a canticle. A canticle is a song and refers to hymns (besides the Psalms) that appear in the Bible. **Distribute** the Bibles and ask the participants to find Luke 1:68–79, the Canticle of Zechariah. **Ask** them to think about what God is saying to them as you read the prayer. End the prayer by saying the Glory Be together.

Study It! (40 to 50 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. The Big Picture of Sacred Scripture

1. **(Optional) Distribute** the Bibles, and **lead** the participants in a brainstorming exercise to identify some of the most important people and events in the Bible. Write the names of the people and events on the board as the young people identify them. You may have to offer some clues to help them out.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the sections “The Big Picture of Sacred Scripture,” “Primeval History,” “The Patriarchs,” “Egypt and the Exodus,” “Settling the Promised Land,” “The Kingdoms of Judah and Israel,” and “The Exile and Return,” on pages 30–37 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 7 on the handout “Lesson 3 Summary” (Document #: TX003364).
3. After the young people have finished the reading, **direct** them to the Reflect questions on page 37. **Invite** them to share their thoughts on the last question.

B. The Life of Jesus Christ

1. **Direct** the participants to form groups of three or four, and assign each group a parable from the Gospel of Mark. **Invite** each group to read its assigned parable and to decide as a group what Jesus is trying to teach. **Ask** each group to share with the class its parable and what Jesus was teaching.



2. **Direct** the young people to read the sections “The Life of Jesus Christ,” “The Early Church,” and “The Last Things,” on pages 37–40 in the handbook. The content covers points 8 through 10 on the handout “Lesson 3 Summary.”
3. (*Optional*) When the participants have finished the reading, **ask** them to choose one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) and to make a commitment to read a chapter a day.

C. The Organization of the Bible

Direct the participants to read the section “The Organization of the Bible,” on pages 40–41 in the handbook.

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (10 to 15 minutes)

1. **Direct** the young people to take out their Bibles. **Tell** them to close their eyes, leaf through a few pages of a chosen book in the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, the Gospels, or the Acts of the Apostles, for example), and then stop at a random point. **Ask** the participants to place a finger anywhere on the page, open their eyes, and then silently read the passage closest to their finger. After allowing a moment for them to read their passages, **ask** those who have previously heard their selected passages to raise their hand.
2. **Invite** volunteers to read aloud their passages. **Ask** one of the volunteers to read the first couple verses from his or her passage and then pause. At the pause, **ask** the rest of the young people the following two questions:
 - Can anyone identify and describe the scene or story this reading was taken from?
 - Can anyone guess what the next line or verse is about?

After the group offers a few guesses, **ask** the volunteer who read the initial verses to read the next three or four verses to determine whether any of the guesses were correct. Repeat the exercise, with the other volunteers reading their passages, as time allows. This exercise is intended to lead the participants to a realization that they know more about Scripture than they might have thought.

3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:
 - The Bible consists of various types of literature that, when read and studied as a whole, reveal God’s saving love and plan for our salvation.
 - The big picture of God’s relationship with the human race is called salvation history. It shows how God has worked within the people and events of human history to restore lost union with God.
 - The Gospels tell how God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to conquer sin and death forever. This is the culmination of salvation history. Through Christ Jesus’ sacrifice, God establishes his New Covenant with the human race.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)



Following any announcements, **distribute** the handout “The Prayer of Saint Anselm” (Document #: TX003365), one to each young person. **Ask** a volunteer to read Philippians 2:6–11 (a canticle) in the Bible. Close by **inviting** everyone to pray together the prayer of Saint Anselm on the handout.

