

# The Bible: The Old Testament

## Chapter 5 Summary

### Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the four sections of the Old Testament and some important people and events found in them.
- The participants will explore how understanding the Chosen People's relationship with God helps us to understand our own faith better.

### Content Summary

1. Jesus was a Jew. Our faith is built upon the Jewish faith practiced by Jesus. We are the spiritual descendants of the Jewish people.
2. To understand our faith better, it helps to understand the Chosen People's relationship with God. We do this by studying and praying with the Old Testament.
3. The Old Testament is divided into four major sections: the Pentateuch, the historical books, the wisdom and poetry books, and the prophets.
4. The Pentateuch is the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These books teach us about God's plan for salvation.
5. The historical books were written to emphasize God's actions in history.
6. The wisdom and poetry books include teachings on ways to be a wise person, to live a good and holy life. The poetry books include songs of praise, wise sayings, advice on living a good life, and a song celebrating love between a man and a woman, symbolizing God and his people.
7. The books of the prophets reveal the preaching of various prophets, usually touching on the failures of God's people: idolatry, injustice, and false worship. The messages of the prophets also include messages of hope: God is faithful, the faithful will survive, God will send a Messiah.
8. The Holy Spirit continues to act in the Church today, bringing people to Christ. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand Jesus' death and Resurrection, and makes the mystery of Christ present in the Eucharist and in the other Sacraments. The Holy Spirit works in the Church to build her up, to bring her life, and to make her holy.

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