1. The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8: 4 – 8)
   A man sowed seed in a field and some fell on:
   - A path which was stepped on or ate by birds.
   - Rocky ground, which sprouted quickly then dried up.
   - Among the thorn bushes and was choked.

   After discussion, children illustrate the parable.

   The meaning of the Parable includes:
   - Some people start out being good and are approached by others who lead them astray or surround themselves by others who will lead them astray or tempted by material possessions.

   Discussion on how children in school can be led astray or blame others – “He told me to do it!”

   Children write a prayer asking God’s help to resist temptation.

2. The growth cycle from seed to fruit:
   - If a seed is placed in good soil it still needs to be protected as it grows into a healthy plant.

   - Warmth: Surround yourself with good friends.
   - Water & Nutrients: Knowledge & advice on how to deal with difficult situations (e.g., Bible).
   - Sunlight: God’s guidance & help (Prayer).
   - Insecticides: Protection from bad influences (Prayer & Holy Spirit).

   Children draw a poster on one of the above items.

   Children write their own Class Rules.

3a. Galations 5: 19 – 26
   - People who:
     - fight or fall out
     - Show jealousy
     - Get angry quickly
     - Are over ambitious
     - Gang together in groups

   Will be not be helped by the Spirit and will be SAD!

   - People who:
     - Love
     - Show Joy and kindness
     - Have patience
     - Are humble
     - Are faithful and good
     - Show self control

   Will gain the benefits of the Spirit and help control our lives and make us HAPPY!

   Illustrate in 2 pictures people Happy & Sad because of their actions.

3b. Discuss examples of this in the World and class rules.

4. Look at “Caring Assembly” Materials

   Children learn the song.

5. John 3:16
   - “For God loved the World so much he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.”

   God forgave humans for their mistakes by sending His Son to teach us the GOD NEWS that he who accepts that he has sinned and asks for forgiveness will have eternal life.

   Write a prayer about following God’s example & forgiving others when they say sorry and mean it.
1. The Bible
   a) Information sheet and questions
   The history of its’ origin and contents, Old and New Testaments explained.
   b) Information sheet and questions
   The breakdown of each the Testaments:
   Old Testament: The Law, History, Poetry & wisdom and the Prophets

2. The History of Israel – Fact sheet

3. What the Bible means for us today.
   It isn’t just about what has happened before we were born, but about experiences we may have in our lives and how we can possibly deal with them.
   Pupils volunteer examples:
   Eg
   • Jesus laughed at by the soldiers
   • Jesus was bullied by the soldiers
   • What do bullies do today?
   • How can we deal with this?
   • Jesus helped others by trusting and sharing
   • Jesus shared his knowledge by telling stories.
   • Enemies can change & be friendly – Good Samaritan
   • Listen to good advice & you’ll benefit - Parable of the Sower
   • Surround yourself with good people - Parable of the Sower
   • What you sow, you will reap – be good to others & they’ll be good to you
   • People who are bad always end up sad – the Flood & the Israelites escaping from Egypt

4. The Saints
   Information sheets and questions
   a) Saints in general
   b) Saint Stephen

5. Advent & Christmas
   Nativity Booklet
   Prophecies
   Place of birth          Micah 5:2          Matthew 2:1
   Born of a Virgin        Isaiah 7:14        Matthew 1:18
   Slaughter of Innocents  Jeremiah 31:15      Matthew 2:16
   Escape to Egypt         Hosea 11:1          Matthew 2:14
   As a Prophet            Deuteronomy 18:15   John 6:14
   Rejection               Isaiah 53:3         John 1:11
   Triumphant Entry        Zechariah 9:9       John 12:13-14
   Betrayed by a friend    Psalm 41:9          Mark 14:10
   Sold for Silver         Zechariah 11:12      Matthew 26:15
   Money returned          Zechariah 11:13      Matthew 27:6-7
   Soldiers cast lots for His clothes Psalm 22:18 Mark 15:24
   Not a bone broken       Psalm 34:20         John 19:33
The Bible and what it contains

The Old Testament

The Book of the Law is really just the first 5 books, which the Jews call the "Book of the Law." It includes the history of the Creation and Abraham through to Joseph. It includes also the 10 Commandments which are God’s Rules.

The History in the next 12 books includes the story of Joshua (and his famous Battle of Jericho) to the invasion, & defeat, of God’s people by the Babylonians & Persians (now IRAQ !) and their return to the Promised Land.

Poetry and Wisdom is given in the next 5 books. Job is a drama, the Psalms are poetry & songs for worship, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes contain wise sayings, and the Song of Solomon is a Love poem.

The Prophets record their messages in the last 17 books. They encouraged people to worship God and in warned of the punishment when they disobeyed and returned to Idols. God enabled some of these men to look into the future & predict what would happen.

The New Testament

The first 4 books are called Gospels which means Good News. The aim of these 4 writers was to tell the historical life story of Jesus before all those who had actually seen & known Him died, so that people could have an accurate record based on evidence from eye-witnesses.

Luke (the Greek Doctor who went with Paul on his journeys) also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, which is the story of how the church grew after Jesus died.

A collection of 21 Letters make up the rest of the New Testament. They were written by Christian leaders (13 by Paul) to churches springing up all over the Middle East. They contain teaching, encouragement & warm personal greetings, as well as some sharp criticism where Christians were getting things wrong.

The last book is unique. It is a vision of the future - The Revelation

Pupils write a prayer for understanding when reading the Bible and thanks for all the wisdom in it.
**The History of Israel**

1650 B.C.  
A small group lived in Palestine and then moved to Egypt. The leaders were Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Jacob changed his name to Israel. The 12 tribes of Israel were the families of the 12 sons of Jacob.

1280 B.C.  
Moses took the 12 tribes of Israel back to Palestine through the Sinai Desert.

1250 B.C.  
The story of Joshua.

1020 B.C.  
Israel becomes a Nation. Samuel, Saul, David and Solomon.

950 B.C.  
The Nation was divided into 2: Judah and Israel.

850 B.C.  
Prophets Elijah and Elisha.

750 B.C.  
Prophets Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Micah.

721 B.C.  
The Assyrians conquered Israel.

[ The end of Israel ]

[ Christ was Born! ]

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**The Christmas story told by Luke:**

The writer of Luke believed that God’s love and forgiveness are available to all mankind, especially the poor and outcast and that His love triumphs over evil and death. The story tells how heaven rejoiced at the Messiah’s birth though the baby was born in poor circumstances and worshipped by the poor and humble.

Jesus is for the ordinary people!

**The Christmas story told by Matthew:**

The writer of Matthew was concerned with the fulfilment of Jewish hopes; the hope of a King, like David, who would rule the nation in freedom and peace; the hope of a Law-giver like Moses. The birth story tells of how wise men from the east came to honour a humbly born descendant of David and how the baby escaped from dangers similar to Moses.

Jesus is a leader and King!

**The Christmas story told today:**

These 2 versions of the Christmas story are often put together, along with other additions. We need to read the stories again to see how the originals are different. In Nativity scenes all the various characters are seen together, along with ox and ass and other animals, but this was not the case.
For Saints Days:
Lord we thank you for those people we call Saints (like Saint ..........) who lived very Holy lives. They followed the example of Jesus, and some even died for being a Christian. They must have been very brave people, some of who did heroic deeds. We are glad to live in a country where our lives are not in danger for being a Christian. We ask you to help us to be brave and strong enough to be good Christians, even when others tempt us to do wrong.
Saints lived very Holy Lives and we want to follow their example. Saints are like candles in the dark - showing us the way to go. We too can be a light - guiding others to you. Help us, when it is not so easy to be a Christian, to be like a Saint - to be brave and strong for you.
Amen
The Angel Visits Mary

The Angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that she had been chosen by God. She would have a son who should be called Jesus. He will become a King.

Mary Thanks God

Mary stayed with her cousin, Elizabeth, for 3 months. Mary told her about the Angel’s visit and said that she was very pleased. “Thank you, God, for choosing me to be the Mother of Jesus. People will always remember me.”

Pay your Taxes

DAILY NEWS: The Roman Emperor Augustus ordered everyone to pay his or her taxes. First of all they had to go to the town where they were born, to sign their name. Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, which was the City of David.

No Room at the Inn

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they found no room at the Inn. There were so many people in Bethlehem that it was crowded. They were given a space in the stable because Mary was ready to have her baby. When Jesus was born, he was put into a manger – which is a food tray for cattle.

Glad Tidings from the Angel

There were shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. An Angel came to tell them: “Do not be afraid! I am here to give you GOOD NEWS! Today, in David’s town of Bethlehem, your Saviour has been born!”

The Shepherds visit Jesus

The Angels sang: “Glory to God in the highest and peace on Earth! The shepherds then went to Bethlehem to see Jesus in the manger. They told Mary about the visit of the Angels and she was pleased.

In Herod’s Court

Herod was the King of Judea at the time when Jesus was born. When the Wise Men came to him to see the new King, he was upset. Herod asked the Wise Men to come back to tell him where Jesus was, so that he too could go to see him.

The Wise Men find Jesus

The Wise Men followed the star to Bethlehem where they found Mary and Jesus in a house. They gave him gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. God told them to go straight home and not to tell Herod where Jesus was.

Mary escapes, with Jesus, to Egypt

An Angel came to Mary and told her that Herod was looking for Jesus – to kill Him! She went to Egypt so that Herod could not find them.

The children are killed

Herod found out that the Wise Men had gone home without telling him where Jesus was. He was so angry that he ordered all the boys under 2 years old, to be killed! This was done!
BEGINNING

EPIPHANY
Story of the Wise Men, flight to Egypt and return to Nazareth – this was a new beginning in a new community. This was the fulfilment of God’s promise to bring a Saviour out of Egypt.

Matt 2:14-15 Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt where he stayed until Herod died. This was done to make what the Lord had said through the prophet come true, “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

Matt 2:19-23 After Herod died, and Angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, and take the child and his mother, and go back to the land of Israel, because those who tried to kill the child are dead.” So Joseph got up, took the child, and his mother, and went back to Israel.
But when Joseph heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as King of Judaea, he was afraid to go there. He was given more instructions in a dream, so he went to the province of Galilee and made his home in a town named Nazareth. And so what the prophets had said came true: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Hosea 11:1 The Lord says, “When Israel was a child, I loved him and called him out of Egypt as my son.”

THE NAMING OF JESUS
The prophecy of Anna says Jesus was to be the redeemer of Israel.

Luke 2:36-38 There was a very old prophetess, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for 7 yrs and was now 84 yrs old. She never left the Temple; day & night she worshipped God, fasting & praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

LIFE OF JESUS
Maturing in Nazareth – look at images of life at the time. Growing in responsibility

Luke 2:51-52 So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and men.

Little is known of his teenage years.

Luke 4:22 They were all well impressed with Him and marvelled at the eloquent words that he spoke. They said, “Isn’t he the son of Joseph?”

John 6: 41-42 The people started grumbling about Him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” So they said, “This man is Jesus son of Joseph, isn’t he? We know his father & mother. How, then, does he now say he came down from heaven?”
The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32
A new beginning – starting afresh.