

## YEAR 5/6 RE HOME LEARNING – Sources (Learning Focus 1)

### 1. Read:

The Bible is by far the best-selling book of all time. The word Bible means book, although actually it is a collection of different kinds of books or writings, which we call Holy Scripture. It tells of God's love and how people responded to that love. The books of the Old Testament tell of the events before the coming of Jesus. The New Testament tells of the birth, life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus and of how the Church began and grew as it spread the Good News.

Much of what is in the Bible started with telling a story by word of mouth and passing it on from one generation to the next. Gradually, over a very long period of time the stories were written down. There are seventy-three books in the Bible, forty-six in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. Nobody knows exactly when each book was written. We do know that it took a thousand years or more for all the books to be completed. The last book was written at the end of the first century AD.

Over many years, many different authors have contributed writings, so there are poetry, letters, prayers, history, documentaries, drama, legend, biography in fact any kind of writing or genre that you would find in a good library. All these authors, regardless of the style in which they wrote, wanted to tell one thing – the truth about God and his love for his people.

The Holy Spirit inspired the authors in their writing. This is why the Church family believes that the Holy Spirit is also the author of the Bible. When Christians read the Bible or listen to the Readings during the Liturgy of Word at Mass, God is truly present and those who hear the Word come, through the power of Holy Spirit, to know and love God the Father and Jesus who was sent by God, to show God's love for everyone. It was written in three different languages and on three different continents. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, with a few chapters in the prophecies of Ezra and Daniel written in Aramaic. Whilst the New Testament was written in different languages, mainly Greek. Its many authors include fishermen, kings, prophets, poets and musicians. The Bible has been translated into countless different languages and versions.

The Bible is divided into two sections:

The Old Testament – texts written before Jesus Christ was born and covering God's dealings with the ancient Hebrew world and its people.

The New Testament – writings following the death of Jesus and covering his life and teaching, the establishment of the Christian church, and letters from church leaders.

### 2. Respond:

These are the names of some of the books from the Bible, your task is to find out whether they are books from the Old Testament or the New Testament. Write a table to organise your work.

- **Psalms**
- **Ezra**
- **Exodus**
- **1 Corinthians**
- **Acts of the Apostles**
- **Job**
- **Deuteronomy**
- **Luke**
- **Romans**
- **Kings**
- **Matthew**
- **Numbers**