



God's Plan in Scripture (GPS)

Frequently Asked Questions

Table of Contents

<i>What is God's Plan in Scripture (GPS)?</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>How can GPS benefit my parish, school, or homeschool program?.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>What makes the GPS program unique?.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>What are the main topics covered in the GPS program?.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>What components are included in the GPS program?.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>How is the Bible used in the GPS program?</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>How does the GPS program work?.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>What is the Storybook?.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>How can a single Storybook be used for grades K-6?.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>How does the Teacher's Guide work with the various grades?</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Should each student have a copy of the workbook?</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>What are the Plays?.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>What comes with the Student Pack?.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>What grade levels can study the GPS program?</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>How can the GPS program be used with students who are just learning to read?.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>How long are the lessons in GPS?.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>How does GPS fit into your existing curriculum? In what settings can it be used?.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Is the GPS program intended to be taught to a single grade level or can several grade levels experience the program together?.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>How has the Storybook been revised from the previous version? Can I use an older Storybook with the new GPS materials?</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>How has the Teacher's Guide been revised? Can I use the previous version of the Teacher's Guide with the new GPS materials?</i>	<i>6</i>



God's Plan in Scripture (GPS)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is *God's Plan in Scripture (GPS)*?

God's Plan in Scripture (GPS) is a twenty-four-lesson Scripture study program for students in grades K-6+ in Catholic parishes, schools, homeschools, and family formation programs. It is designed to take children on an amazing journey through the story of salvation. *GPS* gives them the keys to understanding the amazing story of salvation woven throughout Scripture.

The *GPS* program uses the same easy-to-follow approach as the adult *Great Adventure Bible Timeline*®, which revolutionized Bible studies by dividing the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make it easier to follow the narrative. Students will discover how the people, places, and events of the Bible come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith.

The *GPS* program is designed to teach the Bible to students at three levels: Beginner (kindergarten through second grade), Intermediate (third through fifth grade), and Advanced (sixth grade and up).

How can *GPS* benefit my parish, school, or homeschool program?

GPS was created to pass on the story of salvation to our children. It helps them understand that the Bible is a timeless collection of stories, teachings, and events inspired by God and written for our benefit. Children will also learn how each individual story forms part of the “big picture” of salvation history—and the part they play in this “big picture” as well.

By learning how to read the Bible, parents, teachers, and children alike can develop a deeper relationship with God as they learn more about themselves and how they fit into God's Plan in Scripture.

What makes the *GPS* program unique?

GPS is the only twenty-four-lesson, comprehensive Catholic Scripture study program currently available for grades K–6+. It divides the story of salvation into twelve color-coded time periods to make the narrative easier to understand. This unique approach to Bible study is pedagogically designed to give students an in-depth understanding of the major people and events of salvation history and how this relates to their own lives.

What are the main topics covered in the *GPS* program?

The *GPS* program covers the main people, places, and events of salvation history as recorded in Sacred Scripture. Beginning with the story of Creation, *GPS* looks at Adam and Eve and the Fall, and then discusses how God called Abraham to form his Chosen People. It presents the six covenants God made with humanity through Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and, finally, Jesus. It follows the ever-growing People of God through each of these covenants: from a couple (Adam and Eve), to a family (Noah), a tribe (Abraham), a nation (Moses), a kingdom (David), and one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church (Jesus Christ).

GPS teaches how the divided kingdoms of the Israelites fell into sin, how the Lord allowed them to be conquered by foreign nations, and how they repented and were eventually restored to the Promised Land. Later chapters focus on the life of Jesus and his teachings, his founding of the Church, and his passion, death, and resurrection. It also examines in detail the life of the early Church.

<i>GPS</i> Lesson Titles	
1. Finding the Story in Scripture	13. Divided Kingdom Part I: The Kingdom of Israel Divides: Events of the Northern Kingdom of Israel
2. Early World Part I: God Creates Our First Parents	14. Divided Kingdom Part II: The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah are Conquered: Events of the Southern Kingdom of Judah
3. Early World Part II: God's Family Grows	15. Exile: The Exiles Mourn Over Jerusalem
4. Patriarchs Part I: God Chooses Abraham to Become the Father of Many	16. Return: The Exiles Return to Jerusalem
5. Patriarchs Part II: God Blesses Isaac, Jacob and Joseph	17. Maccabean Revolt: The Maccabees Defend the Faith
6. Egypt and Exodus Part I: God Delivers the Israelites from Egyptian Slavery	18. Messianic Fulfillment Part I: Jesus, the Son of God, is Born of Mary
7. Egypt and Exodus Part II: God Forms the Israelite Nation	19. Messianic Fulfillment Part II: Jesus Teaches About the Kingdom of God
8. Desert Wanderings: The Israelites Follow God in the Desert	20. Messianic Fulfillment Part III: Jesus Establishes the New Covenant
9. Conquest and Judges Part I: The Israelites Enter the Promised Land	21. The Church Part I: The Holy Spirit Ignites the Church
10. Conquest and Judges Part II: The Judges Lead the Israelite Tribes	22. The Church Part II: The Apostles Spread the Gospel

11. Royal Kingdom Part I: The Israelites Ask for a King	23. The Church Part III: All Are Welcome in the Church
12. Royal Kingdom Part II: God Builds a House Through David and Solomon	24. The Church Part IV: The Kingdom of God Is Eternal

What components are included in the *GPS* program?

The *GPS* program includes the Storybook, Teacher’s Guide, Workbooks (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced), Plays, *Bible Timeline* Chart, and *Bible Timeline* Bookmark.

How is the Bible used in the *GPS* program?

The *GPS* program is centered on the story of salvation as it is presented in the Old and New Testaments. In each lesson, students read selected passages from the Bible, or, for younger students, the verses can be read by a teacher or parent. While the program utilizes the RSV–2CE translation, any Catholic Bible can be used. *The Great Adventure Catholic Bible*, which uses the color-coded *Bible Timeline* and the RSV-2CE translation, is ideal for the program and can be purchased separately.

How does the *GPS* program work?

Students read (or have read to them) Scripture passages at home or in class. The Storybook then presents these Bible stories in a way adapted for young students. Workbook activities and exercises reinforce students’ comprehension of the lesson and practical exercises help them to apply what they have learned in their own lives. If time allows, extra hands-on activities are available for students, as well as the Plays to enhance the learning experience. Additional components that complement the program include the *Kids Bible Timeline* Chart and Bookmark.

What is the Storybook?

The Storybook is the central component of the *GPS* program. It presents the narrative story of salvation in an easy-to-understand, engaging way that complements and reinforces the assigned Scripture passages for each lesson. The Storybook helps students, children, and families experience the key people, places, and events of the Bible in twenty-four lessons. It includes Scripture reading checklists, summaries, references to sacraments, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

A single Storybook is used for all grade levels. Parents and teachers should have a copy of the Storybook for younger children (K–2) so that they can read and discuss the Bible stories with them. Children in grades 3–6+ should have their own copy of the Storybook so they can read the

stories themselves or follow along in a group session. Since reading levels may vary, we recommend that you review the Storybook to determine the appropriate age usages.

How can a single Storybook be used for grades K-6?

The *GPS* program is designed for easy differentiation for all levels of learning from grades K-6+. Teachers and parents can read the material to the younger students, explaining the stories as they go, while older students can read the Bible passages and the Storybook for themselves. The three different workbooks feature a variety of exercises designed to reinforce each lesson at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Each lesson has activities for all three levels, making it possible to teach several students of different ages at the same time.

How does the Teacher's Guide work with the various grades?

A single Teacher's Guide has been designed to be used by all grade levels. It includes opening and closing prayers, additional questions, practical and engaging activities, answer guides for each workbook (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced), and snack ideas. The Teacher's Guide provides practical tips to help teachers adapt the lessons for each grade level and for different learning styles.

Should each student have a copy of the workbook?

Yes. Students should have their own copies of the appropriate workbook for their grade level: Beginner (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), or Advanced (6+).

Each workbook has hundreds of activities, exercises, and questions designed to reinforce the students' comprehension of the lesson and how it applies to their daily lives. Each workbook utilizes different learning styles for the appropriate age level.

What are the Plays?

The Plays are a collection of multi-character skits that are designed to be acted out by older students and viewed by younger learners. These plays feature numerous biblical characters and help students learn the stories of the Bible in a fun and engaging way. Each play corresponds to a particular lesson, reinforcing its content. In smaller classes, students can act out more than one part.

What comes with the Student Pack?

A Student Pack is available for each of the three grade levels. It includes a Storybook, Workbook, a *Bible Timeline* Chart, and a *Bible Timeline* Bookmark. Ordering the Student Pack offers cost savings over ordering each component separately.

What grade levels can study the *GPS* program?

The *GPS* program can be used with students in grades K–6+. The Teacher’s Guide assists educators and parents to adapt the program successfully for each grade level, and the three workbooks (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced) contain hundreds of activities, questions, and games that address different learning styles at an age-appropriate level.

How can the *GPS* program be used with students who are just learning to read?

Catholic children of all ages listen to the Bible proclaimed at Mass. The authors of the *GPS* program, as parents and educators, believe it is essential for students of all grade levels to experience the actual words of Sacred Scripture. For students who are just learning to read, *GPS* requires parents or teachers to read the actual Bible readings and then discuss the readings in a way that their students can understand. In class or at home, teachers can read, explain, and discuss the Storybook lessons in an age-appropriate manner. Workbook exercises and activities help to reinforce the Bible stories that the children have just learned, aid in their comprehension of the lesson, and show how salvation history and the great biblical heroes are relevant to their lives.

How long are the lessons in *GPS*?

The *GPS* lessons can be tailored to last from less than one hour to two hours or more in length. The lesson time can vary depending on which components you choose to teach. A variety of activities, discussion questions, and plays are provided.

How does *GPS* fit into your existing curriculum? In what settings can it be used?

The *GPS* program fits well into existing school, parish, or homeschool programs. It is also ideal for family catechesis, especially if used in conjunction with *The Bible Timeline*, as both programs follow the same twenty-four-lesson content framework. The twenty-four lessons can be taught over the course of an academic year or during a summer program. In parish programs or schools, *GPS* can be used as a Scripture track if another curriculum is also being used. It can also be used in addition to an existing program.

Is the *GPS* program intended to be taught to a single grade level or can several grade levels experience the program together?

GPS offers teachers the flexibility of teaching a single grade level in a single class or several grade levels together. The program has all of the components necessary to adapt the lessons to students in a single grade level. *GPS* has been successfully implemented in classes where several grade levels are studying the program at the same time. When several grade levels are present, older students can read from the Bible and Storybook, while the younger students listen and the teacher explains the lesson in an age-appropriate manner. Later, each student can work in his or her own workbook, which is specifically designed for their particular grade level.

In addition, older students can put on one of the Plays, while younger students watch. The workbook contains activities to keep the younger students engaged while older students are practicing their lines. Performing a play is an ideal way to reinforce the lesson for both older and younger students alike.

How has the Storybook been revised from the previous version? Can I use an older Storybook with the new *GPS* materials?

The main content of the Storybook has not changed, but an all-new graphic layout makes it more engaging and easier to follow. In addition, the new Storybook includes some minor stylistic edits. For these reasons, the page numbers in the old Storybook do not align with the new Workbooks and revised Teacher's Guide, so this would need to be considered when using the older edition in a classroom setting.

How has the Teacher's Guide been revised? Can I use the previous version of the Teacher's Guide with the new *GPS* materials?

While the revisions to the Teacher's Guide have been minor, the page numbers of the previous version do not align with the new Workbooks. In addition, some of the answer keys have been changed. For these reasons, we recommend using the revised Teacher's Guide.