

6TH GRADE

FOUNDATIONS

Old Testament: Ezra – Song of Songs

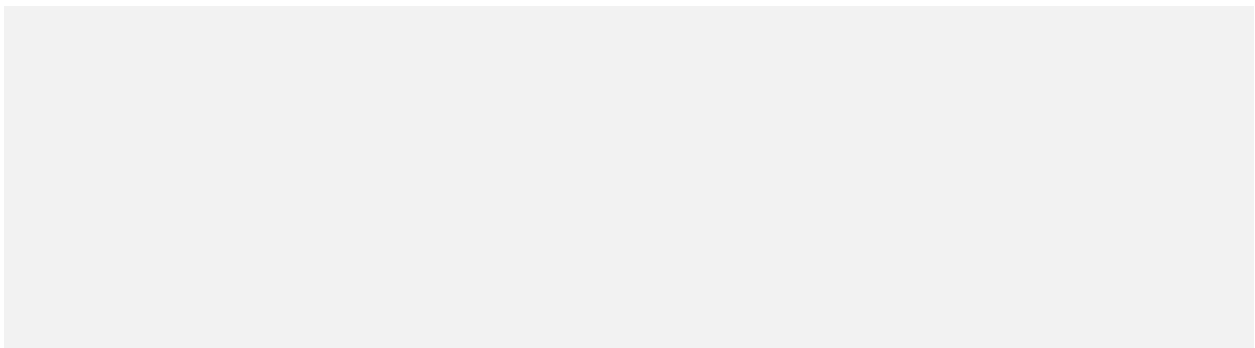
OVERVIEW

The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament and focus on Creation, Covenant, and the people of God. Then, the historical books begin to give a detailed report following the people of God as they move into the Promised Land, have good kings and bad kings, and the fall of Israel and Judah. At the end of 2 Chronicles, the Southern Kingdom, Judah fell to the Persians in 586 B.C. This led to the exile of the Israelites into different nations throughout the region. Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are the historical accounts of what happened to the God's people after the fall of Israel and Judah. The rest of the section is wisdom and poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. There is no specific timeline for the poetic/wisdom literature, they cover a large timeline throughout the Old Testament.

ON YOUR OWN

Why do you think poetry is important? Why would God include all these different types of writing in His word?

Write how many chapters are in each of the poetry/wisdom books.



LARGE GROUP

- I. Ezra & Nehemiah
 - Ezra is the cupbearer to the king
 - King Cyrus made a decree that all Jewish exiles could return to their homeland
 - Jewish people return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple
 - Read Ezra 3:11-13
 - Ezra recounts the start and finish of the Temple
 - Nehemiah recounts the finish of the city of Jerusalem and the wall
 - **MAJOR THEME:** God protects His people and is faithful to bring His purposes!
- II. Esther
 - Jewish girl becomes the queen of Persia
 - *What does this tell you about how God works?*
 - Went to the king to reveal a plot against the Jewish people
 - **MAJOR THEME:** God is sovereign and will fulfill His Covenant with Abraham through His people!
- III. Job
 - Wisdom literature
 - Dialogue between God and Satan
 - **MAJOR THEME:** God is Sovereign over all, human reasoning will fall short.
- IV. Psalms
 - Poetry
 - A collection of poems and songs written throughout the timeline of the nation of Israel
 - Many authors, including King David, King Solomon, and many who served in worship practices
 - Tons of ideas and themes, all point our hearts to worship God
- V. Proverbs
 - Wisdom literature
 - A collection of wisdom written by King Solomon, the wisest man on earth
 - 1 Kings 3:1-15
- VI. Ecclesiastes
 - Wisdom literature
 - Written by Solomon
 - “The theme of Ecclesiastes is the necessity of fearing God in a fallen, and therefore frequently confusing and frustrating, world” (ESV Study Bible, p. 1193).
- VII. Song of Solomon/Songs

- Poetry literature written by King Solomon
- Surrounds a love story between a young man and young woman
- Explores themes such as love, covenant, relationship between men and women, relationship between God and people, etc.
- Sin causes damage to relationship; redemption is required and possible.

SMALL GROUPS

There is a lot to learn! What is one thing that sticks out to you from this?

Why do you think God wrote in so many different ways through people to create the Bible?

What can different styles of writing help us understand?

TAKE IT HOME

Read Psalm 1 with a parent/guardian, this sets the stage for the entire book of Psalms. What does it tell you? Underline, highlight, rewrite important words and phrases. What is one line that sticks out to you and what does it mean?