



The MBPC Texter

... get into scripture – an ancient form of text messaging

Issue 8: Monday, October 29, 2018

Lectionary Year B



Sunday, November 4, 2018
24st Sunday after Pentecost and 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Green is the liturgical color for Ordinary Time.)

Gospel Reading (sermon text) Mark 12: 28-34	Epistle Reading Hebrews 9:11-14
<p>In the list of the gospels, the first four books of the New Testament, the gospel of Mark appears second – after Matthew and before Luke and John. Even so, most scholars conclude Mark was the first-written and that the authors of Matthew and Luke used it as a source. The completion of a manuscript of Mark’s gospel is dated after 65 C.E. and before the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70. Like all of the early writings about Jesus, copies of Mark’s gospel were sent to different cities where new Christian churches were being formed. Mark does not tell us anything about Jesus’ birth and childhood; and Mark 1 begins with the story of Jesus’ baptism by John. The 16 chapters of Mark’s gospel describe Jesus as a person of action and power. He called the disciples, performed miracles, and healed the sick. In the Gospel according to Mark, the teachings of Jesus to his followers are described as being grounded in the Old Testament scriptures, particularly the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses and the Israelites at Mt. Sinai.</p>	<p>The letter to the Hebrews argues that, through Christ, believers have direct access to God. This epistle, which is actually more like a sermon, proclaims that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and the savior of all people:</p> <p><i>Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds (Hebrews 1:1-2).</i></p> <p>We do not know who wrote the letter, when it was written, or for exactly whom it was written. The HarperCollins Study Bible suggests a possible audience as Jewish Christians living in Rome, where Christians continued to speak Greek well into the second century. Containing many references to the Old Testament, the Letter to the Hebrews encourages Christians to follow Christ’s example and live as he did – to be faithful, hopeful, loving, and patient in the face of adversity and persecution.</p>



✝ Sharing 365 Stories of our Faith with Children ✝

Dear Parents and Grandparents,



shutterstock.com · 572074042

For many years, Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church has presented *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* to its first graders on Rally Day Sunday. A strong point of this book is the close connections which can be drawn between the included stories and specifically cited books of the Bible (even when two texts are blended in some stories). After reading many of these stories and reflecting on them for "The MBPC Texter," I note that this book is written on a high reading level. Even so, recent brain research indicates that young minds of all children are much more

capable than we previously realized. Therefore, as an educator, I suggest engaging with the stories in this book on a succession of levels.

- **Level 1:** Read the stories first to yourself as recreational reading (We may find them exceedingly more uplifting than some of the other things we spend our free time reading!) Connect the stories in your mind with the Bible-book summaries printed above and with the ideas presented in the actual scripture passages. Then, tell the stories to children in your own words helping them to remember names of people, as well as situations.
- **Level 2:** Read the stories to children stopping frequently to summarize, explain, and answer questions. Also, when the opportunity presents itself talk about the story's setting including time and place.
- **Level 3:** Encourage children to advance their reading skills through practice reading the stories aloud. Stop frequently to talk about the story and word meanings.

Start now increasing your knowledge and interest in the Bible through following this weekly calendar for suggested books and passages. If you are interested, children will also be interested. Keep in mind how helpful the Bible can be for understanding God's relationships with people through the ages. Even though the people we learn about in the Bible may have lived in different places and 2000 years ago, God's presence made a difference in their lives. Thus, the stories and experiences of people in the Bible can help us see how God is acting in our lives and times today – and how God is continually offering us an everlasting and saving relationship.

This week's featured stories in *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* are as follows:

- Read the story "The Good Friend" (p 343-344) In the Mark passage (12:28-34), Jesus instructs a scribe who was listening to him speak, "Love your neighbor as yourself." The book of Luke also includes this instruction of Jesus. Furthermore, in Luke, Jesus follows up with the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) after the scribe asks, "Who is my neighbor?"
- Read "Letter to Jewish Christians" (p. 409) for a summary of Hebrews and also an explanation for how the coming of Jesus, God's son, relates to the Old Testament scriptures.



✠ Mark 12: 28-34 (complete text) ✠

One of the scribes came near
and heard them disputing with one another,
and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him,
"Which commandment is the first of all?"
Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel:
the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other
commandment greater than these."

Then the scribe said to him,
"You are right, Teacher;
you have truly said that 'he is one,
and besides him there is no other';
and 'to love him with all the heart,
and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,'
and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —
this is much more important
than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that he answered wisely,
he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared
to ask him any question.





✠ Hebrews 9:11-14 (complete text) ✠

But when Christ came as a high priest
 of the good things that have come,
 then through the greater and perfect tent
 (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation),
 he entered once for all into the Holy Place,
 not with the blood of goats and calves,
 but with his own blood,
 thus obtaining eternal redemption.
 For if the blood of goats and bulls,
 with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer,
 sanctifies those who have been defiled
 so that their flesh is purified,
 how much more will the blood of Christ,
 who through the eternal Spirit
 offered himself without blemish to God,
 purify our conscience from dead works
 to worship the living God!



THE WEEK AT A GLANCE AT MPBC

Thursday, November 8

8:00 am Body Works
 10:00 am Bible Study
 6:00 pm Troop #320 Lion's Den Meeting

Friday, November 9

8:00 am Body Works

Saturday, November 10

Sunday, November 11

9:30 am Sunday School for all adults
 10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 am Worship
 11:15 am Sunday School for Children (Preschool-3rd Grade)
 12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 5:00 pm Session Meeting