

**The mural in our Sunday School Resource Room is meant to be a teaching tool to help the children learn the order and content of the Bible. They have others tools that have the names of the books on the spine but this mural has symbols and images to give them a “hint” of each book’s name and an idea about its content. The notes below are a commentary on the significance of each illustration.**

## THE TORAH

### Genesis

The themes of fall and redemption in the book of Genesis are represented by the serpent coiling around the forbidden fruit and Noah’s rainbow which symbolizes hope through God.

### **Exodus**

In this book Moses departs from Israel with his followers under God’s instruction. The Ten Commandments are a large component in this book and represent God’s instruction (Torah) for our lives.

### **Leviticus**

This book focuses on the responsibilities of the Levitical priesthood so the burning of an offering is depicted in the painting.

### **Numbers**

Numbers records the Israelites wandering through the wilderness. The faithfulness and the power of God are vital to the message of Numbers. The desert scene with a dove representing hope shows how God guides the Israelites safely through the wilderness.

### **Deuteronomy**

On this spine a scroll of parchment represents the recording of the law from speeches given by Moses for a new generation of people.

## HISTORICAL BOOKS

### **Joshua**

Joshua means “Jehovah saves”. Another translation is “the Lord is our salvation.” One of the key ideas in this book is the promise of land to the people of Israel and God’s faithfulness to keep this promise.

## **Judges**

A main theme in Judges is how the people sometimes followed God's guidance while at other times followed human impulses. DaVinci's "Vetruvian Man", a famous study of the proportions of a human body and the sun that represents God lifts up these two ideas.

## **Ruth**

This is a painting of Ruth holding wheat. The book demonstrates how women are co-heirs with men. An important message in the book is how God uses seemingly unimportant people at seemingly unimportant times to accomplish his will. Her son, Obed, was the grandfather of King David. King David was a direct ancestor of Jesus.

## **Samuel I and II**

A theme in this book is how the birth of Samuel was in response to Hannah's prayer. I represented this by painting hands in prayer at the bottom of the spine. Hannah's song of praise is the inspiration for the Virgin Mary's magnificat.

## **Kings**

The Lord judged the rulers of Israel and Judah because of their disobedience to His law. Yet God restored them again and again. The painted cloud "catching" the falling crown represents this.

## **Chronicles I and II**

A main message in these books was that obedience to God brings blessings and disobedience brings judgement. The word obedience within a lotus flower represents blessings. The word disobedience with a scale in the background represents weighing of judgement.

## **Ezra**

After 70 years of captivity in Babylon (represented by the chains spread across the temple walls) God, in his unwavering faithfulness and continuous forgiveness, brought Israel back to Jerusalem and Ezra led them in rebuilding the temple.

## **Nehemiah**

This book tells of the re-building of the protective wall around Jerusalem by Nehemiah. During the re-building the people faced opposition and setbacks but in the end God orchestrated the successful reconstruction of the walls.

## **Esther**

The name of the central character in this book is written on the spine, inviting viewers to find out more about her.

## POETRY AND WISDOM

### **Job**

A man walking under a rain cloud as if suffering were raining down on him. At the bottom of the book, however, Job is crouching as if burdened with pain but he is surrounded by the light of God.

### **Psalms**

One theme in Psalms is that earthly life can often be chaotic like the rapid river flowing in the painting. The paddle, coming down from heaven, represents how God provides tools for us to guide and direct us through the trials of life.

### **Proverbs**

Proverbs are moral statements that are meant to teach lessons about life. Some lessons include our ethical choices, our relationship with God, and our relationship with one another. Proverbs are “sayings of the wise” (22:17-24:34)

### **Ecclesiastes**

A mirror painted in the center of the spine refers to a key word in this book “vanity”, referring to our fruitless attempt to be satisfied apart from God. The passage from Psalms 118, “This is the day the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it” illustrates the wisdom of “the preacher” that if a person can see each day as a gift from God, accepting it with whatever God gives, the person will live a full life.

### **Song of Songs**

The heart below a line of music to represent the message of this book.

## MAJOR PROPHETS

### **Isaiah (meaning the Lord is my salvation)**

The book talks of the prophecy of the future coming of the Lord. At the top of the spine painted a sun representing God in heaven and at the bottom a lamb which we believe to be Jesus the “Lamb of God that Isaiah foretold.

### **Jeremiah (meaning Jehovah sends)**

A main message in this book states that there is “impending judgement for idolatry and other sins.” A second theme is God’s willingness to spare believers who repent. The rod of an almond tree is a symbol of punishment but the blooming of the branch symbolizes God’s forgiveness.

### **Lamentations (meaning loud cries)**

A closed eye shedding tears illustrates how this book talks of anguish over the destruction of Jerusalem.

### **Ezekiel (meaning strengthened by God)**

Judgement, again, is a central theme of this book. A symbol of judgement is sprinkled hot coals, which I painted on a part of the spine.

### **Daniel**

Daniel is translated to “God is my judge”. This book serves as a reminder to trust only in God’s divine judgement.

## MINOR PROPHETS

### **Hosea**

Hosea was instructed by God to marry a woman and to experience a life that was an example of the unfaithfulness and sin of Israel. At the top of the spine two wedding bands are intertwined. In the middle, the two bands are separated, and at the bottom, the bands are side by side on a bed of flowers. This represents God’s love that triumphs over earthly sins.

### **Joel**

The theme in Joel is that the “day of the Lord” is coming. The day will unveil God’s character – mighty, powerful and holy. Lightning and a rainbow side by side represent power and hope.

### **Amos**

In this book, Amos was called to deliver a message to the northern tribes describing what God wishes of them. For the painting, I wanted to depict the message in letterform, addressed to the people of power. NOTE TO SELF → The note reads....(need to look on painting) This shows God’s wishes and the peoples ignorance in what is actually called of them.

## **Obediah**

I decided to show the connection between the people of Edom and Israel, Esau and Jacob, and the rise or fall of power according to the Lord, chosen by the righteous or sinful actions of each people.

## **Jonah**

The whale represents the “great fish” that brought Jonah back to preach repentance to the foreign people of Nineveh when he had tried to run away from God’s call.

## **Micah**

This book shares the message of a prophecy that is arranged in a cycle moving from doom to hope. The circular chart give the perception of a motion from doom to hope.

## **Nahum**

Nineveh had walls protecting the city that were 100 feet high. Nahum proclaimed that according to God Nineveh would end with an overflowing flood. Soon after, the Tigrus River overflowed, destroying enough of the walls to let the Babylonians through. This story shows that without God’s protection, human plans do not hold up. The painting show the wall of Nineveh beginning to crack under the pressure of the overflowing river.

## **Habakkuk**

In this book, Habakkuk prayed to God asking how long Israel would have to endure the violence of their enemies. The mural displays this message of Habakkuk: “God’s time is not man’s time” and the sundial to symbolize time that progresses according to God.

## **Zephaniah**

The book of Zephaniah talks about God’s message that Day of the Lord was near. In these times, Zephaniah encouraged the people to seek the Lord because the Lord would offer shelter in the midst of judgement.

## **Haggai**

To Haggai the rebuilding of the temple was an invitation to return to God. Here the built up wall contrasts with the crumbling wall on the book of Nahum.

## **Zechariah**

Haggai saw rebuild the temple but Zechariah saw a wider goal—to re-establish God’s role as the wall, the protector, of a city of God that included all everywhere. Here the whole world is being held up by the protective hands of the Lord.

## **Malachi**

The meaning of “Malachi” is “the Lord’s messenger”. These words on the spine of the book focus on God’s love for his people.

## GOSPELS

### **Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**

These four books form one scene of Jesus holding and being one with his children. The Gospel message for our Sunday School is how much Jesus loves us all.

## HISTORY

### **Acts**

The preaching of the good news of “the Messiah” is proclaimed to all the peoples of the world so that they can be baptized in the name of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## LETTERS OF PAUL

*The spines of the books representing the letters of Paul contain verses that highlight the main themes and include a quill as a sign of his personal way of communication.*

### **Romans**

Truths of the gospel is that **“God justifies guilty, condemned sinners by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone.”** and **“It is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...”** (Romans 1:16)

### **Corinthians**

Paul writes, **“If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins”** (Corinthians 15:12-17) **“O death, where is your sting? Oh Hades, where is your victory”** ( 15:55)

### **Galatians**

Paul writes to the Gentile congregation to defend the essential doctrine of justification. A central theme in his letter is justification by faith. Paul writes: **“I say then: walk in the spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of flesh.”** And **“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self control.”** (Corinthians 5:22)

### **Ephesians**

The letter to the Ephesians is a letter of encouragement, to remind believers of the enormous blessings of Jesus Christ, and to be thankful for these blessings as well as to live in a way that is worthy of them. A key theme in the letter is the depiction of the church, not as an organization but as a living organism that is composed from mutually related, independent parts. **“The Church is Christ’s’ spiritual earthly body. Christ is the head of the body, the Holy Spirit, it’s lifeblood. The body functions through the faithful use of its members’ various spiritual gifts.”**

## **Philippians**

**“Being in the form of God, Jesus did not consider it robbery [taking the form of] a man, he humbled himself...even to death of the cross.... At the name Jesus every knee should bow, ...that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”**  
(Philippians 2: 5-11)

## **Colossians**

Paul wrote this letter to warn the Colossians against heresy and false teachings and instead to **“Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another; even as Christ forgave you, so you must also do.”** (Colossians 3:12-13)

## **Thessalonians**

Paul wants the Thessalonians and us to remember his message and live in hope.

## **Timothy**

St. Paul’s hand is reaching through jail cell bars to pass his message and ministry to Timothy. The gesture of the two hands of the men resembles that of passing a baton in a relay race.

## **Titus**

The rose on this book serves as a symbol of the faith which is passed on from Paul to Titus and to us.

## **Philemon**

The cross symbolizing Jesus’ sacrifice of himself for our sins signifies the ultimate act of forgiveness which is the theme of this book.

## GENERAL LETTERS

### **Hebrews**

A staircase leading up to heaven shows how all believers now have direct access to God under the Christ’s new covenant and may approach the throne of God boldly.

### **James**

Flowers in bloom being nourished by rain refers how faith produces good works.

### **Peter**

A city in flames and a human in a protective bubble shows how trusting in God makes it possible for a person to be at peace no matter what is going on around them.

## **John**

The overall theme of John's three letters recall the basics of Christianity: obedience, faith, and love result in happiness, holiness and assurance.

## **Jude**

This letter puts an emphasis on character and being wary of false teaching. **But you beloved, remember the words that were spoken before by the apostles: that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.**" (Jude 17-19) so, **"Keep yourselves in the love of God..."** (Jude 21)

## APOCALYPSE

### **Revelation**

This book provides a message of hope for a new heaven and a new earth.