

How to use it:

Bible 101

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is a collection of history, letters, and teachings that are the foundation for all Christian faith. We teach two primary truths to kids about the Bible:

- The Bible is All True (Everything in the Bible happened to real people in a real time going through real things!)
- The Bible is God's word (The Bible is inspired by God and written by man through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.)

HOW WAS THE BIBLE created?

The Bible was written by at least 40 authors over thousands of years. This collection of ancient spiritual writings was put together through a series of criteria, including authorship, proximity of time written to the events which occurred, accuracy of teachings in relation to the words of Jesus, and more.

While there are many other writings from around the same time, the 66 books of the Bible are considered the only inspired words of God in the Christian faith tradition.

HOW IS THE BIBLE SET UP?

The Bible, while originally a collection of different letters, historical records, and prophetic writings, was bound into one book. For ease of use the Bible was broken into sections.

- 2 Testaments.
 - 66 Books
 - 39 Old Testament - before the life of Jesus
 - 27 New Testament - during and after the life of Jesus.

Each Book is broken down further:

- Chapters - Big, bold numbers containing a collection of verses.
- Verses - Individual sentences or phrases.

This numbering system was not original to the texts and was designed to make it easier to find key passages of the Bible.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE ABOUT?

The Bible is a collection of 66 books that tell one big story about God's love for humanity and His desire to rescue us from the sin that separated us from Him and bring us back into a right relationship with Him.

The Old Testament tells the story of God's people, the Israelites, as they learned to trust God and of God's promise for a Savior. The New Testament continues God's big story with the coming of the promised savior, Jesus, to Earth and God's welcoming of all people on Earth to be with Him forever in Heaven, if we trust in Him.

Teaching your CHILD HOW TO FIND a verse in THE BIBLE!

#1: Write the verse you are trying to find in a visible location so kids who still struggle to read can match the words and so you don't have to repeat it.

Say: "Let's practice finding John 3:16."

#2: Start with the book. Help the kids figure out if the book is in the New Testament or Old Testament. This will help the kids find the book easier in the Table of Contents and help with an overall understanding of the contents of the book.

Say: "We are looking for the book of John. Is John in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (Kids answer: New Testament) Great!

#3: Help kids turn to the table of contents. Many younger kids will need a step by step on how to use a table of contents. First find the testament, then find the book, then go across the dotted lines to find the page number.

Say: "Let's turn to the table of contents together! It's one of the first few pages. The table of contents has a list of all of the books of the Bible. Once you are at the table of contents we are going to look for the New Testament since John is in the New Testament. Once you find the New Testament put a finger on it. Now let's find the word John (Or find a word that starts with a J), put your finger on it when you find John. Now let's drag our finger across the dotted line and see what page number to travel to.... Page _____.

#4: Take “jumps” through the Bible to find that page number. I teach that a “super big jump” is like a quarter through the Bible, a “big jump” is about 100 pages, a “medium jump” is about 20-30 pages, and a “small jump” is about 3 pages. Depending on where the verse is will depend on what “size” jumps to use! For Kindergarten and 1st grade we stop and see if we are there yet. For older kids we stop and I ask “is _____ smaller or bigger than the page number we are trying to get to _____?”

Say: John is super far into the Bible so let’s take a super big jump! s (current page number) bigger or smaller than (desired page number)? Right, smaller, so we have to keep going! We are close, so let’s take some medium jumps! Alright is (current page number) bigger or smaller than (desired page number)? Right, are we close? Yes! So let’s take 2 small jumps.

#5: You don’t have to land directly on the first page. Anywhere in the book that you see the word John point to it and encourage them because they made it to the book!

Say: Look! What does that say? (Kid answers: John!). Exactly, great job! Now we move on to the next part.

#6: Now we look for the Chapter number which in this case is 3. I call this the “big” number because on the page it is very big! Make sure kids are finding the big number within the text and not at the top of the page.

Say: Now we are going to look for the big number or the chapter. The chapter is 3, so can you find a big number 3? Is there a big number 3 on this page? (kid answer: no!) Right so we have to turn the page. Is there a big number 3 on this page? (kid answer: yes!) Great, put your finger on it!

#7: Now we look for the Verse which in this case is 16. I call this the “little number” because they are very small on the page. This helps kids differentiate between the two. A common mistake kids make here is to find any little 16 on the page and say they’ve found it, so help them understand that they have to look under the big number 3 and above the big number 4. Walk them through when to decide to turn the page if needed with the same steps as the chapter.

Say: Now let’s look under the big 3 which is the chapter for our little number, which is the verse. The little number we are looking for is 16. Can you find a little number 16? (Sometimes with younger kids, I will go down the line and point for them and ask them to say what number it is! Keep them engaged in the process!) Great job you found it! That’s verse 16.

#8: Quick review! Point to each thing on the page and show them how well they’ve done!

Say! So we found JOHN, Chapter 3, Verse 16. You did it!

#9: Read it outloud! We can never hear God’s word too much!

NOTE: Older kids may not need all these steps. That is okay! Some kids may need to practice many times before feeling confident. That is okay! This is a foundational skill that is so important for believers, so it is OKAY if you spend a lot of time on this!

They will get it! We just need to keep practicing! Try and incorporate this practice as frequently as you can!