



The Big Picture

Lesson 2: Getting To Know Your Bible

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

The Bible is not like all of the other books that have been written. The Bible is a very powerful book because it contains the words of God! Because the Bible is such a special book (and the only book that is directly from God), you should take some time to get to know your Bible.

The word “Bible” means a collection of books. It is a book that contains many books. Just think about other books that have more than one story in it. Whenever the Bible was written, it was not written as one long book. Instead, there are 66 books that make up the Bible. Each one of these books come from God and tell a very special piece of the Bible story.

The Bible is also very special in how it was written. Most books that are written are written by one author or by a few authors. And, they are usually written within a small period of time. But, the 66 different books of the Bible were written by around 40 different people over about 1,600 years! God used all of these different people to write down what He wanted people to know and remember. And, the story of the Bible covers the history of man from the time God created the world through around the end of the first century that Christ lived. This is about 4,000 years of human history that is contained in the pages of the Bible!

When you look through your Bible, you will notice that there are two parts. There is an Old Testament and a New Testament. The Old Testament tells primarily about events of God’s people who lived before Jesus Christ came to this earth. It also teaches a law that people do not live under any more. The New Testament tells about the events surrounding Jesus’ life on this earth and the people who followed Him even after He went back into Heaven. It also teaches a new law that God expects all people to follow today.

There are 39 books in the Old Testament. They are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of

Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. You should try to memorize these books of the Old Testament in order.

Of these 39 books, five are considered books of law (Genesis-Deuteronomy). Twelve are considered books of history (Joshua-Esther). Five are considered books of poetry or wisdom (Job-Song of Solomon). Five are considered the major prophets (Isaiah-Daniel). And, twelve are considered minor prophets (Hosea-Malachi).

There are 27 books in the New Testament. They are: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Revelation. You should also try to memorize the books of the New Testament in order.

Of these 27 books, four are considered gospels (Matthew-John). One is considered a book of history (Acts). 21 are considered letters (Romans-Jude). And, one is considered a book of prophecy (Revelation).

Whenever you look at a copy of the Bible, you will also notice that the Bible is divided into books, chapters, and verses. The Bible begins with the book of Genesis and ends with the book of Revelation. Then, each one of these books is divided into chapters and verses. So, Hebrews 4:12 means that the verse is found in the book of Hebrews, in the fourth chapter, and in the twelfth verse.

You should spend time every day with your Bible. The more time you spend reading what it says, the better you will understand it and be able to do what God tells you to do.

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Memory Verse:

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Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: