

About the Bible

The Bible is the Christian holy book. It was given to people by God. It has no flaws. It contains truth, wisdom, guidance, historical documentation, and the words of God. For those who are new to studying the Bible, you will need to obtain one. It is important to have a hard copy in your own language. It is also helpful to have a digital copy on your phone. Make sure the translation you are using is a good one. Your teacher can help you to get set up.

FINDING A BIBLE

You can find a Bible through your church, at a Christian bookstore, or online. Regular bookstores may also have them. The Bible is translated into many different languages. Bilingual Bibles are also available.

Be careful when choosing a Bible translation. Do not just select the first one you find. Many different people and organizations have translated the books of the Bible from their original languages. Some translations are better and more accurate than others. Since most people do not know Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, it is important to choose a translation that reflects the meaning of the original text as closely as possible.

CHOOSING A TRANSLATION

There are two types of translation approaches: word-for-word and thought-for-thought. Word-for-word translations attempt to retain the most accurate meaning of the original text. These translations do succeed at achieving better accuracy. However, without sufficient cultural and contextual understanding, a new reader may have trouble understanding the text. The reader will need to ask more questions and do more research to understand exactly what is meant by the verses.

Thought-for-thought translations convey the meaning of the phrase or sentence in language that is easier to understand, but they may not be as accurate to the original text. They rely on the understanding of the translator, who may or may not truly understand the depth of the verse. While these translations are more understandable, they should not be consulted as a primary translation, because they may mislead the reader about what the text is actually saying.

A good translation for someone who is new to reading the Bible would be one that is in between the two types. It should be as accurate as possible, but also understandable. The recommended English versions are the 1984 New International Version (NIV), the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New American Standard Bible (NASB). The ESV and NASB are more closely aligned with the original text, but the reader will have to look up more words and context to understand the verses.

LOOKING UP VERSES

Once you obtain a Bible, it is important to learn how to look up verses and passages. First, start by finding the book you are looking for in the table of contents. There are 66 books in the Bible. Each book is divided into small, numbered chapters. Each chapter contains numbered verses.

A passage is a section that contains a range of verses. Luke 2:1–21 is an example of a passage. “Luke” is the name of the book. The passage is in Chapter 2. It starts at verse 1 and ends at verse 21.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

The books of the Bible were written by many different authors. The various books have different purposes and were written to different audiences. When you start reading through a book in the Bible, find out who wrote it, who they wrote it to, and why they wrote it. Learning more about the historical and cultural context can help you to better understand what was written.

Once you start reading, take breaks to summarize and think about what you read. Write down any questions you have. Think about what the verse or passage teaches you about God and what lessons you can learn from it.

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The Bible contains 66 books, divided into the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament contains the books that were written before Jesus came, and the New Testament contains the books that were written after His death and resurrection. Most of the books in the New Testament were written by leaders of the early church. Most of them knew and walked with Jesus.

The Old Testament contains historical books, books of the Law of God, wisdom literature, and books written by the prophets, who received revelations directly from God. Genesis, Exodus, and Proverbs are some of the best Old Testament books for new readers to start with. Genesis and Exodus record the history of the world and the Israelites. Many of the stories in those books are referenced in church and in the New Testament. Proverbs is a helpful book of wisdom that can easily be applied to daily life.

The New Testament contains the gospels, early church history, letters written by the early church leaders, and prophetic literature. The gospels, named after their authors Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, all tell the story of Jesus. This is a good place to start in the New Testament. Acts shows the history of the early church, and Romans through Jude are letters written to teach and edify the church. Revelation is a prophetic book that addresses the end times and the return of Christ.

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

THE OLD TESTAMENT	
1. Genesis	21. Ecclesiastes
2. Exodus	22. Song of Solomon
3. Leviticus	23. Isaiah
4. Numbers	24. Jeremiah
5. Deuteronomy	25. Lamentations
6. Joshua	26. Ezekiel
7. Judges	27. Daniel
8. Ruth	28. Hosea
9. 1 Samuel	29. Joel
10. 2 Samuel	30. Amos
11. 1 Kings	31. Obadiah
12. 2 Kings	32. Jonah
13. 1 Chronicles	33. Micah
14. 2 Chronicles	34. Nahum
15. Ezra	35. Habakkuk
16. Nehemiah	36. Zephaniah
17. Esther	37. Haggai
18. Job	38. Zechariah
19. Psalms	39. Malachi
20. Proverbs	
THE NEW TESTAMENT	
40. Matthew	54. 1 Timothy
41. Mark	55. 2 Timothy
42. Luke	56. Titus
43. John	57. Philemon
44. Acts	58. Hebrews
45. Romans	59. James
46. 1 Corinthians	60. 1 Peter
47. 2 Corinthians	61. 2 Peter
48. Galatians	62. 1 John
49. Ephesians	63. 2 John
50. Philippians	64. 3 John
51. Colossians	65. Jude
52. 1 Thessalonians	66. Revelation
53. 2 Thessalonians	