

# START HERE

a quick + comprehensive  
introduction to the Bible



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AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

PHILADELPHIA

START HERE: A QUICK AND COMPREHENSIVE  
INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

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“In the beginning was the Word ...”  
John 1:1 (ESV)

## START HERE WITH THE BIBLE

The Bible is one of the greatest books the world has ever seen. It is a book full of profound wisdom and insight about human nature and the character and purpose of the God who created all things. Throughout the centuries, people from many lands have opened the Bible and read from it in their own language. Here they have learned about God's love and justice. Great leaders and thinkers, along with people who are poor, suffering, or oppressed, have searched its pages and explored its truths, looking for the answers to life's problems and challenges.

You are invited to make that same exploration. This resource can help you begin a rewarding journey and encounter the Bible's life-changing message. It really doesn't matter where you begin, but it does matter *that* you begin. Use any one of the sections to get you started on a daily habit of reading the Bible. Discover for yourself the help and hope it has to offer.



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- + **SOME READINGS FOR SPECIAL DAYS** guides you to passages you may want to read on special days such as Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, and even your own birthday (**page 21**).
- + **FAMOUS PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE** helps you locate those famous Bible stories you've heard—or heard about—time and again, but may never have read for yourself (**page 23**).
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# INSIDE THE BIBLE

The word “Bible” comes from the Greek word *biblia*, which means “books.” So the Bible is really a collection or library of many books. These books are divided into two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

## Old Testament

The Old Testament tells the history of the people of Israel. This history is based on their faith in the God of Israel and on their religious life as the people of God. The authors of these books wrote about what God had done for them as a people and now they were to worship and obey God in return. The following chart shows the different groups of books that make up the Old Testament.

### 1. THE LAW

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

### 2. HISTORY

Joshua	2 Samuel	2 Chronicles
Judges	1 Kings	Ezra
Ruth	2 Kings	Nehemiah
1 Samuel	1 Chronicles	Esther

### 3. POETRY & WISDOM

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

### 4. MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

### 5. MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah
Joel	Micah	Haggai
Amos	Nahum	Zechariah
Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi

## New Testament

The books of the New Testament were written by the followers of Jesus Christ. These followers wanted others to know the Good News about Jesus Christ and the possibility of new life available to them through his death and resurrection. The following chart shows the different groups of books that make up the New Testament. Although scholarly opinion has varied, Paul has traditionally been identified as the author of the letters in the third category.

### 1. THE GOSPELS

Matthew
---------

Mark
------

Luke
------

John
------

### 2. HISTORY

Acts
------

### 5. PROPHECY

Revelation
------------

### 3. PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans
--------

Philippians
-------------

2 Timothy
-----------

1 Corinthians
---------------

Colossians
------------

Titus
-------

2 Corinthians
---------------

1 Thessalonians
-----------------

Philemon
----------

Galatians
-----------

2 Thessalonians
-----------------

Ephesians
-----------

1 Timothy
-----------

### 4. GENERAL LETTERS

Hebrews
---------

1 John
--------

James
-------

2 John
--------

1 Peter
---------

3 John
--------

2 Peter
---------

Jude
------

## WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE

The following are summaries for each book of the Bible. It will be obvious from how brief the descriptions are that they are not complete. They should, however, serve as a quick and handy guide to the content of the whole Bible.

### Old Testament

#### **Genesis**

In this book of beginnings the stories are about creation, early relationships between God and people, and God's promise to bless Abraham and his descendants.

#### **Exodus**

The name Exodus means “departure” and this book tells how God led the Israelites out of a life of hardship and slavery in Egypt. God made a covenant with them and gave them the Law to order their lives.

#### **Leviticus**

This book is named for the priestly tribe of Levi and is made up of laws concerning rituals and ceremonies.

#### **Numbers**

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering Canaan, the promised land. The name of the book comes from two censuses taken during the journey.

#### **Deuteronomy**

Moses gave three farewell speeches shortly before he died. In them he reviewed the laws of God for the Israelites. This book gets its name—“second law”—from this review.

#### **Joshua**

Joshua led the Israelite armies into victory over the Canaanites. The book ends with the division of the land among the tribes of Israel.

#### **Judges**

The Israelites often fell away from God and into the hands of oppressors. God sent “judges” to lead and deliver them.

## **Ruth**

Love and dedication between Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, are the focus of this story.

## **1 Samuel**

Samuel was the leader of Israel between the time of Judges and the time of Saul, the first king of Israel. When Saul's leadership failed, David was anointed by Samuel to be king.

## **2 Samuel**

Under David's rule, the new nation was strong and unified. But after David committed adultery and murder, his family and nation suffered.

## **1 Kings**

This book starts with stories about Solomon's reign over Israel. After the death of Solomon, the kingdom went to war with itself, north against south. The result was two nations, Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

## **2 Kings**

Israel was conquered by Assyria in 721 BC. Judah was defeated by Babylon in 586 BC. These events were seen as judgment upon the people because they did not follow the laws of God.

## **1 Chronicles**

This book begins with genealogies from Adam to David and then recounts the incidents of David's reign.

## **2 Chronicles**

This book covers the same period as 2 Kings but the emphasis is on Judah, the southern kingdom, and its rulers.

## **Ezra**

God's people returned to Jerusalem after being held captive in Babylon for several decades. One of the leaders was Ezra. This book contains his charge to the people to be true to the law of God.

## **Nehemiah**

After the Temple was rebuilt, the protective wall around Jerusalem was restored. Nehemiah brought this effort to completion. He also worked with Ezra to restore religious fervor among the people.

## **Esther**

This book tells the story of the Jewish queen of Persia who exposed a plot to destroy her people and thus saved all the Jews in that country from destruction.

## **Job**

The story of Job addresses the question, “Why do innocent people suffer?”

## **Psalms**

These 150 prayers and hymns were used by the Hebrew people to express their relationship with God. They cover the whole range of human emotions from joy to anger, from hope to despair.

## **Proverbs**

This is a book of wise sayings and ethical and commonsense teachings on how to live a godly life.

## **Ecclesiastes**

In a quest for happiness and the meaning of life, this writer, known as “the Philosopher,” asks many questions that are still raised in today’s society.

## **Song of Songs**

This poem describes the joy and ecstasy of love. It has been understood both as a picture of God’s love for Israel and of Christ’s love for the church.

## **Isaiah**

The prophet Isaiah brought the message of God’s judgment on the nations, pointed to a future king like David, and promised a time of comfort and peace.

## **Jeremiah**

Before Babylon destroyed Judah, Jeremiah foretold God’s judgment. While his message was largely of destruction, he also pointed toward a new covenant with God.

## **Lamentations**

As Jeremiah had warned, Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians. This book records five “laments” for the fallen city.

## **Ezekiel**

Ezekiel's message was given to the Jews held captive in Babylon. He used stories and parables to speak about judgment, hope, and restoration.

## **Daniel**

Daniel remained faithful to God while facing many pressures as a captive in Babylon. This book includes Daniel's prophetic visions.

## **Hosea**

Hosea used his commitment to his wife in the face of her unfaithfulness to illustrate the "adultery" Israel had committed against God, whose faithful love never ceased.

## **Joel**

After a locust plague in Judah, Joel urged the people to repent.

## **Amos**

During an era of prosperity, this Judean prophet preached judgment on the rich leaders of Israel. Amos urged them to consider the poor and oppressed rather than their own self-satisfaction.

## **Obadiah**

Obadiah prophesied judgment on Edom, a neighboring country.

## **Jonah**

Jonah did not want to preach to the Ninevites, an enemy people. When he finally brought God's message to them, they repented.

## **Micah**

Micah's message to Judah was a prophecy of judgment as well as forgiveness and hope for restoration. Especially notable is his single verse summary of what God requires of us (6:8).

## **Nahum**

Nahum announced that God would destroy the people of Nineveh because of their cruelty in war.

## **Habakkuk**

Habakkuk's book features a dialogue between Habakkuk and God about suffering and justice.

## **Zephaniah**

Zephaniah announced the day of the Lord, which would bring judgment on Judah and other surrounding nations. This coming day would be one of doom for many, but a humble and faithful remnant would survive to bless the whole world.

## **Haggai**

After the people returned from exile, Haggai reminded them to give God their highest priority and to rebuild the Temple before working on their own homes.

## **Zechariah**

Like Haggai, Zechariah urged the people to rebuild the Temple, assuring them of God's help and blessings. His visions point to a glorious future.

## **Malachi**

After the exiles returned, they became complacent about their religious life. Malachi tried to stir them up by preaching about the day of the Lord.

## **New Testament**

### **Matthew**

This Gospel includes many Old Testament quotations, thus appealing to a Jewish audience and presenting Jesus as the Messiah promised in the Hebrew Scriptures. Matthew told the story of Jesus from birth to resurrection and placed emphasis on his teaching.

### **Mark**

Mark wrote a short, action-packed Gospel. He emphasized Jesus's miracles and his life of suffering. His aim was to deepen the faith and commitment of the believers in the community to which he wrote.

### **Luke**

In this Gospel, the availability of salvation for all people is emphasized. Luke proclaimed this message by showing Jesus's involvement with people who are poor, needy, and on the fringes of society.



## **John**

The Gospel of John stands apart from the others. The author organized his message around seven signs that point to Jesus as the Son of God. His writing style is reflective and filled with striking images.

## **Acts**

When Jesus left his disciples, the Holy Spirit came to abide with them. Written by Luke as the sequel to his Gospel, Acts records key events in the history of the work of the early Christian church to spread the gospel throughout the Mediterranean world.

## **Romans**

In this important letter, Paul wrote to the Romans about life in the Spirit, which is given to believers in Christ through faith. The apostle tells them about God's great kindness and declares that because of Jesus Christ, God accepts us and sets us free from our sins.

## **1 Corinthians**

This letter deals with the problems the church in Corinth was experiencing: dissension, immorality, public worship, and confusion about spiritual gifts.

## **2 Corinthians**

In this letter, Paul wrote about his relationship with the church of Corinth and the effects of certain false apostles on his ministry.

## **Galatians**

This letter addresses freedom from the law through Christ. Paul declares that it is by faith that all who believe are put right with God.

## **Ephesians**

A central theme to this letter is that God's eternal purpose is to bring together from many nations and peoples the universal church of Jesus Christ.

## **Philippians**

This letter emphasizes the joy found in any situation when a person believes in Christ. Paul wrote it while in prison.

## **Colossians**

In this letter Paul tells the people of Colossae to make Christ the center of their faith and to put aside their superstitions.

## **1 Thessalonians**

In this letter Paul gives advice to the people of Thessalonica concerning Christ's return.

## **2 Thessalonians**

This letter discusses the same topics as the first. Paul teaches the people a way to be ready for the Lord.

## **1 Timothy**

This letter served as a guide for Timothy, a young leader in the church. It contains advice about worship, ministry, and relationships within the church.

## **2 Timothy**

This is Paul's last letter. In it he offers a final challenge to his coworker.

## **Titus**

Titus was ministering in Crete. In this letter, Paul gives him advice on how to help Christians follow Christ.

## **Philemon**

In this letter, Philemon is urged to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and accept him as a friend in Christ.

## **Hebrews**

This letter challenges new Jewish Christians to move beyond their traditional rituals and ceremonies and believe that Christ has fulfilled them all.

## **James**

James advises putting beliefs into practice and offers practical ways for Christians to live out their faith.

## **1 Peter**

This letter was written to comfort early Christians who were being persecuted for their faith.

## **2 Peter**

In this letter Peter warns against false teachers and urges Christians to stay loyal to God.

## **1 John**

This letter explains basic truths about the Christian life, with emphasis on the command to love one another.

## **2 John**

This letter, addressed to “the elect lady and her children,” warns against false teachers.

## **3 John**

In contrast to 2 John, this letter states the need to welcome people who preach Christ.

## **Jude**

Jude warns against the influence of evil ones outside the fellowship of believers.

## **Revelation**

This book was written to encourage persecuted believers and affirm their faith that God will care for them. Using visions and symbols, the writer illustrates the triumph of good over evil and the creation of a new heaven and new earth.

## HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Set aside time each day to read from your Bible. Try to make it the same time each day. Be realistic. Commit yourself only to as much time as you honestly feel that you can stick to on an ongoing basis.

You can read the Bible casually, but most people find it helpful to plan your reading. You might read through an entire book section by section. Or you could choose one of the many Bible reading plans offered in editions of the Bible or available online. Some reading plans are topical, some are chronological, and others are connected to the calendar (in many Christian traditions these are called “lectionary” readings).

Before you begin reading, ask for God’s guidance and blessing. Some people find it useful to keep a daily notebook. Use the following steps to get the most out of your daily Bible reading:

1. **Select** a passage.
2. **Examine** its context:
  - A. What kind of book is it drawn from? [A biographical book such as one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’s life; a long historical book, such as 2 Samuel, which tells of the reign of King David; a brief letter to a person (1 or 2 Timothy) or to a specific church (1 or 2 Corinthians).]
  - B. What is the overall purpose/intent of this book? (Do not do lengthy research, but feel free to read the opening and closing paragraphs as well as section headings and introductions if your Bible has them.)
  - C. What occurs or is discussed in the passages immediately preceding and following the passage you chose?
4. **Read** the passage quickly for sense.
5. **Identify** key words or phrases. Are there words or thoughts that are repeated throughout the passage? Are any cause and effect relationships established? (These are often signaled by words like *if* and *then*, *therefore*, *because*, *since*, and *so*.) Are any comparisons made or similarities pointed out? Are any two people, things, or concepts contrasted?

6. **Read** the passage again and ask yourself what is the intent or purpose of the passage. Try to find out what the author is saying. Be honest; don't just look for what you want to hear. The Bible has many strong messages that can change lives!
7. **Ask** questions about what you read. What do you learn about God from this passage? Ask yourself how this message applies to you. Is there anything you need to change in your life in order to be a more faithful child of God or more loving to your neighbor? Ask for God's help in making this change.
8. **Re-read** the passage one more time. Is there one verse you would like to commit to memory? Why not write it on an index card and carry it with you throughout the day as a study aid?
9. **Thank God** for what he has shown you, and ask for his help as you seek to apply this lesson in your life.
10. **Share** what you have learned with someone else.

### **How to look up a Bible reference**

Every verse in the Bible is marked by its own *verse number*. To find any one of the passages listed in these reader's helps, you need to find the book, the chapter in the book, and the verse or verses within that chapter. The chapter number immediately follows the name of the book. This is followed by a period (.) or colon (:), which is followed by the number or range of numbers for the verses you seek. For example: **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** is the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter twelve, verses one through eleven.

## SOME READINGS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

<b>New Year's Day</b>	Colossians 3:5-17
<b>Epiphany</b>	Matthew 2:1-12
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	Exodus 3:1-22
<b>Christian Unity Sunday</b>	John 17
<b>Valentine's Day</b>	1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4:7-21
<b>Presidents' Day</b>	Isaiah 32:1-8
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Psalm 51; Joel 2:12-19; Matthew 6:1-6; James 1:12-18
<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	Isaiah 52:7-12
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19; Philippians 2:5-11
<b>Holy (Maundy) Thursday</b>	Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-35; Psalm 116
<b>Good Friday</b>	John 18:1-19:42; Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12
<b>Easter</b>	Matthew 28; Luke 24; John 20; Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 33
<b>Passover</b>	Exodus 12
<b>Mother's Day</b>	1 Samuel 1:1-28; Proverbs 23:22-25; 31:10-31; Luke 1:26-56
<b>Memorial Day</b>	Isaiah 26:1-19
<b>Pentecost</b>	Acts 2:1-11
<b>Father's Day</b>	Proverbs 4; 20:7; Luke 15:11-32
<b>Independence Day</b>	Psalm 33
<b>Labor Day</b>	Genesis 1:26-2:4
<b>Yom Kippur</b>	Jeremiah 31:31-34
<b>Grandparent's Day</b>	Psalm 128
<b>World Communion Sunday</b>	1 Corinthians 11:23-34
<b>All Saints Day</b>	Hebrews 11
<b>Stewardship Day</b>	Matthew 25:14-29; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
<b>Election Day</b>	1 Peter 2:13-17
<b>Veterans' Day</b>	Isaiah 2:1-5
<b>Bible Sunday</b>	2 Timothy 3:10-17
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalm 65; 67
<b>First Sunday in Advent</b>	Isaiah 63:15-64:12; Matthew 24:36-44; Luke 21:25-36; Psalm 25

<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	Malachi 3:1-5; Matthew 3:1-12; Psalm 85
<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>	Isaiah 12:1-6; Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 3:7-18; Philippians 4:4-9
<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	Isaiah 7:10-17; Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:26-56; Psalm 89:1-18
<b>Christmas</b>	Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-18; Titus 3:4-7
<b>Personal Birthday</b>	Psalm 145

## FAMOUS PASSAGES FROM THE BIBLE

### 1. Stories from the Old Testament

#### EARLY BEGINNINGS

<b>Creation and Sin</b>	Genesis 2:4–3:24
<b>The First Murder</b>	Genesis 4:1-15
<b>Noah and the Flood</b>	Genesis 6:1-9:17
<b>The Tower of Babylon (Babel)</b>	Genesis 11:1-9
<b>The Call of Abraham</b>	Genesis 12:1-9
<b>The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah</b>	Genesis 19:1-28
<b>Hagar and Ishmael</b>	Genesis 16:1-15; 21:9-21
<b>The Birth of Isaac</b>	Genesis 21:1-8
<b>Abraham's Offering of Isaac</b>	Genesis 22:1-19
<b>The Story of Jacob</b>	Genesis 25:19-35:29
<b>The Story of Joseph</b>	Genesis 37-50
<b>Moses in Egypt</b>	Exodus 1-14
<b>Moses's Wilderness Wanderings</b>	Exodus 15:22-20:26; 31:18-34:35; Numbers 20:1-21:25
<b>The Ten Commandments</b>	Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-21
<b>The King of Moab and Balaam</b>	Numbers 22-24

## PEOPLE OF GREAT FAITH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Rahab Helps the Israelite Spies	Joshua 2
Joshua, Military Strategist	Joshua 3; 6
Deborah, a Woman of Power and Judgment	Judges 4-5
Gideon, the Conqueror	Judges 6:11-8:32
Samson, a Man of Great Strength	Judges 13-16
Ruth, a Woman of Loyalty and Devotion	Ruth 1-4
Samuel, a Prophet Who Listened to God	1 Samuel 1-3; 7-10; 12; 15; 16
Saul, Israel's First King	1 Samuel 8-11; 13; 15; 28; 31
David, the Shepherd King	1 Samuel 16-27; 29:1-30:25; 2 Samuel 2; 11; 12; 15:1-8; 18; 1 Kings 1:1-31; 2:1-11
Solomon, the Wise King	1 Kings 2:12-11:43
Elijah, a Great Prophet	1 Kings 17-19; 21; 2 Kings 1
Elisha, His Successor	2 Kings 2; 4:1-7:2; 13:14-21
Nehemiah, a Heroic Builder	Nehemiah 1; 2; 4
Esther, a Brave Queen	Esther 1-10
Daniel, a Prophet of Courage	Daniel 1-6
Jonah, the Reluctant Missionary	Jonah 1-4

## 2. Stories from the New Testament

### THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1:18-2:15; Luke 2:1-20
Jesus Is Named and Presented in the Temple	Luke 2:21-40
The Young Jesus	Luke 2:41-52
The Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:21-22
The Temptation of Jesus	Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
Jesus Calls His First Disciples	Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11



## THE LIFE OF JESUS

**Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles** Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16

**The Transfiguration of Jesus** Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13

## JESUS'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

**Jesus's Entry into Jerusalem** Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

**The Last Supper of Jesus** Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:1-38

**Jesus Prays in Gethsemane** Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

**Jesus's Trial and Crucifixion** Matthew 26:47-27:66; Mark 14:43-15:47; Luke 22:47-23:56; John 18; 19

**The Resurrection of Jesus** Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16; Luke 24:1-12; John 20

**The Great Commission** Matthew 28:16-20

**The Ascension of Jesus** Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12

## MIRACLES AND HEALINGS OF JESUS

**Jesus Turns Water into Wine** John 2:1-11

**Jesus Feeds Many People** Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-39; Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-10; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

**Jesus Calms a Storm** Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

**The Great Catch of Fish** Luke 5:1-11

**Jesus Walks on Water** Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21

**Jesus Heals People with Skin Diseases** Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16; 17:11-19

**Jesus Casts Out Demons** Matthew 8:28-34; 12:22-37; 17:14-21; Mark 1:21-28; 3:20-30; 5:1-20; 9:14-29; Luke 4:31-37; 8:26-39; 9:37-43; 11:14-23

**Jesus Heals the Blind** Matthew 9:27-31; 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

**Jesus Heals a Deaf Man** Mark 7:31-37

## MIRACLES AND HEALINGS OF JESUS

<b>Jesus Heals the Paralyzed and Crippled</b>	Matthew 9:1-8; 12:9-14; Mark 2:1-12; 3:1-6; Luke 5:17-26; 6:6-11; 14:1-6; John 5:1-9
<b>Jesus Heals Many Women</b>	Matthew 9:18-26; 15:21-28; Mark 5:21-43; 7:24-30; Luke 8:1-3; 8:40-56; 13:10-17
<b>Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant</b>	Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10
<b>Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law</b>	Matthew 8:14, 15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39
<b>Jesus Heals an Official's Son</b>	John 4:46-54
<b>Jesus Revives an Official's Daughter</b>	Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26; Mark 5:21-24, 35-42; Luke 8:40-42, 49-56
<b>Jesus Raises the Dead</b>	Luke 7:11-17; John 11:1-44

### What's a parable?

Parables are stories that use typical, everyday situations to teach important truths. Jesus used many parables to teach his followers about the Kingdom of God.

## TEACHINGS AND PARABLES OF JESUS

<b>The Sermon on the Mount</b>	Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:20-49
<b>The Beatitudes</b>	Matthew 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26
<b>The Great Commandment</b>	Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:27
<b>The Golden Rule</b>	Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31
<b>The Grain of Mustard Seed</b>	Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19
<b>The Parable of the Sower</b>	Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15
<b>The Parable of the Growing Seed</b>	Mark 4:26-29
<b>Some Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven</b>	Matthew 13:24-52
<b>The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant</b>	Matthew 18:23-35

## TEACHINGS AND PARABLES OF JESUS

<b>The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard</b>	Matthew 20:1-16
<b>The Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard</b>	Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-18
<b>The Parable of the Wedding Feast</b>	Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24
<b>The Parable of the Ten Young Women (Virgins)</b>	Matthew 25:1-13
<b>The Parable of the Three Servants and Their Coins</b>	Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27
<b>The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats</b>	Matthew 25:31-46
<b>The Parable of the Good Samaritan</b>	Luke 10:25-37
<b>The Parable of the Shepherd</b>	John 10:1-21
<b>The Parable of the Rich Fool</b>	Luke 12:16-21
<b>The Parable of the Watchful Servants</b>	Luke 12:35-48
<b>The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree</b>	Luke 13:6-9
<b>The Parable of the Lost Sheep</b>	Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:3-7
<b>The Parable of the Lost Coin</b>	Luke 15:8-10
<b>The Parable of the Lost Son</b>	Luke 15:11-32
<b>The Parable of the Shrewd Manager</b>	Luke 16:1-13
<b>The Rich Man and Lazarus</b>	Luke 16:19-31
<b>The Parable of the Widow and the Judge</b>	Luke 18:1-8
<b>The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector</b>	Luke 18:9-14

## OTHER NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

<b>The Birth of John the Baptist</b>	Luke 1:57-66
<b>John the Baptist Is Executed</b>	Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29
<b>Peter Receives the Keys of the Kingdom</b>	Matthew 16:13-20
<b>The Holy Spirit Comes on Pentecost</b>	Acts 2
<b>Stephen, the First Martyr</b>	Acts 6:5-15; 7:54-60
<b>Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian Official</b>	Acts 8:26-39

## OTHER NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

<b>The Conversion of Paul</b>	Acts 9:1-31
<b>Peter and Cornelius</b>	Acts 10
<b>Peter in Prison</b>	Acts 12:1-19
<b>The Baptism of Lydia</b>	Acts 16:11-15
<b>Paul in Prison</b>	Acts 16:16-40
<b>The Riot at Ephesus</b>	Acts 19:23-41
<b>Paul's Voyage to Rome</b>	Acts 27; 28

### 3. Other Famous Passages

## SONGS OF THE BIBLE

<b>Moses' Song of Deliverance</b>	Exodus 15:1-18
<b>Deborah and Barak's Song of Victory</b>	Judges 5:1-31
<b>Hannah's Song of Praise</b>	1 Samuel 2:1-10
<b>David's Song of Lament</b>	2 Samuel 1:17-27
<b>David's Song of Victory</b>	2 Samuel 22; Psalm 18
<b>Solomon's Love Song</b>	Song of Songs 2:10-15
<b>Mary's Song of Praise</b>	Luke 1:46-55
<b>A Hymn to Christ Jesus</b>	Philippians 2:6-11

## PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

<b>Solomon's Personal Prayer</b>	1 Kings 3:5-10
<b>Solomon's Public Prayer</b>	1 Kings 8:22-61; 2 Chronicles 6:12-42
<b>Hezekiah's Temple Prayer</b>	2 Kings 19:15-19; Isaiah 37:14-20
<b>David's Prayer of Thanksgiving</b>	2 Samuel 7:18-29; 1 Chronicles 17:16-27
<b>Job's Prayer</b>	Job 42:1-6
<b>Jeremiah's Prayer</b>	Jeremiah 32:16-25
<b>Daniel's Prayer</b>	Daniel 9:3-19
<b>Jonah's Prayer</b>	Jonah 2:1-9
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	Matthew 6:9-13
<b>Jesus's Prayer in Gethsemane</b>	Matthew 26:36-44
<b>Jesus's Prayer for His Disciples</b>	John 17

## PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

**The Disciples' Prayer** Acts 4:24-31

**Paul's Prayer for Believers** Ephesians 3:14-21

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## SPECIAL BLESSINGS FROM THE BIBLE

**Invocations and Openings** Psalm 19:14; 1 Corinthians 1:3;  
1 Timothy 1:2; 2 John 3;  
Revelation 1:4-6

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**Dismissals and Closings** Numbers 6:24-26; 1 Kings 8:57-58;  
Romans 15:5-6,13; 16:25-27;  
2 Corinthians 13:13; Ephesians 6:23-  
24; Philippians 4:7; Hebrews 13:20-21;  
Jude 24-25

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# FINDING HELP IN THE BIBLE

## HELP IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

<b>Being a friend</b>	Proverbs 17:17; Luke 10:25-37; John 15:11-17; Romans 16:1-2
<b>Being a leader</b>	Isaiah 11:1-9; 32:1-8; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:14-26; Titus 1:5-9
<b>Caring for the aged and widowed</b>	Genesis 47:1-12; Ruth 1; Proverbs 23:22; 1 Timothy 5:3-8
<b>Celebrating the birth/adoption of a child</b>	Psalms 100; Proverbs 22:6; Luke 18:15-17; John 16:16-22
<b>Celebrating a graduation</b>	Psalms 119:105-106; Proverbs 9:10-12; Galatians 5:16-26; Philippians 4:4-9
<b>Celebrating a marriage</b>	Genesis 2:18-24; Song of Songs 8:6-7; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 2:6-7
<b>Celebrating a wedding anniversary</b>	Psalms 100; 1 Corinthians 13
<b>Controlling your temper</b>	Proverbs 14:17, 29; 15:18; 19:11; 29:22; Ecclesiastes 7:9; Galatians 5:16-26
<b>Controlling your tongue</b>	Psalms 12; 19:14; Proverbs 11:13; 26:20; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; James 3:1-12
<b>Discovering God's will</b>	Psalms 15; Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 9:21-27; Romans 13:8-14; 2 Peter 1:3-9; 1 John 4:7-21
<b>Encountering a cult</b>	Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2; 1 John 4:1-6; Jude
<b>Encountering peer pressure</b>	Proverbs 1:7-19; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 6:1-5; Ephesians 5:1-20
<b>Entering college</b>	Proverbs 2:1-8; 3:1-18; 4:1-27; 23:12; Romans 8:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
<b>Entering military service</b>	2 Samuel 22:2-51; Psalm 91; Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Timothy 2:1-13
<b>Experiencing the death of a loved one</b>	Job 19:25-27; John 11:25-27; 14:1-7; Romans 8:31-39; 14:7-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
<b>Experiencing illness</b>	Psalms 23; Mark 1:29-34; 6:53-56; James 5:14-16
<b>Experiencing suffering and persecution</b>	Psalms 109; 119:153-160; Matthew 5:3-12; John 15:18-16:4; Romans 8:18-30; 2 Corinthians 4:1-15; Hebrews 12:1-11; 1 Peter 4:12-19
<b>Facing a difficult decision</b>	1 Kings 3; Esther 4-7; Psalm 139; Daniel 2:14-23; Colossians 3:12-17
<b>Facing a divorce</b>	Psalms 25; Matthew 19:1-9; Philippians 3:1-11

## HELP IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

<b>Facing homelessness</b>	Psalm 90:1, 2; Isaiah 65:17-25; Lamentations 3:19-24; Luke 9:57-62; Revelation 21:1-4
<b>Facing imprisonment</b>	Lamentations 3:34-36; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 4:16-21
<b>Facing life alone</b>	1 Corinthians 7:25-38; 12:1-31
<b>Facing a natural disaster</b>	Genesis 8:1-9:17; Job 36:22-37:13; Psalm 29; 36:5-9; 124; Jeremiah 31:35-37; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-12
<b>Facing a trial or lawsuit</b>	Psalm 26; Isaiah 50:4-11; Matthew 5:25-26; Luke 18:1-8
<b>Losing your job</b>	Jeremiah 29:10-14; Luke 16:1-13; Philippians 4:10-13
<b>Losing your property and possessions</b>	Job 1:13-22; 42:7-17; Isaiah 30:19-26; 41:17-20; Romans 8:18-39
<b>Managing your time</b>	Proverbs 12:11; 28:19; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; Titus 3:8-14
<b>Moving into a new home</b>	Psalm 127:1-2; Proverbs 24:3-4; John 14:1-7; Ephesians 3:14-21; Revelation 3:20-21
<b>Overcoming addiction</b>	Psalm 40:1-5, 11-17; 116:1-7; Proverbs 23:29-35; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Ephesians 4:22-24
<b>Overcoming a grudge</b>	Leviticus 19:17-18; Matthew 5:23-26; Luke 6:27-36; Ephesians 4:25-32
<b>Overcoming prejudice</b>	Matthew 7:1-5; Acts 10:34-36; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 2:11-22; Colossians 3:5-11; James 2:1-13
<b>Overcoming pride</b>	Psalm 131; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 14:7-11; Luke 18:9-14; 22:24-27; Romans 12:14-16; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
<b>Overcoming procrastination</b>	Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
<b>Raising children</b>	Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21
<b>Respecting civil authorities</b>	Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17
<b>Respecting parents</b>	Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 23:22; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20
<b>Retiring from your job</b>	Numbers 6:24-26; Psalm 145; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 3:12-21; 2 Peter 1:2

## HELP IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

<b>Seeking forgiveness</b>	Psalms 32:1-5; 51; Proverbs 28:13; Joel 2:12-17; Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 15; Philemon; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 1:5-10
<b>Seeking God's help</b>	Psalms 5; 57; 86; 119:169-176; 121; 130; Matthew 7:7-12
<b>Seeking justice</b>	Psalms 10; 17; 75; 94; Isaiah 42:1-7; 61:1-9; Amos 5:21-24; Habakkuk 1:1-2:4
<b>Seeking salvation</b>	John 3:1-21; Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-31; 5:1-11; 10:5-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:1-10
<b>Seeking strength</b>	Psalms 46; 138; Isaiah 40:27-31; 51:12-16; Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
<b>Seeking truth</b>	Psalms 119:153-160; John 8:31-47; 14:6-14; 16:4b-15; 1 Timothy 2:1-7
<b>Sharing your gifts</b>	Exodus 35:20-29; Malachi 3:6-12; Luke 21:1-4; Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37; Romans 12:9-13; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15
<b>Starting a new job</b>	Proverbs 11:3; 22:29; Romans 12:3-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1 Peter 4:7-11
<b>Understanding your relationship with God</b>	Deuteronomy 5:1-22; Psalm 139; John 15:1-17; Romans 5:1-11; 8:1-17
<b>Understanding your relationship with others</b>	Deuteronomy 5:16-21; Proverbs 3:27-35; Matthew 18:15-17; 18:21-35; Romans 14:13-23; 15:1-6; Galatians 6:1-10; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 John 4:7-12
<b>Worrying about the future</b>	Isaiah 35; 60; Jeremiah 29:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 21:1-8
<b>Worrying about growing old</b>	Psalms 37:23-29; Isaiah 46:3-4
<b>Worrying about money</b>	Proverbs 11:7; Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; Matthew 6:24-34; Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

## EXPERIENCING TROUBLESOME FEELINGS

<b>Afraid?</b>	Psalms 27; 91; Isaiah 41:5-13; Mark 4:35-41; Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 John 4:13-18
<b>Afraid of death?</b>	Psalms 23; 63:1-8; John 6:35-40; Romans 8:18-39; 1 Corinthians 15:35-57; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 2 Timothy 1:8-10



## EXPERIENCING TROUBLESOME FEELINGS

<b>Angry?</b>	Proverbs 15:1; Matthew 5:21-24; Romans 12:17-21; Ephesians 4:26-32; James 1:19-21
<b>Anxious? Worried?</b>	Psalm 25; Matthew 6:24-34; 10:26-31; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 5:7
<b>Depressed?</b>	Psalm 16; 43; 130; Isaiah 61:1-4; Jeremiah 15:10-21; Lamentations 3:55-57; John 3:14-17; Ephesians 3:14-21
<b>Disappointed? Let down?</b>	Psalm 55; 62:1-8; Jeremiah 20:7-18
<b>Discouraged?</b>	Psalm 34; Isaiah 12:1-6; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Philippians 4:10-13; Colossians 1:9-14; Hebrews 6:9-12
<b>Doubting your faith in God?</b>	Psalm 8; 146; Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 7:7-12; Luke 17:5-6; John 20:24-31; Romans 4:13-25; Hebrews 11; 1 John 5:13-15
<b>Frustrated?</b>	Job 21:1-16; 24:1-17; 36:1-26; Matthew 7:13-14
<b>Impatient?</b>	Psalm 13; 37:1-7; 40:1-5; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Lamentations 3:25-33; Hebrews 6:13-20; James 5:7-11
<b>Insecure? Lacking confidence?</b>	Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Psalm 73:21-26; 108; Philippians 4:10-20; 1 John 3:19-24
<b>Jealous?</b>	Psalm 49; Proverbs 23:17; James 3:13-18
<b>Lonely?</b>	Psalm 22; 42; John 14:15-31a
<b>Overwhelmed? Experiencing stress?</b>	Isaiah 55:1-9; Matthew 11:25-30; John 4:1-30; 2 Corinthians 6:3-10; Revelation 22:17
<b>Rejected?</b>	Psalm 38; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 4:16-30; John 15:18-16:4; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 2:1-10
<b>Tempted?</b>	Psalm 19:12-14; 141; Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 2:11-18; 4:14-16; James 1:12-18
<b>Tempted by sex?</b>	2 Samuel 11:1-12:25; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Galatians 5:16-26
<b>Tired? Weary?</b>	Psalm 3:5-6; 4:4-8; Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:25-30; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Hebrews 4:1-11
<b>Feeling useless? Inferior?</b>	Isaiah 6:1-8; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Galatians 1:11-24; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 2:4-10
<b>Vengeful?</b>	Matthew 5:38-42; Romans 12:17-21

## SUPPORTING OTHERS IN PAIN OR TROUBLE

<b>Wounds of the heart are serious and will affect our behavior</b>	Psalm 109:22, Proverbs 14:10, Proverbs 17:22, Proverbs 18:14
<b>Many people in the Bible felt pain and expressed it to God and others</b>	1 Samuel 1:10, 13-18, Psalm 55:4-6, Matthew 26:37-38, John 11:33-35
<b>People who are suffering may say hard things, hide their true feelings, and feel cut off from others</b>	2 Kings 4:26-27, Job 6:25-26, Job 10:1, Psalm 31:9-14, Psalm 88:8, 18
<b>God comforts us in our suffering so that we can comfort others</b>	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Psalm 119:50, 92, Isaiah 40:11, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
<b>We should listen carefully to others, help them express their pain, and not hurry with good advice</b>	Job 13:12-13; 21:2-3a, Ecclesiastes 3:4, 7, Psalm 32:3, Proverbs 18:13, Proverbs 20:5, Galatians 6:2, James 1:19
<b>God hears and understands our cries of pain</b>	Psalm 6:1-4, 6-9, Psalm 34:17-18, Isaiah 53:3-4, Matthew 9:35-36, Matthew 25:35-36, Hebrews 2:18
<b>God understands our anger and doubt</b>	1 Kings 19, Psalm 73:21-28, John 20:19-29, Hebrews 4:15-16
<b>God is a powerful protector and will bring justice when the time is right</b>	Psalm 73:25-28, Psalm 96:10-13, Romans 9:22-24, 2 Peter 3:9
<b>God will not abandon us</b>	Psalm 27, Psalm 121, Isaiah 49:13-16, Romans 8:18-39, 1 Corinthians 10:13
<b>We can turn to God each day for renewal and strength</b>	Psalm 46, Isaiah 40:28-31, Isaiah 57:15, John 14:15-21
<b>God can work positively in negative situations</b>	Genesis 50:20, Romans 5:1-5, Romans 8:28, James 1:2-4
<b>God loves us and has good things in store for us</b>	Isaiah 61:1-4, Matthew 7:7-11, John 14:1-14, 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9, Revelation 21:1-7

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GOD'S FORGIVENESS

<b>Every person is separated from God because of sin.</b>	Isaiah 59:1-15; Romans 3:9-20; Romans 5:12-21; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 7:14-25
<b>God has always sought to form a close relationship with people.</b>	Exodus 19:3b-8; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 54:1-10; 1 Peter 1:1-10; 1 John 3:1-10
<b>God has reached out to people in a personal way by sending Jesus Christ.</b>	Colossians 1:15-23; Romans 5:1-11; 1 Peter 2:10-25; John 3:1-21; 2 Timothy 1:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10
<b>God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ is available to every person</b>	Psalm 51:1-17; 1 John 1:5-10; Romans 10:5-13; Psalm 32:1-11; Romans 8:31-39; Romans 3:21-26
<b>New life in Christ calls a person to live in a Christ-like way.</b>	Romans 6:1-14; Matthew 20:20-28; Ephesians 4:17-32; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 John 4:7-21; Romans 12:1-21



**+ What's in the Bible** gives a brief summary of every book in the Bible and is preceded by a chart giving an overview of all the books that make up the Bible.

**+ How to Read the Bible** provides simple suggestions on how to read the Bible devotionally and keep notes on the many lessons you'll learn.

**+ Some Readings for Special Days** guides you to passages you may want to read on special days such as Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, and even your own birthday.

**+ Famous Passages of the Bible** helps you locate those famous Bible stories you've heard time and again, but may never have read for yourself.

**+ Finding Help in the Bible** leads you to passages that can help you when you're facing a difficult problem, experiencing troublesome feelings, or wanting to support others.

**+ What the Bible Says about God's Forgiveness** leads you to places in the Bible where you can learn how much God loves each one of us and what he has done to put us right with himself.

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