



## Bible Skills for Kids

### Definitions

**Table of Contents:** A list of all the different parts of a book. In the Bible, the table of contents helps us to find specific books in the Bible. There are 66 books of the Bible, and the table of contents lists them all. We also use our *Bible Bookcase* to help us determine a book's location.

**Testament:** The Bible is broken up into 2 parts, what happened before Jesus was born and what happened after. We also use the *Big Picture Timeline* to show how the Bible is divided.

**Old Testament:** The Old Testament comes first, and most of the books in the Bible are in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, we learn God created everything, sin entered the world and broke everything, and God made a promise to send a Savior to fix it.

**New Testament:** The New Testament comes after the Old Testament and is toward the back of the Bible. In the New Testament, we learn that Jesus came to save sinners by dying on the cross.

**Division:** Each testament of the Bible is divided broadly into four divisions based by similarities in the books' form, style, or subject matter.

**Book:** Each testament is made up of smaller parts called books. The Bible is one big book that has many shorter books inside of it. The Bible has 66 different books; there are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament! The books are the ones with names, like Genesis, Job and James.

**Chapter:** Each book in the Bible is divided into even smaller parts called chapters. Chapters are the big numbers in the Bible. Chapters are there to help us understand when new ideas are being explained.

**Verse:** Each chapter is divided one more time making the smallest part of the Bible. The verses are the little, black numbers. When we put books, chapters and verses together, they create a reference, or some leaders may call this an *address*.

**Reference:** A reference (or *address*) tells us where to turn in our Bibles. It always has a book, chapter and verse(s).

**Frame:** The Bible is one big story of God's rescue. Each Bible story we read is a small part (like a puzzle piece) of the bigger picture of God's rescue story. A frame is like a chapter in God's big rescue story. We often use our *Big Picture Timeline* to help us determine a book's frame. There are seven frames in the Bible:

- **Frame 1:** Creation and Crisis (Genesis 1-11)
- **Frame 2:** The Promise and the Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50)
- **Frame 3:** Israel (Exodus-2 Samuel)
- **Frame 4:** Exile (1 Kings-Malachi)
- **Frame 5:** Messiah (Matthew-John)
- **Frame 6:** The Church (Acts-Jude)
- **Frame 7:** Celebration (Revelation)

## **How to Find a Reference in the Bible**

Step-by-step instructions to help your kids find a verse in the Bible!

*Below you will find an example sequence that our leaders use when describing how to look up a Bible reference. This is just a reference and of course is not the only way! You'll notice that there is a lot of repetition and this is intentional. Repetition is key in helping our kids to hear, see, and understand the design of the Bible.*

**1. What are we looking for?** Simply start by stating the verse you are looking for.

**2. Bible Bookcase:** The first thing we are going to do is look on our *Bible Bookcase* to find where our book is located.

**Testament:** Which testament is this book in – Old or New?

**Division:** Which division of the Old or New Testament is this book in?

**Old Testament Divisions:** Law, History, Poetry, Prophets (Major & Minor)

**New Testament Divisions:** Gospels, Church History, Letters (Paul & General), Prophecy

**What is the book before this book?**

**What is the book after this book?**

**3. Big Picture Timeline** – The next thing we are going to do is look on our *Big Picture Timeline* to see where the book fits into God’s big, rescue story. God’s rescue story is divided into seven frames:

- **Frame 1:** Creation and Crisis (Genesis 1-11)
- **Frame 2:** The Promise and the Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50)
- **Frame 3:** Israel (Exodus-2 Samuel)
- **Frame 4:** Exile (1 Kings-Malachi)
- **Frame 5:** Messiah (Matthew-John)
- **Frame 6:** The Church (Acts-Jude)
- **Frame 7:** Celebration (Revelation)

**4. Page Number:** You can look in the Table of Contents to find the book’s page number. The Table of Contents is one of the very first pages in the Bible. Find the book and slide your finger all the way across these little tiny dots until you get to the page number.

**5. Look It Up:** For example, the Table of Contents says that the book of Esther is on page 527 in my Bible. 527 has three digits and starts with a 5, take a big jump (turning several pages at one time) until you see a 5 at the beginning of the page numbers. Once I see the ‘5’ I will make teeny-tiny jumps (turning a few pages at a time) until I find the second digit 2, and the third digit 7, page number ‘527’. Once you find page 527, show them the page that says “Esther” at the top.

**6. Find the chapter:** Now we are going to find chapter 10! Remember we are looking for the big number 10, the big, green number!. Let’s count the big numbers until we get to number 10. “1...2...” etc.

**7. Find the verse:** Now we are going to find the little numbers! Verses are the little numbers. After you see the BIG number 10, can you find the little number 3?

**8. Repeat, repeat, repeat!**

**Note:** Younger children may not understand numbers in the thousands.

Talk to them about the number of digits in a New Testament book. For example, James starts on page 1310. Let them know they are looking for a page number that has four digits. They need to find the first digit first, etc..

The first digit is a 1, the second digit is a 3, now I look for the number 10,  
1310.