

The Adventure Begins

14 Devotions for New Believers

Exploring the Bible

Memorize This: God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. - 2 Timothy 3:15a (NirV)

Big Idea: I can learn to read the Bible for myself.

Think About This:

Have you ever been lost? Sometimes when we go to a new place it's easy to get turned around and confused about which way to go. Whether it's a hike in the woods or shopping in a big store, you should always stick close to a grown-up who knows the way.

But have you ever noticed that after awhile you start to learn your way around new places yourself? It doesn't take long before you get to know a new place and can figure out which way to go.

The Bible is the same way. It can seem like a big, confusing book at first. But once you get familiar with it, you'll be finding your own way around in no time.

Here are a few tips to help you out:

Find the table of contents.

The Bible isn't just one book, but more like a library with 66 books in it. But here's the cool thing: All 66 books tell one big story, the story of Jesus rescuing His people!

Did you know there's a list of all 66 books in the front of every Bible? That's called the Table of Contents. It has the name of each book and the page where you can find it. The first thing you need to do is go find the Table of Contents and put a bookmark there so you don't lose it. That's how you can find your way around.

You may notice that the Table of Contents is divided into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. If the Bible is like a library, the Old Testament and New Testament are like two different rooms inside the library. The Old Testament room has 39 books that tell God's story before Jesus came to earth. The New Testament room has 27 books that tell God's story starting with the life of Jesus and His first followers.

Remember that every Bible verse has a street address.

Do you know your address? Let's say it's 5454 Oak Tree Avenue. That means you live on a street called Oak Tree Avenue, and the number on your house is 5454. Bible verses are arranged in the same way, but instead of street names and house numbers, they have book names, and chapter and verse numbers.

Here's an example of a Bible verse address:

John 3:16

John is the BOOK (You can find that in your Table of Contents).

3 is the CHAPTER (Chapters are the big numbers you see in each book).

16 is the VERSE (Verses are the little numbers you see in each chapter).

So if you want to find John 3:16, where do you start? The Table of Contents. Look for the book called John, and turn to that page number. Next look for the big number three. Remember, the big numbers are the chapters. Finally, track down the little number 16. That's your verse.

Now you know how to look up any verse in the Bible!

Don't forget, the point of reading the Bible is to help you get to know Jesus, but that gets easier as you learn to look up verses and read them for yourself.

Put It Into Action:

Here are some street addresses for a few Bible verses. Practice exploring the Bible by tracking down these verses as fast as you can.

- Genesis 1:1
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- John 3:16
- Philippians 4:4

Prayer:

God, thank you for helping me find my way around the Bible. I can't wait to get to know you better through your word. Amen.