



SAMPLER

SPARK
HOUSE
wearesparkhouse.org

HOW TO USE YOUR



MAKE THIS **SPARK BIBLE** YOUR OWN!

Welcome to your Spark Bible! You just started a journey through God's word that will last a lifetime. To make it your best trip ever, we want you to **MAKE THIS BIBLE YOUR OWN!**

GET TO KNOW GOD by using this Bible. The more you use it, the more interesting it gets.

Use every tool available to **MAKE THIS BIBLE WORK FOR YOU.**
You can **USE ANY OF THESE TOOLS** whenever you read your Bible:
**Stickers • Pens • Pencils • Colored Pencils • Markers • Highlighters • Ruler
Sticky Notes**

The next pages will help you start understanding that the Bible story is your story, too. **HAVE FUN**, and let people know how it's going. It's your Bible. **MAKE THE MOST OF IT.**

SPARK BIBLE

New Revised Standard Version

These pages are excerpted from the Spark Bible, copyright © 2009 Sparkhouse. All rights reserved. Spark Bible is a trademark of Sparkhouse. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Visit 1517.media, write to Permissions, 1517 Media, Box 1209 Minneapolis, MN 55440, or e-mail copyright@1517.media for further inquiries.

The NRSV is published by arrangement with HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America and used by permission. All rights reserved.

To purchase copies of the Spark Bible, go to wearesparkhouse.org, ISBN 978-0-8066-7048-5.

USE EVERYTHING IN THE SPARK BIBLE!

You'll always know what book of the Bible you're in.

GENESIS 1:1

SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

1 In the beginning when God created^a the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^b swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Genesis 1:31

KNOW IT! What did God make on each day of creation?

THINK ABOUT IT! Everything God makes is good. How does this change what you think about mosquitoes?

TRY IT! Go outside. Watch a bug for two minutes. Finish your time with your buggy friend by saying, "And it was good!"

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind^c in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^d and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humankind^c in his image, in the image of God he created them;^e male and female he created them.

^a Or when God began to create or In the beginning God created ^b Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind ^c Heb adam ^d Syr: Heb and over all the earth ^e Heb him

2 • PENTATEUCH

You'll always know what section of the Bible you're in.

Key Verses are highlighted all over this Bible. Try to figure out why they're important. You can highlight some Key Verses of your own.

Get to know some of the Bible words that matter most.

GENESIS 2:17

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION

In the day that the LORD^a God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the

LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground,^b and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

Genesis 2:7

KNOW IT! How did God make the first human?

THINK ABOUT IT! What good does dirt do in your life?

TRY IT! Grab a handful of dirt. Get it wet and let it ooze between your fingers.

¹²and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

GENESIS 2:10 **EDEN** The beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived. The garden will come back for a final encore. God will renew all of creation. Read about it in Revelation 21:9–22:7.

Explore more about some of the people, places, things, and events in the Bible stories you're reading.

DID YOU KNOW? SCIENCE AND CREATION

People in Bible times were curious about how the world worked, so the Bible writers used thoughtful stories to explain creation. The six days God used to create the world could be literal. Or they could be a poetic way the writer of Genesis symbolized great spans of time.

God is delighted when you learn about the world. Creation praises God too! Check out Psalm 148.

^a Heb YHWH, as in other places where "LORD" is spelled with capital letters (see also Ex 3.14-15 with notes). ^b Or formed a man (Heb adam) of dust from the ground (Heb adamah)

PENTATEUCH • 3

MARK UP YOUR SPARK BIBLE!

GENESIS 1:1

September 6

Write the date that you read the story.

Underline stuff you want to remember later.

SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

1 In the beginning when God created^a the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^b swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Genesis 1:31

KNOW IT! What did God make on each day of creation?

THINK ABOUT IT! Everything God makes is good. How does this change what you think about mosquitoes?

TRY IT! Go outside. Watch a bug for two minutes. Finish your time with your buggy friend by saying, "And it was good!"

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind^c in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^d and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humankind^e in his image, in the image of God he created them;^e male and female he created them.

Circle words that are confusing, interesting, or gross.

Color or highlight parts you really like.

^a Or when God began to create or In the beginning God created ^b Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind ^c Heb adam ^d Syr: Heb and over all the earth ^e Heb him

2 • PENTATEUCH

Attach a sticky note so you can find this page again.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION

In the day that the LORD^a God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the

DID YOU KNOW? SCIENCE AND CREATION

People in Bible times were curious about how the world worked, so the Bible writers used thoughtful stories to explain creation. The six days God used to create the world could be literal. Or they could be a poetic way the writer of Genesis symbolized great spans of time.

God is delighted when you learn about the world. Creation praises God too! Check out Psalm 148.

^a Heb YHWH, as in other places where "LORD" is spelled with capital letters (see also Exod 3.14-15 with notes). ^b Or formed a man (Heb adam) of dust from the ground (Heb adamah)

GENESIS 2:17

Genesis 2:10 **EDEN:** The beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived.

The garden will come back for a final encore. God will renew all of creation. Read about it in Revelation 21:9—22:7.

Jot notes in the margin.

Dirt is good!

LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground,^b and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

Genesis 2:7

KNOW IT! How did God make the first human?

THINK ABOUT IT! What good does dirt do in your life?

TRY IT! Grab a handful of dirt. Get it wet and let it ooze between your fingers.

¹²and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

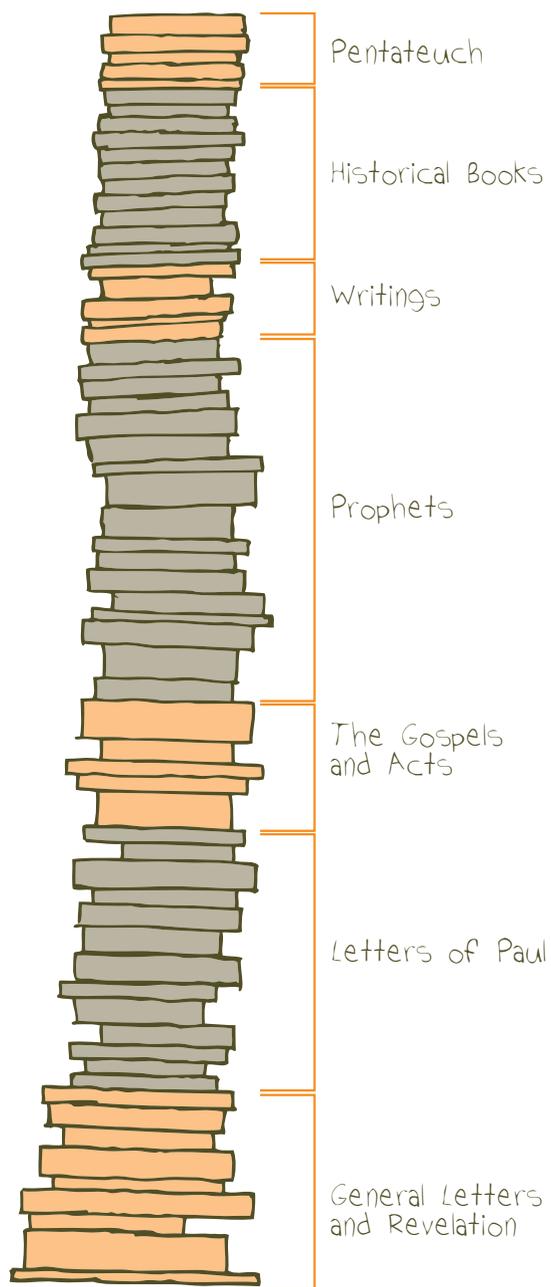
¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Put a sticker near places you read, remember, or want to know more about. (See the back of your Bible for more about stickers.)



PENTATEUCH • 3

MAKE YOUR SPARK BIBLE SMALLER!



Did you know that the Bible isn't really one book? It's actually 66 books all bound together. Some of the books are only a page long.

The 66 books can be divided into seven sections: Pentateuch, Historical Books, Writings, Prophets, The Gospels and Acts, Letters of Paul, and General Letters and Revelation.

The Bible also divides into two testaments, called the Old Testament and the New Testament. You can remember this and how many books each has by using the simple formula of 39.

3 letters in OLD 9 letters in TESTAMENT

OLD TESTAMENT

3 NEXT TO 9 = 39 BOOKS

3 letters in NEW 9 letters in TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

3 x 9 = 27 BOOKS

Here's a tip to help you find each section. Use highlighter pens in seven different colors (or at least rotate through a minimum of two). Highlight the edges of your Bible based on these sections. Keep your Bible closed while you do it.



Every book has a one-page introduction. Read those to decide which book to read first.

GENESIS

Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It is the beginning of everything and it is full of surprises. God creates a good world, people sin, the earth is flooded, families fought, nations fight, a very old couple has a baby. Through it all, God promises to save the world (including you) from sin and death.

Nine surprises

- God** creates the world. Chapter 1
- A talking serpent** tempts people to disobey God's command. Chapter 3
- Noah** builds a really big boat. Chapter 6
- God** promises not to punish what sinners did about 100 years old that they will have a baby. Chapter 12:10
- Jacob** and his twins break their dad's "always get along, but they have shared legumes" Chapter 25:12
- Joseph's** brothers sell him to Egypt. Chapter 37
- Pharaoh** builds a big city based on a dream about dream cows. Egypt is saved. Chapter 41
- Jacob's** sons get to Egypt and find food. The government officials who had been in charge of the grain had been hiding it. Chapter 42:1-42
- God** has one more surprise! Joseph's brothers want to kill him but God says they have to save their lives. Chapter 42:20

MARK

Mark's story about Jesus is the shortest and most likely the oldest gospel. It tells what happened during the three years Jesus walked from the Jordan River where he was baptized to Jerusalem where he was crucified and raised from the dead.

Walking to Jerusalem

- Jesus walked to the Jordan river where he was baptized. Chapter 1
- John baptized Jesus. Chapter 1:1-11
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:12-13
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:14-15
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:16-18
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:19-20
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:21-22
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:23-24
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:25-26
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:27-28
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:29-30
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:31-32
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:33-34
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:35-36
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:37-38
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:39-40
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:41-42
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:43-44
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:45-46
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:47-48
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:49-50
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:51-52
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:53-54
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:55-56
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:57-58
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:59-60
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:61-62
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:63-64
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:65-66
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:67-68
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:69-70
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:71-72
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:73-74
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:75-76
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:77-78
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:79-80
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:81-82
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:83-84
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:85-86
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:87-88
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:89-90
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:91-92
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:93-94
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:95-96
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:97-98
- Jesus was in Galilee. Chapter 1:99-100

REVELATION

The book of Revelation is filled with wild images, interesting characters, and unexpected action. This book describes the vision of John, an early follower of Jesus. John wrote this letter to people in churches that were facing persecution by government authorities. John uses codes to replace some names and words in case the letter fell into the wrong hands. For us today, these mysterious images are hard to understand. But John's love, even though he wrote about his vision for the people of his time, the book of Revelation also has important messages for us today.

Some visions that reveal

- Heaven and throne.** Chapter 4
- A lamb with seven horns and seven eyes.** Chapter 5:6
- Four horses that are white, red, black, and pale green.** Chapter 6:1-8
- Seven angels who blow seven trumpets.** Chapter 8:1-11
- Beasts and bowls of wrath.** Chapter 12:1-13
- Christ coming from the sky.** Chapter 14:1-5

TIPS FOR LOOKING UP BIBLE VERSES

- 1 The first verse in any chapter usually doesn't have a 1. Instead, the big number shows that you're starting with the first verse of a new chapter.
- 2 If you're not sure where to find the book of the Bible, use the Table of Contents on pages iii-v to help you.
- 3 Sometimes Bible verses are called a passage, a text, a reference, or a citation. No matter what word is used, you'll be looking up verses in the same way.
- 4 Sometimes the name of a Bible book includes a number, like 2 Samuel, 1 Corinthians, or 3 John.
- 5 If you see a short dash between verse numbers, this means that there is more than one verse. The number before the dash tells you where to start and the number after the dash tells you where to end.
- 6 If you see a long dash between chapter numbers, this means that the verses go across more than one chapter.
- 7 A few books in the Bible are so short that they only have one chapter! In those books, only the verse numbers are shown.

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

THE MESSIAH

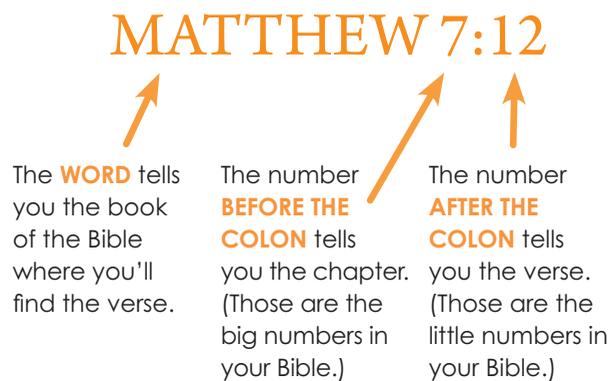
THE BIRTH OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

The books in the Bible are organized in the same way: from the whole Bible to a specific Book from Book to Chapter from Chapter to Verse

When you want to look up two verses in your Bible, there are three parts to check. A word or words before the number, a number before the colon, and one or more numbers after the colon.



Book

Chapter

Verse

SERVING TWO MASTERS

24 "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Matthew 6:24

KNOW IT! How many masters can you serve?

THINK ABOUT IT! How can you serve God?

TRY IT! Pick a right and prepare an easy meal for your family. Set the table and serve everyone what first before you eat.

DO NOT WORRY

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ..."

ASK, SEARCH, KNOCK

7 "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ..."

THE NARROW GATE

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. ..."

LOOK IT UP,
MARK IT UP,
AND REMEMBER TO
ASK QUESTIONS ALONG THE WAY!

EXODUS

Exodus 2:3 PAPYRUS:
A durable fabric that comes from a plant growing along the Nile River in Egypt. Papyrus was used to make boats, baskets, paper, and rope.

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ²Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵The total number of people born to Jacob was seventy. Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶Then Joseph died, and all his brothers, and that whole generation. ⁷But the Israelites were fruitful and prolific; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

THE ISRAELITES ARE OPPRESSED

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see

them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

BIRTH AND YOUTH OF MOSES

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him

The word *exodus* means “going out” or “exit.” In the book of Exodus, God tells the Egyptian Pharaoh, “Let my people go!” so they could worship God in the land he would give them. But Pharaoh did not let them go, so God rescues the people of Israel from slavery and leads them out of Egypt. Exodus shows us that God doesn’t let anything get in the way of his relationship with the Israelites.

Rescue,
rules,
and a
really big
building

Plagues Read about a take-no-prisoners struggle between the Egyptian Pharaoh and God. God sent ten plagues on the Egyptians. The sixth plague was festering boils. Have you ever seen a festering boil? A smart Pharaoh would have let them go right then and there. Chapters 1–14

Freedom Discover what happened during the Israelites’ first days of freedom. Things were really disorganized. No one could find anything to eat or drink. God worked through Moses to pull off some amazing miracles to save the day. Chapters 15–18

Rules See how God laid down the law. The Egyptians weren’t making rules for God’s people anymore. God provided for the people of Israel in the wilderness, but God also protected their whole lives by showing them how to live. You can find the Ten Commandments in chapter 20. Chapters 19–24

Tabernacle Learn how to build a tabernacle. The tabernacle was a place of worship for God’s people. Read all the details about *exactly* how to build one. Remember, the Israelites were very grateful that God had rescued them. They wanted God’s dwelling place to be perfect. Chapters 26–40

Exodus 2:3

KNOW IT! What did Moses’ mom do to protect him?
THINK ABOUT IT! Have you ever been responsible for taking care of someone or something really important? What did you do?
TRY IT! Find out who took care of you when you were a baby.

Exodus 1:17

KNOW IT! How did the Hebrew midwives save the male Hebrew children?
THINK ABOUT IT! When might it be okay for you to lie?
TRY IT! People in the French village Le Chambon hid several thousand Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust. Learn more online or at the library.

^a Sam Gk Tg: Heb lacks *to the Hebrews*

three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the

child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ^a “because,” she said, “I drew him out^b of the water.”

MOSES FLEES TO MIDIAN

¹¹ One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. ¹²He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong, “Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?” ¹⁴He answered, “Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” ¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well. ¹⁶The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. ¹⁷But some shepherds came and drove them away.

Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. ¹⁸When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come back so soon today?” ¹⁹They said, “An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock.” ²⁰He said to his daughters, “Where is he? Why did you leave the man? Invite him to break bread.” ²¹Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. ²²She bore a son, and he named him Gershom; for he said, “I have been an alien^c residing in a foreign land.”

²³ After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. ²⁴God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then he

DID YOU KNOW? WHAT’S IN A NAME?

In Hebrew, the name Moses means, “I drew him out of water.” Water is an important symbol in Moses’ life story. As an infant, Moses was rescued from the Nile River. As an adult, Moses led his people across the Red Sea.

The name Jesus means “God is salvation” in Hebrew. It is related to the name Joshua. For more about Jesus’ name, read Matthew 1:23-25 and Luke 1:31-33.

^a Heb *Mosheh* ^b Heb *mashah* ^c Heb *ger*