

READING THE BIBLE: God's Words of Love

The Bible is a holy book that tells of God's love for his people. The Bible is filled with many kinds of literature—stories, letters, prayers, songs and more—but every book contains the inspired words of God. No matter what you read, the Bible is a great tool for learning about God, our ancestors in faith and the world we live in today.

Two Parts of the Bible

The Bible is a collection of many books, divided into two parts: the **Old Testament** (TES-ta-ment) and the **New Testament**.



The **Old Testament**, beginning with the book of *Genesis*, tells about the world's creation and the history of the Jewish people.

The **New Testament**, beginning with the Gospels of *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke* and *John*, tells about the birth, life and death of Jesus and the history of the early Christian Church.

How to Find a Bible Verse

Bible citations (sigh-TAY-shuns) show you how to find a verse or a longer passage in the Bible. There are three steps to looking up a Bible verse:

1. Find the **book** that the reading is in.

Example: 2 Corinthians

Say: Second Cor-IN-thee-ins.

Hint: Look in the New Testament, after the Gospels and between the book of 1 Corinthians and Galatians.

2. Find the **chapter** of the book the reading is in.

Example: 2 Corinthians 5

Say: Second Corinthians, chapter five.

Hint: The chapter is the first number after the name of the book.

3. Find the **verse number(s)** of the reading.*

Example: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Say: Second Corinthians, five, seventeen.

Hint: The verse is the second number, found after the chapter number. They are separated by a colon (:).

* If two verse numbers are separated with a hyphen (-), you are to read all of the verses in between. If the verse numbers are separated with a comma (,), read only the verses whose numbers are given.

Now try to look up some verses on your own!