

Navigating the Bible

Materials:

- Bible; one per student
- Bookmark of some sort; one per student

Before starting, explain that the Bible can seem intimidating, but with a little practice they can be experts at navigating it!

First, explain the following. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and New Testament. The Old Testament is first, and the New Testament is second. When people use the Bible, they *look up a verse*. Write the citation John 3:16 on the board as an example.

Step 1. Explain that the book title comes first in a Bible citation. Together, turn first to the Book of Genesis, then to Exodus, and then to the Gospel of Matthew (see table below). As you go, write the book on the board. When they are on the correct page, they raise their hands. When they look up Matthew, have them place a bookmark at the beginning of the book as a reference.

Step 2. Introduce chapter numbers. These are the first numbers that follow the book title. They are the big numbers in the book. As you go, add these numbers to the books you have already listed on the board. Repeat the process as above.

Step 3. Introduce the verse number(s). These are the numbers that follow the *colon*. They are the little numbers in the book. If it is more than one verse, then they put a dash to show from what verse number to another you're supposed to read. Repeat the process as above. This time, once everyone has found it, have a volunteer read the verse(s) aloud for the class.

Practice finding specific passages as much as needed to practice. When they are ready to work alone, provide them the handout (as on pages 260–61 of the Parish Catechist Manual).

Reference for teachers in class instruction:

Step 1: Book	Step 2: Chapter	Step 3: Verse(s)	Teacher Notes
Genesis	2	:15–17	Man (Adam) in the Garden of Eden
Exodus	14	:21	Parting of Red Sea
Matthew	2	:1–4	Wise Men and Herod

Grade 2, Chapter 1