

Reading the Bible

If the thought of reading through the bible sounds like a daunting task to you, you're not alone. Reading the bible can seem awkward if you haven't done it before. It seems like irrelevant stories from a long-ago time talking about things we don't experience anymore (goats, harvesting, Jewish rituals, etc.).

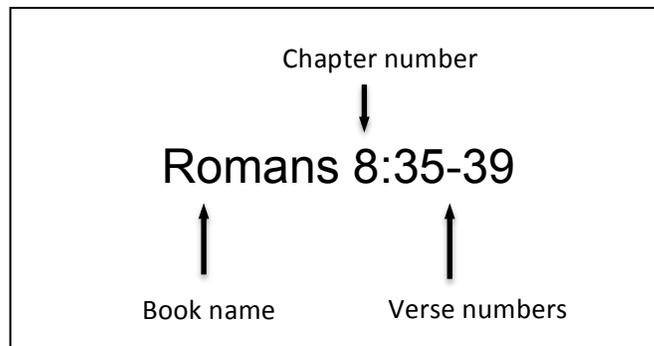
The bible requires us to read more deeply than we read other things. It asks us to pick out what each story tells us about God, and how the experiences of the people in the bible mirror our own.

The bible is a collection of books. It's grouped into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is also referred to as the Hebrew Bible and it is the story of God and God's people before Jesus was born. The New Testament contains the story of Jesus and the early church.

But before we get there, you might need to know how to find the reading you're looking for.

How to Find the Reading

The bible uses a specific type of notation to identify each book, chapter, and verse. It's like a filing system so that you can find parts more easily. Here's what it looks like:



Where to Begin

The bible as a whole appears to follow a (mostly) chronological order, but that's not actually the best or easiest way to start reading. Sometimes it's better to skip around a bit, or to start in the newer sections. To help you out, we've put together several reading plans for you to use.

If you're new to reading the bible, we suggest using one of the 2-week plans. They follow one specific theme, they are a short commitment, and they give a goal you can easily accomplish. Pick a topic you're interested in and give it a shot.

If you're looking for more of a challenge, you can follow the reading plan that will guide you through the whole bible in 3 years.

Or, for some variety and to get an overall sense of the stories and people in the bible, you can follow our one-year plan. There are different paths, from quick samples of stories to the entire bible in only one year.

Whatever path you choose, we hope that God breathes a new word into your life and that your faith is strengthened through the practice.