



HOW TO USE THE BIBLE SERIES

BIBLE FEATURES AND FORMAT

AN ENRICH YOUR STUDY TOOL



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PHYSICAL BIBLE FEATURES

JOURNAL MARGIN

Many versions now offer styles with large blank margin on the sides.

Margins are ideal for those who enjoy taking notes or doodling while studying. Some versions also include pictures in the margins.

Margins are a great place to write down questions or insights you might have about a particular passage you're reading.

Dating margin entries is helpful in seeing your personal growth. You might have a completely different understanding of a text you dated months or years ago!

TABS

Tabs make it easy to flip between different books in the Bible. Some versions already come with indentations, acting as tabs, or their own set of tabs you can install yourself. There are also many tabs available to order online. Most sets include instructions for how to install them.

RED LETTER

Red letter is red text that indicates when Jesus is speaking. Some versions have this while others do not. If you would prefer to have red letter, make sure it's indicated on the packaging of your Bible.

STUDY BIBLES

Ideal for those who enjoy studying in-depth. While some Bibles include a few extra features besides the plain original text, Study Bibles provide additional content such as:

- Charts of timelines, plants and animals, and book themes
- Maps of migrations, changes in ownership of land across time, mission routes, and battle movements
- Diagrams of family trees, camp formations, and building instructions
- Commentaries, historical context, word definitions, archaeological discoveries, etc.

A recommended resource for more extensive study of the Bible is the Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Time Lines. Not affiliated with The Gathering Well.

INTERNAL BIBLE FEATURES

FOOTNOTES

As many textbooks do, standard Bibles often include footnotes, with Study Bibles featuring additional footnotes. Depending on the Bible version, footnotes will include information such as:

- Cross references to other Bible verses
- Alternative word-play, meanings, and symbolism from the original language
- Notes on whether or not certain phrases are in various historical documents
- Cultural references
- Scholar commentary

INDEX, GLOSSARY, & REFERENCES

As many textbooks do, Bible versions may include some or all of the following to make finding certain information easier.

- Index: find visual aides and search by topic
- Glossary: find verses about specific words
- References: cites the sources of research and visual aides

Indexes and glossaries are often found in the back of the book, while references may be in the front or back.

CONCORDANCE

A concordance is a comprehensive alphabetical list of words in a text and where to find them. Some Bibles may include a condensed concordance/glossary of important words found in the text.

Strong's Concordance is a popular separate book that includes the verse references for every single word in the KJV, with various new versions available of the updated concordance.

Some separate concordances also include every Hebrew and Greek word in the original language.

A concordance is a great tool for those who enjoy studying the meaning of words, studying the Bible by topic, and finding cross-references in the Bible.

BOOKS, CHAPTERS, & VERSES

The Bible is not only one book, but is instead considered a *library* with a collection of books.

A Bible's Table of Contents is organized by **book**.

Inside each book there are chapters, like any other book.

Chapters are indicated by a large number at the beginning of certain paragraphs.

Verses are indicated by a small number before a sentence or stanza.



REFERENCING VERSES

Being able to reference specific verses makes it easier to navigate the Bible.

1

Verses are referenced using this formula:

[book name] [chapter number]:[verse number(s)]
for example: John 3:16

2

To say this outloud would sound like:

“John, three, sixteen”
or
“John, chapter 3, verse 16”

3

To reference multiple verses in a row:

John 3:16-21
“John, three, sixteen through twenty-one”
“John, chapter 3, verses 16 through 21”

4

To reference multiple verses from the same chapter but that are not in a row:

John 3:16, 21
“John, three, sixteen and twenty-one”
“John, chapter 3, verse 16 and verse 21”

5

Continue to the next page to practice finding verses in the Bible.

REFERENCE PRACTICE

Let's practice finding John 3:16 in your Bible.

1

First, use the Table of Contents to find what page the book of John starts on (not to be confused with books 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John).

If you have tabs on your Bible, you could choose to look through those to find the correct book instead.

2

Once you've found where the book of John starts, begin flipping pages until you see the big "3" to indicate the beginning of chapter 3.

3

Once you've found the correct chapter, look at the small numbers at the beginning of each sentence to find "16."

Congratulations! You've found your first Bible verse.

Note that some books in the Table of Contents have a number before their name. These can indicate the difference between 'part 1' and 'part 2' of a book set, or different books by the same author.

The book of John is one of the Gospels and is written by John.

1 John, 2 John, and 3 John are all also written by the same John, but are personal letters.

So, John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16 are not referencing the same thing.

1 John 3:16 would be said as: "First John, chapter 3, verse 16."

