



USE YOUR TOOLS WISELY

Goal

Practice using the Bible

Details

- Identify the Features of the Bible
- Practice Using the Features of the Bible
- Let the Challenge Begin!

Scripture References

Identify the Features of the Bible

Be sure every student has a Bible to use.

Activity - Look at the Contents

Point out Old and New Testaments.

Point out Old Testament has 39 books—have students count them.

Point out New Testament has 27 books—have students count them.

Read over the names of the books.

Activity - Look at a Specific Book

Point out how books are broken into chapters and verses.

Look at Jude—a book with only one chapter.

Look at Psalms—a book with 150 chapters.

Activity - Go Back to the Contents

Point out categories of books within each division:

- OT— 5 books of Law
- 12 books of History
- 5 books of Poetry
- 5 books of Major Prophets¹
- 2 books of Minor Prophets

- NT— 4 books of Gospels
- 1 book of History
- 13 Letters of Paul;
- 8 General Letters (some lists say 14 Letters of Paul and 7 General Letters, depending on where Hebrews is placed)

- 1 book of Prophecy

Identify the Features of the Bible (continued)

Activity - Look at Maps

Find a basic map that shows the Holy Land at the time of Jesus. Ask students to locate certain features—rivers, seas, mountains. Ask students to locate certain cities.

Find a map of the missionary journeys of Paul. Ask students to locate several cities on the journeys.

Activity - Go to the Concordance

Explain how to look up a word and then find several verses that include that word.

Practice Using the Features of the Bible

Activity - Bible Book Drill

Have the students begin a drill by holding their Bibles in the air. Call out the name of a Bible book clearly twice. Tell the students that when you say “Go,” they are to lower their Bibles and begin searching for the specified book. The first student to find any page within the pages of the book raises his or her hand and shows that they have found the book.

Have the students find ten different books.

Activity - Bible Drill

A Bible Drill is the same as a Bible Book Drill but instead of searching for a book, the students search for a verse. The first student to find the verse, raises his or her hand and when called upon reads the verse aloud.

Have the students find five different verses.

Activity - Concordance Drill

Ask students to find three-five verses that contain a specific word.

Practice by finding verses for at least three different words.

Activity - Map Drill

Have students look at the map of Judea.

Clear a large space in the center of the room.

Assign each student a name from the map, like Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Jordan River, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Joppa, etc.

Ask “Jordan River” to lie down in the center of the space. Then ask the other land features to sit in a proper location in relation to the Jordan River.

Last, ask each of the Cities to stand in a proper location in relation to the other features that are already in place.

Divide the class into three or more teams. Be sure that teams are as equally matched as possible, both in regard to “Bible knowledge” and “reading skills”.

Conduct as many of the activities listed below as time permits. Each team works together to write the answers. Then discuss the answers and give the winning team in each event 100 points, and other teams an appropriate number of points.

At the end of the lesson, tally the scores. Give a round of applause for the winning team and praise all participants. Explain that all participants are WINNERS because they have successfully practiced using their Bibles and they have had a fun time in the process!

Activity - Order the Books

Write the names of six books on the board. Ask teams to put them in order as they appear in the Bible.

Activity - Books by the Letter

For this challenge spelling does not count.

Ask teams to write down all the books of the Bible that begin with J.

Ask teams to write down all the books of the Bible that begin with E.

Ask teams to write down all the books of the Bible that begin with P.

Activity - Twin Books

Ask teams to name as many sets as possible where two or more books have the same name, except for the “First”, “Second”, or “Third” in front of the name.

Activity - Books Before or After

Ask teams to name at least six books that come before a specific one that you name. For this event, time would be called as soon as one team indicates that it has completed the assignment.

Ask teams to name at least six books that come after a specific one that you name. For this event, time would be called as soon as one team indicates that it has completed the assignment.

Let the Challenge Begin! (continued)

Activity - Books by Classification

Ask teams to name at least six books of the twelve books of History in the Old Testament. For this event, time would be called as soon as one team indicates that it has completed the assignment.

Ask teams to name at least six books of the Letters of Paul in the New Testament. For this event, time would be called as soon as one team indicates that it has completed the assignment.

Activity - Verse by Verse

Ask the teams to write the first three words of a specific verse that you give. For this event, time would be called as soon as one team indicates that it has completed the assignment.

Activity - From the Map

Ask the teams to name as many bodies of water as possible that would be found on the map of the Holy Land in the back of their Bibles.

Ask the teams to name eight cities found on the map of the Holy Land in the back of their Bibles.

Activity - Where's That Verse?

Ask students to use the concordance to make a list of four verses that contain the word "faith".

Ask students to use the concordance to make a list of four verses that contain the word "temple".

Ask students to use the concordance to make a list of four verses that contain the word "understand".