

Welcome to Sunday School and our BIBLE 101: FINDING STORIES lesson. Now that we know what the Bible is, how do we read it?

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?:

Last week we learned that **the Bible is** a book that is made up of collection of books (**66 total!**) in 2 Testaments (OLD & NEW) compiled over thousands of years by over 40 different writers or authors and put into one book around the 2nd century AD.

The Bible tells the story of ancient people and how they experienced God in their lives. It tells of how Jesus came to teach people about God's love and how the Christian church began. The Bible offers treasured words that help us learn ways that God wants us to live.

HOW DO I FIND STORIES IN THE BIBLE?:

The Bible is full of wonderful stories and teaching to show us how to live and how to treat each other. But how do we find these stories in the Bible? Well, first you need to find the BOOK that the story is in... for example... the story of NOAH & THE ARK is in the book of GENESIS. We know that because you can look in the back of your Bible in the index or at the beginning of each book of the Kid's Deep Blue Bible for an overview of the characters you will meet in that book, and easiest of all, you can do a quick search on the Internet with your parent and once you find out what book and chapter the story is in, then go find it in your Bible. A listing of all of the books of the Bible can be found at the front of your Bible in the Table of Contents. The story of Noah can be found in Genesis 6:5-10:32. (The book of Genesis, chapter 6, verse 5, through Genesis, chapter 10, verse 32.)

The name of the book of the Bible is always at the top of the page. The big numbers you see on the pages are the chapters and the little tiny numbers next to the sentences and paragraphs are verses. These passages that you read are called scriptures. This chapter and verse numbering system that we know today was added much later (in the 16th century) to help people study the Bible.

Micah 6:8

BOOK CHAPTER VERSE

Here's how to find the story where Jesus tells us the Golden Rule. Again, you can do an Internet search with your parent and see that the "Golden Rule in the Bible" is found in the book of Matthew, chapter 7, verse 12 (Matthew 7:12). When I go to my Bible I first find the book of Matthew (in the New Testament which is the second half of the Bible towards the back - I can even find it by looking at the Table of Contents in the front of my Bible and finding the page number where the book of Matthew starts) and once I find Matthew, I look at the top of the page in the corners to see what chapter I am in, and then find my way by turning the pages to find chapter 7 (the big number on the page) and then I look for the little number and find verse 12. There it is! And it says **"Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets."**
 -Matthew 7:12

SCRIPTURE:

And what does the Lord require of you, but to DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS and to WALK HUMBLY with your God?" -Micah 6:8

ACTIVITIES:

Family Discussion:

1. The scripture at the left is one that has always defined St. Luke's. Can you find it in your Bible and try to memorize it? What does it mean?
2. Watch one of the videos on anti-racism that we linked to in our email and on our website and discuss.

Pray:

Pray at 8:46am every morning this week for racial justice (which means that no matter what the color of your skin, you are treated with kindness and equality.)

Acts of Kindness:

Think of ways you can show kindness this week and make a list. Try to complete everything on your list in 7 days.

Look through a Bible:

If you have a Bible at home, see if you can find these stories with a parent:

CREATION
 (Genesis 1:1-2:4)

DAVID & GOLIATH
 (1 Samuel 17)

QUEEN ESTHER
 (Esther)

JESUS' BIRTH
 (Matthew 1:19-2:12, Luke 2:1-20)

THE LORD'S PRAYER
 (Matthew 6:9-13)

PRAYER:

Dear God,
 Thank you for the BIBLE. Help us to let your stories and teachings guide us to treat others the way we want to be treated and show your LOVE for all people.

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Creator,
 who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen