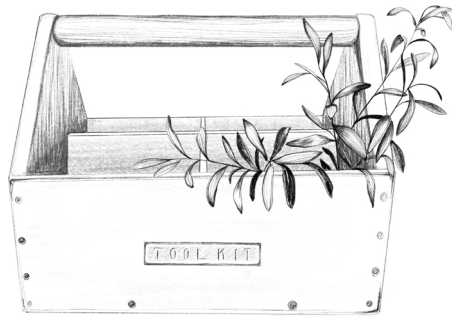


HOSANNA
revival



THE BIBLE TOOLKIT



ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

Are you new to the Bible? Perhaps you're a new believer or have been following Jesus for a bit but aren't sure how to navigate your Bible. Or maybe you're simply exploring what it means to follow Jesus and know the Bible has *something* to do with that. If you fall into any of these categories, this guide is for you.

Through the Bible Toolkit, we'll walk you through the process of diving into the Word of God, from why you should read the Bible to navigating the pages inside to what happens after you close the cover. Let's dive in!

Be sure to check out [our digital guide online](#) for even more tips, like addressing common barriers to the Bible and how to choose a translation!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A NOTE FROM KATIE...4

WHAT IS THE BIBLE...5

WHY READ THE BIBLE...6

NAVIGATING THE BIBLE...7

The Old Testament...8-10

The New Testament...11-13

READING THE WORD...14

Ways to Read the Bible...15

Before you read the Bible...16

While you read the Bible...17

AFTER YOU READ...18

Community...19

Resources...20

A NOTE FROM KATIE

*“You will seek me and find me
if you seek me with all your heart”*

—Jeremiah 29:13—

If I were sitting next to you right now as you think about reading your Bible, I would want you to know a few things.

First, I would tell you that I am overjoyed that you would even consider reading the words in this precious book, because they are truly sacred. The Bible is the tangible Word of God—the God who created the universe, sees all things, and knows your name.

Second, I would tell you that the Bible is the complete and true story of our being and purpose. When you crack this book open, you will find stories full of triumph, wilderness, waiting, and ultimately, a Savior who came in the name of love.

As you hold a copy of the Bible in your hands, I pray that you will feel that love radiating out of its pages. Please know the words inside this book and the simple act of reading them will change your life. The echoes of God’s glory will reach the ends of the earth because of the work he is doing in you.



*Founder & Product Designer
at Hosanna Revival*

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?



We believe that the Bible, consisting of 66 books, is the only holy, inspired, trustworthy and true Word of God. We believe there is one God, the Creator of all things, infinitely holy and eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Bible is without error, and is the only final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe that the true beauty of the Bible absolutely lies within its pages.

*Above all else, we are convinced that
the words inside of this timeless book
will revive our world.*

WHY READ THE BIBLE?



You will discover who God is.

- You will hear stories of his greatness and his might.
- You will discover that God is deeply intentional and specific with every part of this world.
- You will learn that his love for you burns brighter than any you've seen or felt before.
- You will see clearly that he has a call on your life and a plan for this earth that ends in a beautiful victory.
- As you read about God, you will be equipped to articulate and share the gospel with others.
- As Scripture fills your soul, you will be able to use these words of truth to confront the enemy when he speaks lies into your mind.

As you read your Bible and start to believe that God is who he says he is, you will begin to put your trust in him in ways you never thought you would—strengthening your faith day by day and spreading the name of Jesus on this earth.

NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

The Bible is broken into two big sections: the Old Testament (before Jesus' ministry on Earth) and the New Testament (from Jesus' life on Earth, and beyond). Together, these sections hold a total of 66 individual books inspired by God and written by more than 40 different individuals throughout history—all telling one complete account of who God is and what he has done. These individual books are broken up into chapters and verses to help locate where exactly you are reading in this grand story. Below is a breakdown of each section of the Bible.



*Old Testament - before
Jesus' ministry on earth*



*New Testament - from Jesus'
life on earth and beyond*

OLD TESTAMENT

THE BEGINNING

The story of the Bible begins with God, then his Creation. God, man, and all the animals lived together in perfect harmony and peace. But when Adam and Eve sinned, it all came crashing down. Adam and Eve were created holy and perfectly happy in God's creation, but that perfect harmony with God was destroyed and the earth was cursed as a result of their sin.



THE ACCOUNT OF ISRAEL

The story of Israel is a fairly similar narrative. God saves Abraham's descendants from Egyptian slavery and exile and leads them into a lush, green land he promised to Abraham hundreds of years earlier. But just like Adam, the children of Israel rebelled against God and were exiled from the Promised Land.



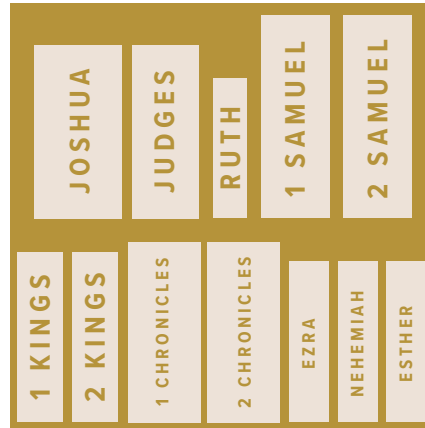
HOW IT ENDS

The Old Testament ends with the children of Israel—Abraham's descendants—returning to the Promised Land, but it is no longer the paradise it once was. They are still in exile under foreign rule. There is conflict and pain. The weight of the curse still remained, but so did the promise of God to send a Savior—the Messiah—to break this curse and put an end to suffering once and for all. But the question remained: when and how would God fulfill this long-awaited promise?



THE PENTATEUCH

The first five books of the Bible detail the history of Creation, the Fall, God’s covenants with the patriarchs of Israel, Israel’s liberation from captivity and formation as a nation of God’s people, and the book of the laws that formed the covenant between God and Israel.



HISTORICAL BOOKS

These books cover the following: Israel’s military conquest of the Promised Land, its emerging monarchy under Kings Saul, David, and Solomon, the divided kingdoms, its fall and captivity, and Israel’s return from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem.



POETRY & WISDOM LITERATURE

Some of the best-known portions of Scripture are its poetry, often called the “Wisdom Literature.” These writings include chapters of historical writings, praises, lament, prayers, dirges, and songs written by King David, King Solomon, and more.



PROPHETS

Prophets were sent by God to warn and decree judgment on the nation of Israel for their sin and abandonment of God. God used these prophets to lead His people away from sin and back to Himself.

GENESIS
 EXODUS
 LEVITICUS
 NUMBERS
 DEUTERONOMY
 JOSHUA
 JUDGES
 RUTH
 1 SAMUEL
 2 SAMUEL
 1 KINGS
 2 KINGS
 1 CHRONICLES
 2 CHRONICLES
 EZRA
 NEHEMIAH
 ESTHER
 JOB
 PSALMS
 PROVERBS
 ECCLESIASTES
 SONG OF SOLOMON
 ISAIAH
 JEREMIAH
 LAMENTATIONS
 EZEKIEL
 DANIEL
 HOSEA
 JOEL
 AMOS
 OBADIAH
 JONAH
 MICAH
 NAHUM
 HABAKKUK
 ZEPHANIAH
 HAGGAI
 ZECHARIAH
 MALACHI

OLD TESTAMENT—IN DEPTH

PENTATEUCH (BOOKS OF THE LAW): GENESIS—DEUTERONOMY

The first five books of the Bible are often called the “Pentateuch,” which simply means “five books”. They detail the history of Creation, the Fall, God’s covenantal dealings with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who are the patriarchs of God’s chosen people, the Israelites. About 400 years after God’s covenant with Abraham, all of Israel was enslaved in Egypt. Exodus details how God used Moses and incredible miracles to free his people. After being led out of captivity, God establishes his covenant with Israel through the giving of the 10 commandments and the law. The Law is recorded in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

HISTORICAL BOOKS: JOSHUA—ESTHER

Though God wanted to lead his people into the land he had promised Abraham centuries before, they rebelled against the law he had given them, and broke their end of the covenant. This began a 40-year period of wandering in the desert before finally entering the Promised Land. After Moses died, Joshua led a new generation of Israelites into the Promised Land. They conquered the land of Canaan and became an established nation.

But it didn’t take long before they began a terrible cycle of abandoning God and his covenant with them, falling captive to enemy nations and calling on God to rescue them. God saved His people time and time again, sending men and women to “judge” them. Not kings, but people who provided godly council and delivered God’s people from their captors.

But it wasn’t enough for Israel—they wanted a king, like all the other nations around them. So God appointed Saul to be the first king of Israel, who was followed by King David and all the rest of Israel’s kings. After the reign of David’s son, Solomon, the nation split into two kingdoms and the temple of God in Jerusalem was destroyed.

POETRY/WISDOM LITERATURE: JOB—SONG OF SOLOMON

Some of the best-known portions of Scripture are from its Poetry, which is often called the “Wisdom Literature.” These writings include chapters of historical writings, praises, lament, prayers, dirges, and songs written by many people, including King David and his son, King Solomon.

PROPHETS: ISAIAH—MALACHI

Much of the Old Testament is comprised of writings by prophets who were sent by God to warn and decree judgment on the nation of Israel for their sin and abandonment of God. God used these prophets to lead His people away from sin and back to Himself.

BOOK OVERVIEW

GENESIS: *The history of Creation, the Fall, and God’s covenants with the patriarchs of Israel*

EXODUS: *The history of Israel’s liberation from captivity and formation as a nation of God’s people*

BOOK OVERVIEW

JOSHUA: *Israel’s military conquest of the Promised Land*

1 SAMUEL + 2 SAMUEL: *Israel’s growing and emerging monarchy under Saul and David*

1 KINGS + 2 KINGS: *Solomon and the divided kingdoms and the fall and captivity of Israel*

NEHEMIAH: *Israel’s return from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem*

BOOK OVERVIEW

JOB: *An account of suffering*

ECCLESIASTES, PSALMS, PROVERBS: *Wisdom literature and Hebrew poetry*

BOOK OVERVIEW

JEREMIAH: *An example of a major prophet*

AMOS + HOSEA *Examples of the minor prophets*

NEW TESTAMENT

THE BEGINNING

After 400 years of silence, Israel is still in exile under the Romans. They are eagerly awaiting the promised Messiah, foretold by prophets of old. They longed for him, believing that when he came he would set all things right. And he would—but not the way they thought he would.



THE ACCOUNT OF JESUS

Jesus did not overthrow the government and become their king. Instead, he had come for a much greater purpose: to break the curse of sin. Jesus came to live a perfect life and die in the place of sinners, reconciling them back to God—bringing us back to the garden paradise where we can once again have perfect harmony and peace with God.



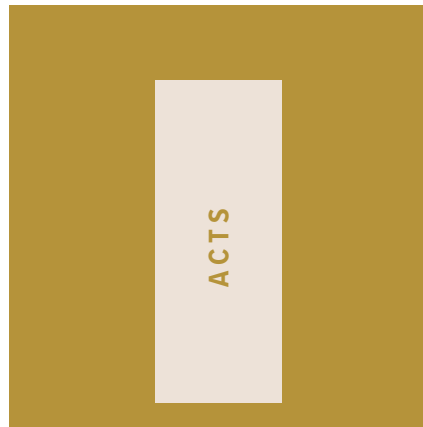
HOW IT ENDS

The New Testament ends with the promise of a future in a new heaven and a new earth. No more sin, no more curse, no more sickness, no more death. God will make all things new and will once again dwell with his people.



THE GOSPELS

The New Testament then begins with the 4 gospels: the accounts of the life, earthly ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus who comes as the fulfillment of God’s covenant with his people and the Savior of all mankind.



ACTS

Acts tells the story of the birth of the first-century Church and the conversion of Paul who was hugely influential in the spread of the gospel.



by Paul by other church fathers

THE LETTERS

The rest of the New Testament is a collection of letters or “epistles.” Many were written by Paul to churches that he had established as he traveled around, preaching the gospel. He carefully guarded the message of the gospel, teaching that the way to salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, so that God alone receives the glory.



REVELATION

The very last book in the Bible is Revelation. God gave John visions as he wrote to churches, giving them hope, encouraging them to stand firm, and correcting wrong beliefs and behaviors. Jesus will come again, in power and glory and God’s glorious plan of redemption will be fully realized and evil will be banished forever.

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS

1 CORINTHIANS

2 CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS

EPHESIANS

PHILIPPIANS

COLOSSIANS

1 THESSALONIANS

2 THESSALONIANS

1 TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY

TITUS

PHILEMON

HEBREWS

JAMES

1 PETER

2 PETER

1 JOHN

2 JOHN

3 JOHN

JUDE

REVELATION

NEW TESTAMENT—IN DEPTH

THE GOSPELS: MATTHEW—JOHN

For 400 years, the Bible falls silent. This is the gap between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament then begins with the gospels; the accounts of the life and earthly ministry of Jesus. The world is a very different place; Israel is now under oppression by the Roman government. When Jesus arrives on the scene, some think he will be a hero that will overthrow the government and become their king. But instead, Jesus comes as the fulfillment of God’s covenant with his people. In these four gospels, Jesus’ life, earthly ministry, death, resurrection and ascension are detailed. The gospels also record the commission Jesus gave to those who follow him: preach the gospel to every corner of the earth!

ACTS

Acts tells the story of the birth of the first century Church. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel, and it spread like wildfire. In Acts, we are introduced to Paul and his conversion to Christianity. Paul was a missionary and church planter who was hugely influential in the spread of the gospel and he wrote the majority of the New Testament.

LETTERS: ROMANS—JUDE

The rest of the New Testament is a collection of letters, usually called “epistles”. Most of them were written by Paul to different churches that he had established as he traveled around, preaching the gospel. Much of what we believe as Christians—our doctrine—is taught to us in Paul’s letters. Paul often corrected errors in the church, whether immoral behavior or false teachings.

He carefully guarded the message of the gospel, vehemently teaching that the way to salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, so that God alone would receive the glory. We are not saved by the works of the flesh, obeying the Old Testament law, but only through faith in Jesus. Paul’s writings are rich with theology—how to rightly think about God, his Word, who Jesus Christ is and what he has done, how we obtain salvation, and how we ought to live as God’s children.

Paul also wrote letters to young pastors who took over the churches he planted, often called “the pastoral epistles”. In these letters, Paul instructs how churches are to be structured, how they are to be led, and how we ought to preach the Word of God.

REVELATION

The very last book is Revelation. God gave John visions as he wrote to churches, giving them hope, encouraging them to stand firm, and correcting wrong beliefs and behaviors. Revelation is a fascinating yet puzzling book, and many Christians have different beliefs as to how it should be understood and interpreted. Regardless of how you view the book, the main theme is clear: Jesus will come again, in power and glory and God’s glorious plan of redemption will be fully realized and evil will be banished forever.

BOOK OVERVIEW

THE GOSPELS: *The first 4 books of the New Testament that detail the life and earthly ministry of Jesus.*

BOOK OVERVIEW

ACTS: *The history of the early Christian church*

BOOK OVERVIEW

ROMANS: *Paul’s teachings of Christian theology*

1 CORINTHIANS + 2 CORINTHIANS: *Life in the early church*

EPHESIANS + 1 TIMOTHY: *An introduction to the teachings of Paul and his pastoral letters*

HEBREWS: *Christology (theology of Christ)*

BOOK OVERVIEW

REVELATION: *the last book in the Bible, revealing both things past and things to come*

READING THE BIBLE

Now that you know your way around the Bible, it's time to open it up and actually read! Our hope is that your time with God is not only a time to study and learn the Bible and his Word, but also a time to love and adore God and his character - to sit, rest, learn his ways and his true character. To know and to love someone takes time, practice and consistency. We hope these helpful tips can help you step into the unforced rhythms of grace and draw you closer to the Lord's heart.

WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE

Bible reading typically happens in one of two ways.

CHRONOLOGICAL

Choose a book of the Bible and read through it from beginning to end. It is helpful to find study questions or commentary as you take this bare-bones approach.



GUIDED STUDY

Follow along with a Bible study that points out different Scriptures for you to read each day. Bible studies typically include commentary and references that relate to a specific topic or guide you through a book.

Where to Start: If you are reading the Word for the first time, we suggest you start with [John](#), a book at the beginning of the New Testament that details the life of Jesus. To get you started, we link our [reading plan of the book of John](#) at the end of this guide. Our hope is that this guide will help you ask good questions and look at Scripture a little bit deeper.

BEFORE YOU READ THE BIBLE

HAVE A PLAN

Having a plan to work through a specific book of the Bible encourages routine and consistency. Knowing exactly where you're headed before you begin helps build structure and discipline into your daily time with God.



SCHEDULE A TIME

Having a specific time helps build consistency into your daily rhythms. Include it in your calendar, whether it's in your planner, Google calendar or in your reminders. Take a step in personal accountability by writing it down.



SET THE SCENE

- Put your phone on airplane mode to eliminate distractions.
- Set a timer if you have a time limit.
- Find a consistent, distraction-free reading space.
- Don't get caught up with aesthetics. Our time with God does not have to be Instagram-worthy—God's presence is everywhere!



START WITH PRAYER

Always begin with prayer. When you open the Bible, ask God to teach you exactly what you need through his Word. Ask him to calm your mind and give you focus and attention to hear what he has to say. Pray that your time reading the Word would spark worship in your heart.

WHILE YOU READ THE BIBLE

The Bible tells us to dwell on the Word. Jesus himself says in John 15:5, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” Here are some practical ways to abide in Jesus as you read Scripture.

JOURNAL ALONGSIDE SCRIPTURE

Journaling alongside the Word looks different for everyone, but here are some ways to begin:

BEFORE: Lay your joys and concerns before Jesus by journaling initial thoughts or prayers.

DURING: Copy down meaningful verses while you read.

AFTER: Summarize what you just read and any application you’re taking with you.

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

Choose a core verse or phrase from your reading to memorize.

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Turn Scripture into a guide for prayer by praying the words over yourself or someone else.

SUPPLEMENT SCRIPTURE

Look up materials online to reference alongside your reading.

AFTER YOU READ THE BIBLE

We hope we've equipped you well to dive into the Word of God on your own. But what happens after you close the pages of this book? After reading the Word, don't let the words simply stay on the page. Instead, allow God to work in your heart to bring these words to life in your everyday.

*One of the first steps we encourage
is to seek out community.*

COMMUNITY

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

—Hebrews 10:24-25—

SEEK INDIVIDUALS

We were never meant to do this alone! Find a friend to read the Bible and share life with. This step takes an ounce of courage! Be brave and ask someone to connect you with a person to read with - maybe it's the friend who gave you a Bible or someone from your local church. Either way, be brave and simply ask. There is someone SO excited to read the Bible with you and share life with you!

SEEK A CHURCH

Our ultimate hope is that you get connected in a gospel-centered local church. Being involved in a church means becoming a part of the body of Christ, to serve and love those around you and to cultivate a community that glorifies God. If you don't already have a home church, look up churches in your area and commit to visiting at least one within the next month. Again, this step takes so much courage. If you are finding it hard to connect, begin this step with prayer. We are confident that God will be faithful to connect you with His children in your area, so seek Him as you seek out others.

RESOURCES

You did it! You're diving into the life-giving words of Scripture and getting to know the person of Jesus. As you continue this journey, we would like to supply you with resources and tools that are helpful for reading your Bible and navigating what it means to live life with Jesus as Lord. Here are some of our favorites...

WHERE TO START

John Reading Plan

from Hosanna Revival

FURTHER READING

WHEN from Hosanna Revival

Women of the Word by Jen Wilken

The Bible Handbook by Daily Grace Co.

Search the Word by Daily Grace Co.

Even Better than Eden by Nancy Guthrie

Seamless by Angie Smith

PODCASTS

Help Me Teach the Bible by Nancy Guthrie

Journeywomen by Hunter Beless

Compelled by Paul Hastings

APP

The Bible App—YouVersion

TAKE ACTION

Find a church near you!

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12