

Using the Bible at Home

Goals:

- Regularly reading the Bible as a family and as individuals.
- For all members of the family to fall in love with the Bible.

The Bible is one of the best ways for us to know God and for us to teach our children about God. Some of us can get a bit intimidated by the Bible, perhaps because we were not taught much about it or how to use it. Here are some Bible basics to help you get started.

Opportunities for Bible Reading

- Read to children as bedtime stories
- Use it for personal prayer, particularly during liturgical seasons (Advent and Lent are a great time to give a new prayer habit a try)
- Explain to children how to find Mass readings: child versions could be read before or after Mass
- Become involved in a Bible study through STM or find one on FORMED.org with our parish subscription
- Scripture-based children's songs can be a great introduction to biblical teachings
- Pick one of the Gospels and read it straight through. See what you notice about Jesus and what speaks to your heart.

How to Find a Bible Passage

Name of the book in black Chapter number in dark gray
Matthew 22:34-40
Verse numbers in light gray

You would read this passage out loud as, "The Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 22, verses 34 through 40." The four Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Look it up in the Bible:

1. Find the book
2. Find the correct chapter in that book
3. Find the beginning verse and start reading. Read all the verses between the two numbers, including the final verse.

The Bible is Like a Bookshelf

The Bible has 73 different books. Some are poetry. Some are history. Some are laws. Some are sayings of wise people (prophets). Some are about the life of Jesus.

The books are divided into sections, which can be pictured like the shelves of a bookshelf. The bible starts with the books of the Old Testament at the top of this bookshelf. There are **46 books in the Old Testament**. These all took place before the life of Jesus. The second part of the bible is the New Testament, which is on the bottom half of the bookshelf. There are **27 books in the New Testament**. They teach about the life of Jesus and the time after Jesus' death as the early Apostles carried on with his mission of spreading the Good News, baptising, and teaching the people of God.

