

NIRV
Adventure
BIBLE[®]
for Early Readers

New International Reader's Version

Welcome!

Welcome to the great adventure of reading, exploring and discovering the Bible.

Are you looking for adventure? Are you eager to discover God's Word and apply it to your life? Then the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers* is especially for you.

Each feature of the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers* is designed to introduce you to the wonderful messages and promises in God's Word. Take a few minutes to read these explanations. Then you will know the best way to use the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers*.

Features You Should Know About

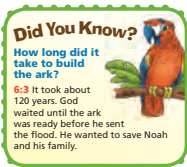
Words to Treasure

Key verses throughout the Bible are highlighted as "Words to Treasure." These verses are worth remembering. The best way to live for Jesus is to have his Word in your heart. Try to memorize these verses from "Words to Treasure."



Did You Know?

This feature points out many of the interesting, small facts that are found in the Bible. Learn them all and wow your parents, teachers, and friends with your Bible knowledge.



People in Bible Times

The Bible is full of wonderful people. You are probably very familiar with some of their stories, but you may never have heard of others. "People in Bible Times"

helps make these real-life characters and their true stories come alive for you. It might be fun to try to imagine yourself in their situations. What would you do?



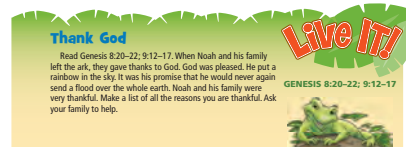
Life in Bible Times

Do you ever wonder what it was like to live in the times of Abraham or Ruth or Jesus? What kind of food did they eat? Where did they sleep? What kind of work did they do? "Life in Bible Times" will tell you—and show you! Each of these exciting features includes a picture.



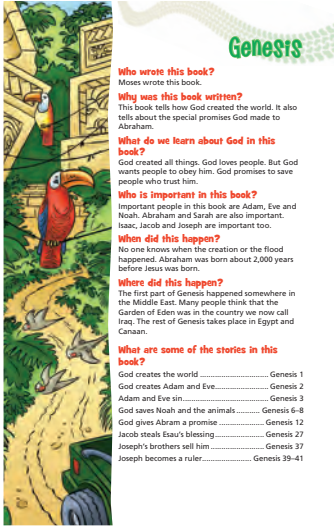
Live It!

It is important to read and memorize God's Word. But what really counts is *living* it, letting the Bible affect how you work, play, and live. "Live It!" tells you what the Bible has to say about your life RIGHT NOW!



Book Introductions

You'll find basic facts about a book of the Bible (who wrote it, where it took place, why it was written), at the beginning of each book. The book introduction will also give you a list of favorite Bible stories and teachings you can find in that Bible book.



Subject Index

In the back of the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers* is an index of different subjects and people covered in this Bible. If you need to do a report for school or are wondering about a certain subject or person, look it up in this index and then read about it on the pages listed.

Dictionary

When you're reading the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers*, you may come to a word that you don't understand. Be sure to take a minute to look it up in the dictionary found at the back of your Bible (page 1553). Read the definition so you can better understand God's message.

Charts

In the front and scattered throughout the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers* are some special, colorful pages that contain important information. Be sure to check out the facts on these pages. You'll be glad you did!

Maps

In the back of this Bible are eight color maps. They will help you better understand where the events in the Bible took place. There is also a map index.

Where to Start

Don't worry about where to start. Start anywhere. Go through the Bible and see what features interest you. Then begin exploring and reading both the features and the Bible text. Use the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers* every day to begin the great adventure of living for Jesus!

If you have any questions or comments about this Bible, please write and tell us.

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Note to parents and teachers:

The special features of the *NirV Adventure Bible® for Early Readers* can be used as a teaching or devotional tool by parents and teachers but also may be used to encourage children to explore the Bible on their own and to have their own quiet times with God.



John

Who wrote this book?

John was a follower of Jesus. He wrote this book.

Why was this book written?

This book shows that Jesus is the Son of God.

For whom was this book written?

John wrote this book for everyone who wants to understand who Jesus really is.

What happens in this book?

John tells about wonderful things Jesus did that show that Jesus is the Son of God.

Who is important in this book?

Jesus is the most important person in this book.

When did this happen?

The events in this book happened when Jesus lived on this earth.

Where did this happen?

Most of the things in this book happened in Judea.

What are some of the stories in this book?

- Jesus chooses his followers..... John 1:35–51
- Jesus teaches Nicodemus John 3:1–21
- Jesus talks to a woman of Samaria John 4:1–26
- Jesus walks on the water John 6:16–24
- Jesus says he is God’s Son..... John 8:31–59
- Jesus heals a blind man..... John 9:1–41
- Jesus is a good shepherd John 10:1–21
- Jesus brings Lazarus back to life John 11:1–44
- Jesus washes feet John 13:1–17
- Jesus prays John 17:6–25
- Jesus dies and is buried..... John 19:28–42
- Jesus’ tomb is empty John 20:1–31
- Jesus forgives Peter John 21:15–25

The Word Became a Human Being

In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. ⁴Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not overcome the light.

Did You Know?

What does “the Word” mean?

1:1 The “Word” is a special name for Jesus. It means that Jesus tells us what God is like. The Bible says that Jesus has been alive forever. The Bible says that Jesus is God.



⁶There was a man sent from God. His name was John. ⁷He came to be a witness about that light. He was a witness so that all people might believe. ⁸John himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰The Word was in the world. And the world was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him. ¹²Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. ¹³To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does.

¹⁴The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John was a witness about the Word. John cried out and said, “This was the one I was talking about. I said, ‘He who

comes after me is more important than I am. He is more important because he existed before I was born.’” ¹⁶God is full of grace. From him we have all received grace in place of the grace already given. ¹⁷In the past, God gave us grace through the law of Moses. Now, grace and truth come to us through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. But the One and Only is God and is at the Father’s side. The one at the Father’s side has shown us what God is like.

John the Baptist Says That He Is Not the Messiah

¹⁹The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John who he was. John spoke the truth to them. ²⁰He did not try to hide the truth. He spoke to them openly. He said, “I am not the Messiah.”

²¹They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet we’ve been expecting?” they asked.

“No,” he answered.

²²They asked one last time, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³John replied, using the words of Isaiah the prophet. John said, “I’m the messenger who is calling out in the desert, ‘Make the way for the Lord straight.’” (*Isaiah 40:3*)

Words to Treasure

John 1:17

Grace and truth come to us through Jesus Christ.



²⁴The Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵asked him, “If you are not the Messiah, why are you baptizing people? Why are you doing that if you aren’t Elijah or the Prophet we’ve been expecting?”

²⁶“I baptize people with water,” John replied. “But someone is standing among you whom you do not know. ²⁷He

is the one who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals.”

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River. That was where John was baptizing.

What John Says About Jesus

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, “Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I was talking about. I said, ‘A man who comes after me is more important than I am. That’s because he existed before I was born.’ ³¹I did not know him. But God wants to make it clear to Israel who this person is. That’s the reason I came baptizing with water.”

Did You Know?

What does “Lamb of God” mean?

1:29 In Bible times, when a person sinned, that person took a lamb to the temple to be killed as an offering to God. To call Jesus the Lamb of God means that God gave Jesus to be killed, like the lamb, for our sins.



³²Then John told them, “I saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven like a dove. The Spirit remained on Jesus. ³³I myself did not know him. But the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I have seen it happen. I am a witness that this is God’s Chosen One.”

John’s Disciples Follow Jesus

³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶He saw Jesus walking by. John said, “Look! The Lamb of God!”

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this. So they followed Jesus. ³⁸Then Jesus turned around and saw them following. He asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” Rabbi means Teacher.

³⁹“Come,” he replied. “You will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying. They spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰Andrew was Simon Peter’s brother. Andrew was one of the two disciples who heard what John had said. He had also followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon. He told him, “We have found the Messiah.” Messiah means Christ. ⁴²And he brought Simon to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas.” Cephas means Peter, or Rock.

Jesus Chooses Philip and Nathanael

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴Philip was from the town of Bethsaida. So were Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one whom Moses wrote about in the Law. The prophets also wrote about him. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael approaching. Here is what Jesus said about him. “He is a true Israelite. Nothing about him is false.”

⁴⁸“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree. I saw you there before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God. You are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”

⁵¹Then he said to the disciples, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You will see heaven open. You will see the angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man.”

Jesus Changes Water Into Wine

2 On the third day there was a wedding. It took place at Cana in Gali-

lee. Jesus' mother was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"Dear woman, why are you telling me about this?" Jesus replied. "The time for me to show who I really am isn't here yet."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do what he tells you."

⁶Six stone water jars stood nearby. The Jews used water from that kind of jar for special washings. They did that to make themselves pure and "clean." Each jar could hold 20 to 30 gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the top.

⁸Then he told them, "Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner."

They did what he said. ⁹The person in charge tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He didn't realize where it had come from. But the servants who had brought the water knew. Then the person in charge called the groom to one side. ¹⁰He said to him, "Everyone brings out the best wine first. They bring out the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink. But you have saved the best until now."

¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana in Galilee was the first of his signs. Jesus showed his glory by doing this sign. And his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this, Jesus went down to Capernaum. His mother and brothers and disciples went with him. They all stayed there for a few days.

Jesus Clears Out the Temple Courtyard

¹³It was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast. So Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courtyard he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves. Others were sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So Jesus made a whip out of ropes. He chased all the sheep and cattle from the temple courtyard. He scattered the coins of the people exchanging money. And he turned over their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling doves, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered what had been written. It says, "My great love for your house will destroy me." (*Psalm 69:9*)

¹⁸Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do this?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "When you destroy this temple, I will raise it up again in three days."

²⁰They replied, "It has taken 46 years to build this temple. Are you going to raise it up in three days?" ²¹But the temple Jesus had spoken about was his body. ²²His disciples later remembered what he had said. That was after he had been raised from the dead. Then they believed the Scripture. They also believed the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³Meanwhile, he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast. Many people saw the signs he was doing. And they believed in his name. ²⁴But Jesus did not fully trust them. He knew what people are like. ²⁵He didn't need anyone to tell him what people are like. He already knew why people do what they do.



Jesus asked to have filled with water before he changed that water into wine.

Water Jars

Water was stored in large stone jars and was used for washing and drinking. Jews at the time of Jesus often washed their hands before eating. These very large jars were the kind that



Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was one of the Jewish rulers. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren’t, you couldn’t do the signs you are doing.”

³ Jesus replied, “What I’m about to tell you is true. No one can see God’s kingdom unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “They can’t go back inside their mother! They can’t be born a second time!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “What I’m about to tell you is true. No one can enter God’s kingdom unless they are born with water and the Holy Spirit. ⁶ People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised when I say, ‘You must all be born again.’

⁸ The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born with the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus. “Don’t you understand these things? ¹¹ What I’m about to tell you is true. We speak about what we know. We are witnesses about what we have seen. But still you people do not accept what we say. ¹² I have spoken to you about earthly things, and you do not believe. So how will you believe if I speak about heav-

enly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven. He is the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, the Son of Man must also be lifted up. ¹⁵ Then everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

Words to Treasure

John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.



¹⁶ God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. ¹⁷ God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in him is not judged. But anyone who does not believe is judged already. They have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ Here is the judgment. Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light. They loved darkness because what they did was evil.

Born Again

Read John 3:1–16. When you were born, your body began to live. When you are born again, your spirit begins to live forever with God. Your life in your body will someday end when you die. But when you are born again, your spirit will not die. Your spirit will live forever with God in heaven.

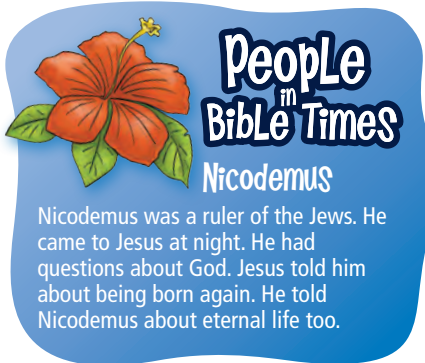
Memorize John 3:16. How can you be born again? You must believe in Jesus as your Savior. Then you are born again and have eternal life.

Live It!

JOHN 3:1–16



²⁰ Everyone who does evil deeds hates the light. They will not come into the light. They are afraid that what they do will be seen. ²¹ But anyone who lives by the truth comes into the light. They live by the truth with God's help. They come into the light so that it will be easy to see their good deeds.



Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night. He had questions about God. Jesus told him about being born again. He told Nicodemus about eternal life too.

John the Baptist Is a Witness About Jesus

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the countryside of Judea. There he spent some time with them. And he baptized people there. ²³ John was also baptizing. He was at Aenon near Salim, where there was plenty of water. People were coming and being baptized. ²⁴ This was before John was put in prison. ²⁵ Some of John's disciples and a certain Jew began to argue. They argued about special washings to make people "clean." ²⁶ They came to John and here is what they said to him. "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River is baptizing people. He is the one you told us about. Everyone is going to him."

²⁷ John replied, "A person can receive only what God gives them from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves are witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah. I was sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ The bride belongs to the groom. The friend who helps the groom waits and listens for him. He is full of joy when he hears the groom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become more important. I must become less important.

³¹ "The one who comes from above

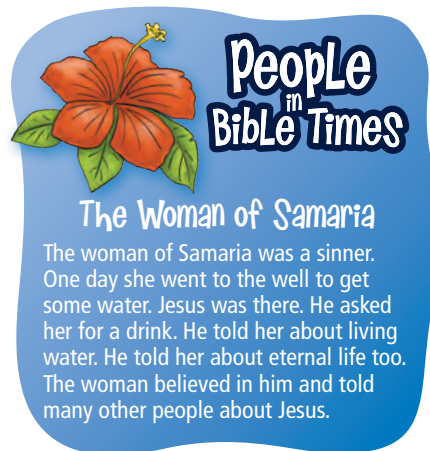
is above everything. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks like someone from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above everything. ³² He is a witness to what he has seen and heard. But no one accepts what he says. ³³ Anyone who has accepted it has said, 'Yes. God is truthful.' ³⁴ The one whom God has sent speaks God's words. That's because God gives the Holy Spirit without limit. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has put everything into his hands. ³⁶ Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life. Anyone who does not believe in the Son will not have life. God's anger remains on them."

Jesus Talks With a Woman From Samaria

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard about him. They had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John. ² But in fact Jesus was not baptizing. His disciples were. ³ So Jesus left Judea and went back again to Galilee.

⁴ Jesus had to go through Samaria. ⁵ He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the piece of land Jacob had given his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from the journey. So he sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.



The woman of Samaria was a sinner. One day she went to the well to get some water. Jesus was there. He asked her for a drink. He told her about living water. He told her about eternal life too. The woman believed in him and told many other people about Jesus.

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” She said this because Jews don’t have anything to do with Samaritans.

¹⁰Jesus answered her, “You do not know what God’s gift is. And you do not know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would have asked him. He would have given you living water.”

¹¹“Sir,” the woman said, “you don’t have anything to get water with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water?” ¹²Our father Jacob gave us the well. He drank from it himself. So did his sons and his livestock. Are you more important than he is?”

¹³Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. ¹⁴But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life.”

¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty. And I won’t have to keep coming here to get water.”

¹⁶He told her, “Go. Get your husband and come back.”

¹⁷“I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands. And the man you live with now is not your husband. What you have just said is very true.”

¹⁹“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our people have always worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹Jesus said, “Woman, believe me. A time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know. Salvation comes from the Jews. ²³But a new time is coming. In fact, it is already here. True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth. They are the kind of worshipers the Father is looking for. ²⁴God is spirit. His worshipers must worship him in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵The woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming.” Messiah means Christ. “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶Then Jesus said, “The one you’re talking about is the one speaking to you. I am he.”

The Disciples Join Jesus Again

²⁷Just then Jesus’ disciples returned. They were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want from her?” No one asked, “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸The woman left her water jar and went back to the town. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come. See a man who told me everything I’ve ever done. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰The people came out



Carrying Water

Getting enough water for each day was the job of the women in a town. Each day, in the morning and in the evening, they went to the town well, filled their jars and

then carried the full water jars home on their heads. In John 4, the Samaritan woman in the story probably went to the well all alone at noon so that the other women wouldn’t say mean things to her because of the bad things she had done.

