

FRIENDS WITH GOD



DISCOVER

# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

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# LET'S EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

*“Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand.”*

*Mark 4:33*



From “once upon a time” to “happily ever after,” you know a good story when you read one. The Bible is the *ultimate* true story. It tells us what God has done from the beginning of time, what’s going to happen at the end of the world, and some of the best stuff in between.

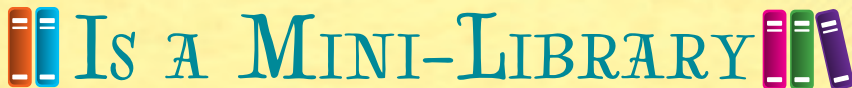
But what are all these stories for? And why should you read them? I’m here to tell you! God created the Bible to help *you* discover how much God loves you and wants to be with you as your forever friend. All the stories, poems, prophecies, and letters in the Bible give *you* the answers to life’s questions and problems. So now *you* can grow closer to God no matter what you’re going through. That’s because I’m always with you. And the Bible can help you remember that.

How should you read the Bible? With an open heart and an open mind to understand just how much God loves you. Because God really, really, *really* loves you, my friend.

Your friend,  
Jesus

## Wild and Wonderful Truths About the Bible

# The BIBLE

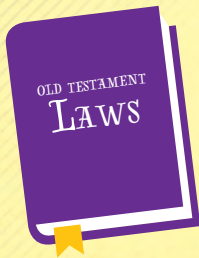
 IS A MINI-LIBRARY

The Bible is a *giant* book. I mean it's *really* big. But it's also a collection of smaller books—66 in all.

You might think of it as God's library. Just like a library, this amazing collection of books is divided into sections. The first section is called the Old Testament. It includes everything that happened before Jesus was born. The second section is called the New Testament, and it includes everything that happened after Jesus was born.



## The Old Testament has 39 books, which are grouped into four parts:



The first five books (also called the Pentateuch) tell us all about the laws God made for his people and why they needed them. It covers the story of Creation through the start of the nation of Israel. It explains why God created us and how much he loves us.

- Genesis • Exodus
- Leviticus • Numbers
- Deuteronomy



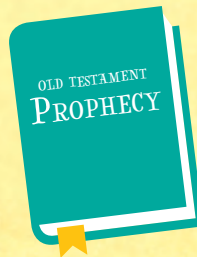
The next 12 books tell us the history of the Israelites, God's people, especially all the ups and downs of their friendship with God.

- Joshua • Judges • Ruth
- 1 & 2 Samuel • 1 & 2 Kings
- 1 & 2 Chronicles • Ezra
- Nehemiah • Esther



These books show us the powerful feelings people have about their friendship with God.

- Job • Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon



God used many prophets—people who speak God's truth—to give messages to his people and explain what friendship with God really means.

- Isaiah • Jeremiah • Lamentations
- Ezekiel • Daniel • Hosea • Joel
- Amos • Obadiah • Jonah • Micah
- Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah
- Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi

