



New Testament Overview

A Book-by-Book Bible Companion

Purpose. This guide provides a concise orientation to every New Testament book so you can recognize its setting, major themes, place in the biblical story, and focus on Jesus.

How to Use This Guide

Read the overview before beginning a biblical book, then keep it nearby as a memory aid. Open your Bible and verify each cited passage in context; these summaries are companions to Scripture, not substitutes for it.

What You'll Find

A snapshot, big idea, key people and events, defining chapters, key verses, a clear focus on Jesus, and a short memory statement for each book.

Read as One Story

The New Testament announces the arrival of Jesus, records His life, death, and resurrection, traces the Spirit-empowered growth of His church, explains life in Christ, and looks forward to His return and the restoration of all things.

Independent verification: Interpret every passage within its literary, historical, and covenant context, and compare each summary with the full biblical text.



Matthew

Type: Gospel • Chapters: 28 • Key Figure: Jesus • Memory Anchor: The King Has Come • Defining Verse: Matthew 5:17

Big Idea

Matthew presents Jesus as the promised Messiah, King, and fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Why It Matters

Matthew connects the Old Testament to the New Testament, demonstrating that Jesus is the long-awaited King and Savior.

Key Characters

Jesus • Peter • John • Joseph • Pharisees

Key Events

Birth of Jesus • Sermon on the Mount • Miracles • Parables • Crucifixion • Resurrection

Major Themes

Kingdom of Heaven • Fulfillment • Discipleship • Faith • Authority • Salvation

Defining Chapters

1 (Genealogy) • 5 (Sermon on the Mount) • 13 (Kingdom Parables) • 16 (Peter's Confession) • 24 (Olivet Discourse) • 28 (Resurrection)

Key Verses

1:23 • 5:17 • 6:33 • 16:16 • 28:19-20

Jesus Connection

Promised Messiah • Son of David • King of Kings • New Moses • Fulfillment of Prophecy

What We Often Miss

Matthew repeatedly demonstrates that Jesus fulfills dozens of Old Testament prophecies and promises.

Memory Statement

Jesus is the promised King who fulfills God's plan of redemption.



Mark

Type: Gospel • Chapters: 16 • Key Figure: Jesus • Memory Anchor: The Servant King • Defining Verse: Mark 10:45

Big Idea

Mark presents Jesus as the powerful Servant who came to serve, suffer, and give His life as a ransom.

Why It Matters

Mark emphasizes action, authority, and discipleship while revealing the cost of following Jesus.

Key Characters

Jesus • Peter • Twelve Disciples • Roman Centurion

Key Events

Baptism of Jesus • Miracles • Transfiguration • Crucifixion • Resurrection

Major Themes

Service • Authority • Sacrifice • Discipleship • Faith • Power

Defining Chapters

1 (Ministry Begins) • 4 (Parables) • 8 (Who Is Jesus?) • 9 (Transfiguration) • 10 (Servant King) • 15 (Crucifixion)

Key Verses

1:11 • 8:29 • 9:35 • 10:45 • 15:39

Jesus Connection

Suffering Servant • Son of God • Ransom for Many • Powerful Deliverer • Perfect Example

What We Often Miss

Mark focuses less on Jesus' teachings and more on His actions, emphasizing who He is through what He does.

Memory Statement

Jesus came not to be served but to serve and give His life for others.



Luke

Type: Gospel • Chapters: 24 • Key Figure: Jesus • Memory Anchor: Savior for All • Defining Verse: Luke 19:10

Big Idea

Luke presents Jesus as the compassionate Savior who came to seek and save the lost.

Why It Matters

Luke highlights God's heart for outsiders, sinners, women, the poor, and all nations.

Key Characters

Jesus • Mary • Zechariah • Elizabeth • Peter

Key Events

Birth Narratives • Good Samaritan • Prodigal Son • Zacchaeus • Crucifixion • Resurrection

Major Themes

Salvation • Compassion • Prayer • Joy • Inclusion • Holy Spirit

Defining Chapters

2 (Birth of Christ) • 10 (Good Samaritan) • 15 (Lost Sheep, Coin, Son) • 18 (Pharisee & Tax Collector) • 19 (Zacchaeus) • 24 (Resurrection)

Key Verses

2:11 • 6:31 • 15:7 • 19:10 • 24:6

Jesus Connection

Savior of the World • Son of Man • Friend of Sinners • Compassionate Redeemer • Perfect Man

What We Often Miss

Luke intentionally emphasizes those often overlooked by society to demonstrate God's heart for all people.

Memory Statement

Jesus came to seek, save, and restore the lost.



John

Type: Gospel • Chapters: 21 • Key Figure: Jesus • Memory Anchor: Believe and Live • Defining Verse: John 20:31

Big Idea

John presents Jesus as the eternal Son of God so that people might believe and receive eternal life.

Why It Matters

John clearly reveals Jesus' divine identity and the life available through faith in Him.

Key Characters

Jesus • John the Baptist • Peter • Martha • Mary

Key Events

Seven Signs • I AM Statements • Raising Lazarus • Upper Room • Crucifixion • Resurrection

Major Themes

Belief • Eternal Life • Love • Truth • Light • Divinity of Christ

Defining Chapters

1 (The Word) • 3 (Born Again) • 10 (Good Shepherd) • 11 (Lazarus) • 14 (Way, Truth, Life) • 20 (Purpose Statement)

Key Verses

1:1 • 3:16 • 10:10 • 14:6 • 20:31

Jesus Connection

Son of God • Word Made Flesh • Bread of Life • Good Shepherd • Resurrection and Life

What We Often Miss

John is structured around signs and statements designed to lead readers to faith in Jesus.

Memory Statement

Believe in Jesus and receive eternal life.



Acts

Type: History • Chapters: 28 • Key Figures: Peter and Paul • Memory Anchor: The Gospel Advances •
Defining Verse: Acts 1:8

Big Idea

The Holy Spirit empowers the early church to spread the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

Why It Matters

Acts demonstrates how God builds His church through ordinary believers empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Key Characters

Peter • Paul • Stephen • Barnabas • Philip

Key Events

Pentecost • Stephen's Martyrdom • Saul's Conversion • Missionary Journeys • Gospel Reaches Rome

Major Themes

Holy Spirit • Mission • Church • Witness • Growth • Salvation

Defining Chapters

2 (Pentecost) • 7 (Stephen) • 9 (Saul's Conversion) • 15 (Jerusalem Council) • 16 (Philippi) • 28 (Rome)

Key Verses

1:8 • 2:38 • 4:12 • 16:31 • 20:24

Jesus Connection

Ascended Lord • Head of the Church • Sender of the Spirit • Savior of All Nations • Reigning King

What We Often Miss

Acts is not primarily about the apostles—it is about what Jesus continues to do through His Spirit-filled people.

Memory Statement

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to carry the gospel to the world.



Romans

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 16 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: The Gospel Changes Everything •
Defining Verse: Romans 1:16

Big Idea

Paul explains the gospel, revealing God's righteousness, humanity's need for salvation, and life through faith in Christ.

Why It Matters

Romans provides the clearest explanation of salvation, grace, faith, and Christian living in the New Testament.

Key Characters

Paul • Abraham • Adam • Christ

Key Events

Humanity's Sinfulness • Justification by Faith • Life in the Spirit • God's Plan for Israel • Living Sacrifice

Major Themes

Salvation • Grace • Faith • Justification • Sanctification • God's Sovereignty

Defining Chapters

3 (Justification by Faith) • 5 (Peace with God) • 8 (Life in the Spirit) • 10 (Salvation) • 12 (Living Sacrifice) • 14 (Christian Liberty)

Key Verses

1:16 • 3:23 • 5:8 • 8:1 • 10:9 • 12:1-2

Jesus Connection

Second Adam • Justifier of Sinners • Source of Righteousness • Savior by Grace • Lord of All

What We Often Miss

Romans is not only about how to be saved—it is about how the gospel transforms every area of life.

Memory Statement

The gospel reveals God's power to save and transform everyone who believes.



1 Corinthians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 16 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Christ Above Culture • Defining Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:18

Big Idea

Paul addresses divisions, immorality, worship, and spiritual gifts while calling believers to unity in Christ.

Why It Matters

1 Corinthians demonstrates how the gospel applies to practical issues within the church and daily life.

Key Characters

Paul • Apollos • Church at Corinth

Key Events

Church Divisions • Spiritual Gifts • Lord's Supper Teaching • Love Chapter • Resurrection Teaching

Major Themes

Unity • Holiness • Love • Worship • Spiritual Gifts • Resurrection

Defining Chapters

1 (Divisions) • 6 (Purity) • 11 (Lord's Supper) • 12 (Spiritual Gifts) • 13 (Love) • 15 (Resurrection)

Key Verses

1:18 • 6:19-20 • 10:31 • 13:13 • 15:3-4 • 15:58

Jesus Connection

Crucified Savior • Head of the Church • Resurrection and Life • Foundation of Faith • Lord of Glory

What We Often Miss

Most of Corinth's problems stemmed from believers allowing culture to shape them more than Christ.

Memory Statement

The gospel calls believers to unity, holiness, and love.



2 Corinthians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 13 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Strength Through Weakness • Defining Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Big Idea

Paul defends his ministry and reveals how God's strength is displayed through human weakness.

Why It Matters

2 Corinthians offers one of the most personal glimpses into Paul's life and God's sustaining grace.

Key Characters

Paul • Titus • Corinthian Believers

Key Events

Comfort in Affliction • Ministry of Reconciliation • Generosity Encouraged • Thorn in the Flesh

Major Themes

Grace • Weakness • Reconciliation • Comfort • Generosity • Perseverance

Defining Chapters

1 (God of Comfort) • 4 (Treasure in Jars of Clay) • 5 (Ministry of Reconciliation) • 8 (Generosity) • 10 (Spiritual Warfare) • 12 (Thorn in the Flesh)

Key Verses

4:7 • 5:17 • 5:21 • 9:7 • 12:9

Jesus Connection

Reconciler • Perfect Sacrifice • Source of Strength • Comforter • Sustainer

What We Often Miss

Paul's greatest ministry effectiveness emerged through dependence on God rather than personal strength.

Memory Statement

God's power is made perfect in weakness.



Galatians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 6 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Saved by Grace • Defining Verse: Galatians 2:20

Big Idea

Paul defends the gospel of grace and teaches that salvation comes through faith, not works.

Why It Matters

Galatians protects the truth that believers are justified by faith alone in Christ alone.

Key Characters

Paul • Peter • Abraham • Galatian Churches

Key Events

Defense of the Gospel • Confrontation with Peter • Fruit of the Spirit • Freedom in Christ

Major Themes

Grace • Faith • Freedom • Justification • Spirit-Filled Living • Gospel Truth

Defining Chapters

1 (True Gospel) • 2 (Justification by Faith) • 3 (Faith of Abraham) • 4 (Adoption) • 5 (Fruit of the Spirit) • 6 (Sowing and Reaping)

Key Verses

2:20 • 3:11 • 5:1 • 5:22-23 • 6:9

Jesus Connection

Savior by Grace • Redeemer from the Law • Source of Freedom • Son of God • Giver of the Spirit

What We Often Miss

Legalism and self-righteousness can be just as dangerous as open rebellion.

Memory Statement

Salvation is received by faith and lived through the power of the Spirit.



Ephesians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 6 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Who You Are in Christ • Defining Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Big Idea

Paul explains believers' identity in Christ and how that identity transforms daily living.

Why It Matters

Ephesians reveals God's eternal plan for the church and the spiritual blessings available in Christ.

Key Characters

Paul • Church at Ephesus

Key Events

Spiritual Blessings • Salvation by Grace • Unity of the Church • Christian Living • Armor of God

Major Themes

Identity • Grace • Unity • Church • Spiritual Growth • Spiritual Warfare

Defining Chapters

1 (Spiritual Blessings) • 2 (Saved by Grace) • 3 (Mystery Revealed) • 4 (Unity) • 5 (Walk in Love) • 6 (Armor of God)

Key Verses

1:7 • 2:8-9 • 3:20 • 4:32 • 6:10-11

Jesus Connection

Head of the Church • Source of Salvation • Cornerstone • Peacemaker • Victorious King

What We Often Miss

The first half of Ephesians focuses on who believers are before teaching how believers should live.

Memory Statement

Knowing your identity in Christ changes how you live every day.



Philippians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 4 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Joy in Christ • Defining Verse: Philippians 4:4

Big Idea

Paul encourages believers to find joy, contentment, and unity through a Christ-centered life.

Why It Matters

Philippians demonstrates that true joy is rooted in Christ rather than circumstances.

Key Characters

Paul • Timothy • Epaphroditus • Philippian Believers

Key Events

Partnership in the Gospel • Christ's Humility • Pressing Toward the Goal • Rejoicing in the Lord

Major Themes

Joy • Humility • Contentment • Unity • Perseverance • Christlikeness

Defining Chapters

1 (Joy in Ministry) • 2 (Christ's Humility) • 3 (Pressing Forward) • 4 (Contentment and Peace)

Key Verses

1:21 • 2:5-11 • 3:14 • 4:4 • 4:6-7 • 4:13

Jesus Connection

Humble Servant • Exalted Lord • Source of Joy • Perfect Example • Strength for Believers

What We Often Miss

Paul writes about joy while imprisoned, proving that joy is a spiritual condition, not a circumstantial one.

Memory Statement

True joy is found in Christ regardless of circumstances.



Colossians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 4 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Christ Is Supreme • Defining Verse: Colossians 1:18

Big Idea

Paul proclaims the supremacy of Christ over creation, salvation, and every aspect of life.

Why It Matters

Colossians protects believers from false teaching by emphasizing the sufficiency of Christ.

Key Characters

Paul • Timothy • Epaphras • Colossian Believers

Key Events

Christ's Supremacy Declared • Warning Against False Teaching • New Life in Christ • Christian Households

Major Themes

Supremacy of Christ • Spiritual Growth • Truth • New Life • Faith • Maturity

Defining Chapters

1 (Christ Above All) • 2 (Warning Against Error) • 3 (New Life) • 4 (Faithful Service)

Key Verses

1:15-20 • 1:27 • 2:6-7 • 3:1-2 • 3:23

Jesus Connection

Creator • Sustainer • Head of the Church • Image of God • Fullness of Deity

What We Often Miss

Colossians presents one of the strongest declarations of Christ's divinity in the entire Bible.

Memory Statement

Christ is sufficient, supreme, and worthy of first place in everything.



1 Thessalonians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 5 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Live Ready • Defining Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Big Idea

Paul encourages believers to remain faithful, holy, and hopeful as they await Christ's return.

Why It Matters

1 Thessalonians provides comfort, encouragement, and instruction about living in anticipation of Jesus' return.

Key Characters

Paul • Silas • Timothy • Thessalonian Believers

Key Events

Commendation of Faith • Encouragement in Persecution • Teaching on Christ's Return • Call to Holy Living

Major Themes

Hope • Holiness • Perseverance • Encouragement • Second Coming • Faith

Defining Chapters

1 (Faithful Example) • 2 (Paul's Ministry) • 4 (Christ's Return) • 5 (Day of the Lord)

Key Verses

1:3 • 4:16-17 • 5:11 • 5:16-18 • 5:23

Jesus Connection

Returning King • Lord of the Church • Source of Hope • Sanctifier • Deliverer

What We Often Miss

Paul's teaching about Christ's return is intended to inspire faithful living, not speculation.

Memory Statement

Live faithfully today while eagerly awaiting Christ's return.



2 Thessalonians

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 3 • Key Figure: Paul • Memory Anchor: Stand Firm • Defining Verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:15

Big Idea

Paul encourages believers to remain steadfast in truth despite confusion, persecution, and future uncertainty.

Why It Matters

2 Thessalonians reassures believers that God remains sovereign and Christ will ultimately triumph.

Key Characters

Paul • Silas • Timothy • Thessalonian Believers

Key Events

Encouragement During Persecution • Clarification About the Day of the Lord • Warning Against Idleness

Major Themes

Perseverance • Truth • Judgment • Hope • Faithfulness • Christ's Return

Defining Chapters

1 (Comfort in Trials) • 2 (Day of the Lord Clarified) • 3 (Work Diligently)

Key Verses

1:6-7 • 2:3 • 2:15 • 3:3 • 3:13

Jesus Connection

Returning Judge • Victorious King • Faithful Protector • Lord of Glory • Source of Strength

What We Often Miss

Paul emphasizes practical faithfulness more than prophetic timelines.

Memory Statement

Stand firm in truth and remain faithful until Christ returns.



1 Timothy

Type: Pastoral Epistle • Chapters: 6 • Key Figures: Paul and Timothy • Memory Anchor: Lead Well •
Defining Verse: 1 Timothy 4:12

Big Idea

Paul instructs Timothy on church leadership, sound doctrine, and godly living.

Why It Matters

1 Timothy provides foundational guidance for leadership, discipleship, and church health.

Key Characters

Paul • Timothy • Church Leaders • False Teachers

Key Events

Instructions for Worship • Qualifications for Leaders • Warning Against False Teaching • Pursuit of Godliness

Major Themes

Leadership • Doctrine • Godliness • Church Order • Prayer • Stewardship

Defining Chapters

1 (Sound Doctrine) • 2 (Prayer and Worship) • 3 (Leadership Qualifications) • 4 (Godliness) • 6 (Contentment and Wealth)

Key Verses

1:15 • 3:16 • 4:12 • 6:6 • 6:12

Jesus Connection

One Mediator • Savior of Sinners • King of Kings • Lord of Lords • Perfect Shepherd

What We Often Miss

The primary goal of biblical leadership is not authority but faithful service and spiritual maturity.

Memory Statement

Godly leadership begins with godly character.



2 Timothy

Type: Pastoral Epistle • Chapters: 4 • Key Figures: Paul and Timothy • Memory Anchor: Finish Well •
Defining Verse: 2 Timothy 4:7

Big Idea

Paul's final letter encourages Timothy to remain faithful to Christ, Scripture, and his calling despite opposition.

Why It Matters

2 Timothy teaches believers how to persevere faithfully through hardship and finish their race well.

Key Characters

Paul • Timothy • Demas • Luke

Key Events

Call to Endure • Value of Scripture • Warning About Last Days • Paul's Final Testimony

Major Themes

Perseverance • Faithfulness • Scripture • Discipleship • Courage • Endurance

Defining Chapters

1 (Guard the Gospel) • 2 (Endure Hardship) • 3 (Scripture's Authority) • 4 (Finish the Race)

Key Verses

1:7 • 2:15 • 3:16-17 • 4:7-8

Jesus Connection

Faithful Savior • Righteous Judge • Source of Strength • Lord of the Gospel • Giver of Eternal Life

What We Often Miss

Paul writes this letter from prison knowing death is near, yet his focus remains on faithfulness rather than comfort.

Memory Statement

Finish your race faithfully and pass the truth to the next generation.



Titus

Type: Pastoral Epistle • Chapters: 3 • Key Figures: Paul and Titus • Memory Anchor: Grace Changes Lives
• Defining Verse: Titus 2:11-12

Big Idea

Paul instructs Titus to establish healthy churches marked by sound doctrine and godly living.

Why It Matters

Titus demonstrates that genuine faith produces transformed lives and good works.

Key Characters

Paul • Titus • Church Leaders

Key Events

Leadership Appointments • Teaching Sound Doctrine • Instructions for Godly Living • Emphasis on Good Works

Major Themes

Grace • Godliness • Leadership • Good Works • Sound Doctrine • Transformation

Defining Chapters

1 (Qualified Leaders) • 2 (Grace and Godliness) • 3 (Salvation and Good Works)

Key Verses

2:11-12 • 3:4-7 • 3:8

Jesus Connection

Blessed Hope • Redeemer • Savior • Purifier of His People • Source of Grace

What We Often Miss

Good works are not the basis of salvation but the evidence of a transformed life.

Memory Statement

God's grace not only saves us—it teaches us how to live.



Philemon

Type: Personal Epistle • Chapters: 1 • Key Figures: Paul and Philemon • Memory Anchor: The Gospel Reconciles • Defining Verse: Philemon 1:16

Big Idea

Paul appeals for reconciliation between Philemon and Onesimus, demonstrating the transforming power of the gospel.

Why It Matters

Philemon shows how Christian love, forgiveness, and reconciliation reshape relationships.

Key Characters

Paul • Philemon • Onesimus

Key Events

Paul's Appeal • Onesimus Returns • Call to Forgiveness and Acceptance

Major Themes

Forgiveness • Reconciliation • Grace • Brotherhood • Love • Transformation

Defining Chapters

1 (Entire Letter)

Key Verses

1:6 • 1:16 • 1:18

Jesus Connection

Mediator • Reconciler • Redeemer of Debts • Restorer of Relationships • Advocate

What We Often Miss

Paul models Christ by offering to personally pay Onesimus's debt.

Memory Statement

The gospel transforms enemies into family.



Hebrews

Type: Epistle • Chapters: 13 • Key Figure: Jesus • Memory Anchor: Jesus Is Better • Defining Verse: Hebrews 1:3

Big Idea

Hebrews demonstrates the absolute supremacy of Jesus over every person, system, and institution of the Old Covenant.

Why It Matters

Hebrews encourages believers to remain faithful because Christ is the perfect and final revelation of God.

Key Characters

Jesus • Abraham • Moses • Melchizedek • Heroes of Faith

Key Events

Christ Above Angels • Superior Priesthood • New Covenant • Hall of Faith • Call to Endurance

Major Themes

Supremacy of Christ • Faith • Perseverance • Priesthood • Covenant • Worship

Defining Chapters

1 (Superior Son) • 4 (True Rest) • 7 (Greater Priesthood) • 11 (Hall of Faith) • 12 (Run the Race) • 13 (Faithful Living)

Key Verses

1:3 • 4:12 • 10:23 • 11:1 • 12:1-2 • 13:8

Jesus Connection

Great High Priest • Perfect Sacrifice • Mediator of the New Covenant • Author and Finisher of Faith • Eternal Son of God

What We Often Miss

Hebrews is not merely comparing Jesus to the Old Testament—it is showing how everything in the Old Testament points to Him.

Memory Statement

Jesus is greater than anything we could ever turn back to.



James

Type: General Epistle • Chapters: 5 • Key Figure: James • Memory Anchor: Faith Works • Defining Verse: James 1:22

Big Idea

James teaches that genuine faith is demonstrated through obedience, wisdom, and practical godly living.

Why It Matters

James bridges belief and behavior, showing that authentic faith produces visible fruit.

Key Characters

James • Jewish Believers

Key Events

Trials and Wisdom • Taming the Tongue • Faith and Works • Warnings to the Rich • Power of Prayer

Major Themes

Faith • Wisdom • Obedience • Speech • Humility • Prayer

Defining Chapters

1 (Doers of the Word) • 2 (Faith and Works) • 3 (The Tongue) • 4 (Humility) • 5 (Prayer and Perseverance)

Key Verses

1:5 • 1:22 • 2:17 • 4:10 • 5:16

Jesus Connection

Source of Wisdom • Perfect Example • Lord of Glory • Righteous Judge • Answer to Prayer

What We Often Miss

James is not teaching salvation by works; he is teaching that living faith naturally produces works.

Memory Statement

Real faith is visible in the way we live.



1 Peter

Type: General Epistle • Chapters: 5 • Key Figure: Peter • Memory Anchor: Hope in Suffering • Defining Verse: 1 Peter 1:3

Big Idea

Peter encourages believers to stand firm in faith, hope, and holiness while enduring suffering for Christ.

Why It Matters

1 Peter teaches believers how to live faithfully in a hostile world while keeping their eyes on their eternal inheritance.

Key Characters

Peter • Scattered Believers

Key Events

Living Hope Declared • Call to Holiness • Suffering for Christ • Shepherding God's Flock

Major Themes

Hope • Holiness • Suffering • Perseverance • Grace • Identity in Christ

Defining Chapters

1 (Living Hope) • 2 (Chosen People) • 3 (Suffering for Righteousness) • 4 (Living for God) • 5 (Faithful Shepherds)

Key Verses

1:3 • 1:15-16 • 2:9 • 3:15 • 5:7

Jesus Connection

Living Stone • Chief Shepherd • Suffering Savior • Example of Holiness • Source of Living Hope

What We Often Miss

Peter does not merely teach believers how to survive suffering but how to glorify God through it.

Memory Statement

Hope in Christ enables believers to endure suffering faithfully.



2 Peter

Type: General Epistle • Chapters: 3 • Key Figure: Peter • Memory Anchor: Grow in Grace • Defining Verse: 2 Peter 3:18

Big Idea

Peter warns against false teachers and encourages believers to grow in spiritual maturity while awaiting Christ's return.

Why It Matters

2 Peter reminds believers to remain grounded in truth and continue growing in their faith.

Key Characters

Peter • False Teachers • Believers

Key Events

Call to Spiritual Growth • Warning Against False Teachers • Promise of Christ's Return

Major Themes

Truth • Spiritual Growth • Discernment • Judgment • Perseverance • Hope

Defining Chapters

1 (Growing in Christ) • 2 (False Teachers) • 3 (Day of the Lord)

Key Verses

1:3 • 1:21 • 2:9 • 3:9 • 3:18

Jesus Connection

Returning Lord • Source of Grace • Faithful Savior • Righteous Judge • Eternal King

What We Often Miss

Spiritual growth requires intentional effort built upon God's power and promises.

Memory Statement

Continue growing in grace while standing firmly in truth.



1 John

Type: General Epistle • Chapters: 5 • Key Figure: John • Memory Anchor: Walk in the Light • Defining Verse: 1 John 5:13

Big Idea

John assures believers of their salvation and calls them to walk in truth, love, and obedience.

Why It Matters

1 John provides confidence in salvation while helping believers discern genuine faith.

Key Characters

John • Believers

Key Events

Walking in the Light • Tests of Genuine Faith • God's Love Revealed • Assurance of Salvation

Major Themes

Love • Truth • Obedience • Assurance • Fellowship • Eternal Life

Defining Chapters

1 (Walk in the Light) • 2 (Know Him) • 3 (Children of God) • 4 (God Is Love) • 5 (Assurance)

Key Verses

1:9 • 2:1 • 3:1 • 4:8 • 5:13

Jesus Connection

Advocate • Son of God • Source of Eternal Life • Perfect Love • Light of the World

What We Often Miss

John repeatedly connects love, obedience, and truth as inseparable evidence of genuine faith.

Memory Statement

Those who know God walk in truth, love, and obedience.



2 John

Type: General Epistle • Chapters: 1 • Key Figure: John • Memory Anchor: Walk in Truth • Defining Verse: 2 John 1:6

Big Idea

John encourages believers to continue walking in truth and love while guarding against false teaching.

Why It Matters

2 John reminds believers that love must always be rooted in truth.

Key Characters

John • The Elect Lady • Believers

Key Events

Commendation for Faithfulness • Warning Against Deceivers • Call to Persevere

Major Themes

Truth • Love • Obedience • Discernment • Faithfulness

Defining Chapters

1 (Entire Letter)

Key Verses

1:6 • 1:8 • 1:9

Jesus Connection

Truth Incarnate • Son of the Father • Source of Love • Object of Faith • Defender of Truth

What We Often Miss

Biblical love never abandons truth; it is strengthened by it.

Memory Statement

Walk faithfully in both truth and love.



3 John

Type: General Epistle • Chapters: 1 • Key Figure: John • Memory Anchor: Support What Is Good • Defining Verse: 3 John 1:11

Big Idea

John commends faithful believers who support God's work and warns against selfish leadership.

Why It Matters

3 John demonstrates the importance of hospitality, encouragement, and godly influence within the church.

Key Characters

John • Gaius • Diotrephes • Demetrius

Key Events

Commendation of Gaius • Rebuke of Diotrephes • Recommendation of Demetrius

Major Themes

Hospitality • Faithfulness • Leadership • Truth • Service • Encouragement

Defining Chapters

1 (Entire Letter)

Key Verses

1:4 • 1:8 • 1:11

Jesus Connection

Perfect Servant • Model of Humility • Source of Truth • Good Shepherd • Example of Godly Leadership

What We Often Miss

The letter highlights how everyday acts of support and hospitality advance God's kingdom.

Memory Statement

Faithful believers support truth and encourage God's work.



Jude

Type: General Epistle • Chapters: 1 • Key Figure: Jude • Memory Anchor: Contend for the Faith • Defining Verse: Jude 1:3

Big Idea

Jude urges believers to defend the truth of the gospel against false teachers who distort God's grace.

Why It Matters

Jude reminds believers that sound doctrine matters and that God's truth must be protected and preserved.

Key Characters

Jude • False Teachers • Michael the Archangel

Key Events

Call to Defend the Faith • Warnings from History • Description of False Teachers • Doxology

Major Themes

Truth • Discernment • Judgment • Perseverance • Faithfulness • God's Protection

Defining Chapters

1 (Entire Letter)

Key Verses

1:3 • 1:21 • 1:24-25

Jesus Connection

Lord and Savior • Judge of the Living and the Dead • Keeper of His People • Source of Mercy • Eternal King

What We Often Miss

Jude's primary focus is not exposing false teachers but encouraging believers to remain faithful to Christ.

Memory Statement

Stand firmly in the truth and trust God to keep you faithful.



Revelation

Type: Prophecy • Chapters: 22 • Key Figure: Jesus • Memory Anchor: Jesus Wins • Defining Verse: Revelation 21:5

Big Idea

Jesus Christ is revealed as the victorious King who judges evil, redeems His people, and makes all things new.

Why It Matters

Revelation provides hope, encouragement, and assurance that God is sovereign and His purposes will ultimately prevail.

Key Characters

Jesus • John • Seven Churches • Dragon • Beast • New Jerusalem

Key Events

Vision of Christ • Messages to the Churches • Throne Room Worship • Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls • Christ's Return • Final Judgment • New Creation

Major Themes

Victory • Worship • Judgment • Perseverance • Hope • New Creation

Defining Chapters

1 (Vision of Christ) • 4 (Throne Room) • 5 (Worthy Is the Lamb) • 19 (Return of Christ) • 20 (Final Judgment) • 21 (New Heaven and Earth)

Key Verses

1:8 • 3:20 • 5:12 • 19:16 • 21:5 • 22:13

Jesus Connection

Alpha and Omega • Lion of Judah • Lamb of God • King of Kings • Bridegroom • Coming Judge • Victorious Redeemer

What We Often Miss

Revelation is not primarily a book about end-times events—it is a book about Jesus Christ's ultimate victory and God's final restoration of all things.

Memory Statement

Jesus wins, evil loses, and God makes all things new.