

Big 5 for Studying Different Bible Genres

The books of the Bible are not all arranged in the order that they happened. Bible books are, however, consistently arranged by genre. Below are 5 Tips when studying each different genre of the Bible. There are 66 books in the Bible. We encourage you to study each book of the Bible as its own book. All of the 66 books tie perfectly and beautifully together. It is amazing to study one book at a time, and see how the entire Bible all fits together!

For more information on genres for each of the 66 books of the Bible: Go to Big5BibleStudy.com/Resources **Bible Books Table**.

Mark and List

Marking is not just color coding your Bible sheets. Use your marks as STOPPING POINTS to make lists. If you choose to mark, we recommend you also make a list for each type of mark you use.

Big 5 Tips for studying Old Testament History books

1. Follow people introduced by name. Choose a color and mark names, pronouns, verbs, descriptions and any commands for them. (Use different colors/marks for different people)
2. God/Lord. Mark God or Lord, pronouns, verbs and descriptions
3. Pay attention to locations. Double underline all locations in color of your choice. Get out a map and follow it as you study each chapter.
4. In Genesis 11, God promises Abraham 2 things: land and descendants. Keep looking for land and descendants in all of the O.T. History books from Genesis 11 on.
5. Look for results of obedience / disobedience.

Big 5 Tips for studying Poetry books

1. Poetry books are written to convey emotion.
2. Illustrations are often used to help the reader picture what is being said.
3. Many times, one thing is compared to something else. Take time to think and pray through why one thing is compared to another.
4. Look up keywords in verses or chapters. Cross reference those words or phrases in other places in the Bible that they are used.
5. Consider the eastern culture of these writings.

Big 5 Tips for studying Prophet books

Do you know what the difference is between the Major and Minor Prophets? The Major and Minor Prophet books are arranged by largest to smallest! The Major Prophet books have the most words. Starting with Isaiah being the largest, and Daniel being the smallest of Major Prophets. Hosea is the largest of the Minor Prophets and Malachi is the smallest, the least amount of words.

1. It is important to read the prophet books from the viewpoint of the original audience.
2. During this time, Judah and Israel were two nations that were both very rebellious to God and his ways (God's commands for them in the O.T).
3. The prophets are God's spokesman to warn of their sin and disobedience. Being a prophet is a serious role, and they did not speak unless God told them what to say.
4. The prophets told what would happen if they continued to sin.
5. The prophets also brought a message of hope and restoration if the hearers would repent of their sin and turn to worship the Lord their God.



Big 5 Tips for studying the Gospels, New Testament History

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the 4 gospels. Each of the gospels is about Jesus, His life on earth, His death, and days after His resurrection. Each gospel is written to a different audience. Look up who the author is, and who the audience is, before you start your study.

1. Mark Jesus. These books are all about Him. (Jesus pronouns, Jesus verbs, Jesus descriptions)
2. Follow people or groups of people as they are introduced in the story. Choose a color and mark names, pronouns, verbs, descriptions and any commands for them
3. Pay attention to locations. Double underline all locations in color of your choice. Get out a map and follow the map, as you read. Where are their feet?
4. Mark God, God pronouns, God verbs and God descriptions
5. Mark Holy Spirit, pronouns, verbs, descriptions. (Spirit with capital S, is Holy Spirit.)

Big 5 Tips for studying Acts, New Testament History

Acts is Part 2 of Luke's writings. Acts is the history of the Church.

1. Follow people or groups of people as they are introduced. Choose a color for each and mark names, pronouns, verbs, descriptions and any commands for them.
2. Pay attention to locations. Double underline all locations in color of your choice. Get out a map and follow it as you study each chapter. Where are their feet?
3. Mark God, pronouns, verbs and descriptions
4. Mark Jesus, pronouns, verbs and descriptions
5. Mark Holy Spirit, pronouns, verbs, descriptions. (Spirit with capital S, is Holy Spirit.)

Big 5 for studying the Letters

Do you know how the letters are arranged? The letters are not in chronological order. Letters are arranged from largest to smallest! Bible letters are divided into two groups. The first group is Paul's letters, titled by the recipients of the letters, arranged largest to smallest. The second group are all other letters, self-titled by who the author is, with exception of the book of Hebrews, which was written to a group of Hebrew people. The group of letters that Paul did not write, are also arranged from largest to smallest!

Mark pronouns, verbs and descriptions for each. Make a list for each.

1. Author
2. Recipient
3. God
4. Jesus
5. Holy Spirit

Big 5 Tips for studying the book of Revelation /Apocalyptic

Revelation is translated as "unveiling", "an appearing". The book of Revelation is an illustrated account of John's revelation of what will take place in the future. In Revelation 1:3 it says that you are blessed for reading this book. However, it is not an easy book to fully understand. It is important to READ it and to KNOW what it says. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, and He will bring the understanding in His timing, as these days draw nearer.

Mark pronouns, verbs and descriptions for each. Make a list for each.

1. God
2. Lamb
3. Satan, Devil, Dragon
4. Earth
5. Throne

