

Bible 101, Session 1

How to Choose and Use a Bible

December 4, 2023 | [StPius.net/Bible](https://stpious.net/Bible)

What is the Bible?

“*Sacred Scripture* is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit.”
(*Dei Verbum*, no. 9; quoted in CCC 81)

How to choose a Bible

Ensure that you have a complete, accurate, and approved translation of the Bible. How can you tell?

Step 1: Check to see that your copy has all 73 books integrated into the Table of Contents.

Here are the books to double-check:

- Tobit
- Judith
- Wisdom
- Sirach (aka Ecclesiasticus or the Wisdom of Ben Sira)
- Baruch
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees

Step 2: Use a reliable Catholic translation approved by the bishops.

Here is a list of some biblical translations approved by the USCCB:

- *Contemporary English Version - New Testament, First Edition*, American Bible Society
- *New American Bible, Revised Edition* (NABRE)
- *New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition*, National Council of Churches
- *Good News Translation (Today's English Version, Second Edition)*, American Bible Society

Here are additional biblical translations approved by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales:

- *Revised Standard Version*
- *Jerusalem Bible* and *New Jerusalem Bible*
- *English Standard Version: Catholic Edition*

Which Bible should you buy? The one that you will read!!!

Books of the Bible

Old Testament

- 46 books
- Mostly written in Hebrew

Pentateuch
Historical Books
Biblical Novellas
Wisdom Books
Prophetic Books

New Testament

- 27 books
- Written in Greek

Gospels (and Acts of the Apostles)
New Testament Letters
Catholic Letters (including Revelation)

Navigate your Bible!

Book > Chapter > Verse
Footnotes and cross-references

See handout: “Sample Page of the Bible”

Next session

Monday, December 11 – What's in the Bible?

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the church basement meeting room or 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center

The Bible isn't just a random collection of inspirational books: Scripture tells the story of salvation history, how God works in human history to draw us into relationship through Jesus Christ. Join us as we review this love story from Genesis through the New Testament.

Learn more!

List of biblical translations approved by the USCCB

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/new-american-bible/approved-translations-bible>

Catholic Answers: Bible Translations Guide

<https://www.catholic.com/tract/bible-translations-guide>