

KIDMUNITY | God's Word, My Life

Lesson 05: How the Bible is Organized

Large Group Script

Bottom Line:

Every part of the Bible tells God's one big story.

Memory Verse:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God...

John 20:31

Supplies Needed

- Large Bible (to hold up)
- Slide of the Bible's Table of Contents
- Slide of Bible genres (OT & NT)
- "Bookshelf" graphic of prophets stacked by size
- Road map graphic pointing to Jesus

Welcome & Hook: A Library in One Book

[Hold up Bible.]

"Did you know the Bible is actually a library? It's 66 books all wrapped up into one. Each book has its own author, style, and purpose — but together they tell one big story that points us to Jesus."

Two Testaments

[Show OT vs. NT slide.]

- Old Testament → 39 books, before Jesus was born.
- New Testament → 27 books, after Jesus came.
- Together, they tell one story — God's plan to save the world through Jesus.

What's a Genre?

[Show a slide with different book/movie genres: comedy, action, romance, sci-fi.]

"Before we look at the parts of the Bible, let's talk about something you already know: genres.

A **genre** is just a style or type of story. You see it in books, movies, and even video games.

- Some movies make you laugh — that’s comedy.
- Some make you sit on the edge of your seat — that’s action or adventure.
- Some make you cry or cheer — that’s drama or romance.
- Some make you imagine new worlds — that’s science fiction or fantasy.

Genres help us know what kind of story we’re about to read or watch.”

Why does this matter for the Bible?

- The Bible is one big story, but it’s told in different genres.
- Some parts are history — real events that actually happened.
- Some parts are poetry — songs and prayers written to God.
Some parts are prophecy — messages from God about the future.
- Each genre teaches us something in its own way, but all together they tell the same story of God’s love.

“So just like you wouldn’t watch a comedy movie the same way you’d watch a superhero movie, you read a Psalm differently than you read a Gospel. Understanding genres helps us get the most out of God’s Word.”

Old Testament Genres

1. Law (5 books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

- Written mostly by Moses.
- Tells how God created the world and chose His people.
- Shows how God gave His law to guide His people.
- Helps us see our need for a Savior.
- *Fun fact: The word “Genesis” means “beginnings.”*

2. History (12 books: Joshua → Esther)

- Written by leaders, prophets, and scribes.
- Tells the story of Israel’s battles, kings, and struggles.
- Shows God’s faithfulness even when His people failed.
- Connects the story forward to Jesus.
- *Fun fact: Esther is the only book that never mentions God’s name — but His hand is all over the story.*

3. Wisdom/Poetry (5 books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)

- Psalms written mostly by David; Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon by Solomon.
- Filled with prayers, songs, wisdom sayings, and reflections.
- Teaches us to worship, pray, and live wisely.

- Shows us how to seek God in every season of life.
- *Fun fact: Psalms has 150 chapters — the most in the whole Bible.*

4. Major Prophets (5 books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel)

- Called “major” because they’re longer books.
- Prophets were God’s messengers, calling people back to Him.
- Many prophecies point ahead to Jesus as the Savior.
- *Fun fact: Isaiah has more prophecies about Jesus than any other book.*

5. Minor Prophets (12 books: Hosea → Malachi)

- Called “minor” because they’re shorter books.
- Still carry powerful messages about repentance and hope.
- Prophets like Jonah, Hosea, and Malachi pointed people toward God’s plan.
- *Fun fact: Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament — only one chapter.*

New Testament Genres

1. Gospels (4 books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

- Four different accounts of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.
- Each Gospel shows a different perspective, but all agree: Jesus is the Son of God.
- The center of the whole Bible’s story.
- *Fun fact: Mark is the shortest Gospel — it moves super fast and uses the word “immediately” a lot.*

2. History (1 book: Acts)

- Written by Luke (the same one who wrote the Gospel of Luke).
- Tells the story of the early church after Jesus rose from the dead.
- Shows how the Holy Spirit empowered believers to spread the Gospel.

3. Epistles/Letters (21 books: Romans → Jude)

- Letters written by leaders like Paul, Peter, James, and John.
- Some written to whole churches, some to individuals (like Timothy or Titus).
- Teach believers how to follow Jesus and encourage the church.
- *Fun fact: Paul wrote 13 of these letters — and some were written while he was in prison!*

4. Prophecy (1 book: Revelation)

- Written by John while exiled on the island of Patmos.
- Filled with visions and symbols about the future.

- Reminds us that Jesus wins and He will return.
- Gives us hope that God will make all things new.

Why It Matters

- Each genre adds something important to the Bible's big story.
- The Law shows our need for a Savior.
- History shows God's plan unfolding.
- Poetry teaches us how to worship.
- Prophets point to Jesus.
- The Gospels show Jesus arriving.
- The Letters teach us how to live for Him.
- Revelation shows us how it all ends — with Jesus reigning forever.

[Read John 20:31 together.]

Wrap-Up & Challenge

- Recite John 20:31 together.
- Takeaway: "Every part of the Bible tells God's one big story."
- Challenge: "This week, pick one book from a genre you've never read. Ask: What does this book show me about God's plan and how it points to Jesus?"