

Challenge

Thanks for taking the *challenge*! God's greatest desire is to live connected heart-to-heart with his most treasured possession - YOU! How do we know? The Bible tells us! Challenge #1 is all about getting to know this book, inspired by God and written by men, so that we can know our God and see how much he loves us.

Find a Bible and open to the Table of Contents. What do you see?

The Bible is unique; one book made up of **66** books written by kings, shepherds, priests, a tentmaker, a doctor, fishermen and others. The Bible gives the names of 35 authors, but there are some whose names we do not know. Each book has a special part to play in telling God's story, and together, they are the most amazing book ever written.

The Bible has two parts called *testaments;* the *Old Testament*, with 39 books, records God's story with his creation *before* Jesus walked and talked on the earth. The *New Testament's* 27 books, continue God's story as they tell us the stories of Jesus walking and talking on earth and what happened after he went back to heaven.

Now, look inside... The books of the Bible are divided into *chapters*...just like a chapter book at school. The *chapters* (big numbers) are divided into verses (little numbers) to help us as we read. The **book name, chapter, and verse** work together to create an 'address' to help us find the stories of miracles, the words God spoke, the promises God made, and so much more!

Challenge Have fun getting to know this book as you search for the answers to the puzzles below. Submit your answers to 'challenge headquarters' by *clicking here*. Happy exploring!

| Book with only 1 chapter | Longest chapter | Shortest chapter | Longest word |
|--|---|--|--|
| There are 5 books in the Bible that only have one chapter; can you find one? | in the Bible is Psalm 119 . How many verses does it have? | in the Bible is Psalm 117 . How many verses does it have? | in the Bible is the name God told the prophet Isaiah to use to name Isaiah's son; what is it? Isaiah 8:1 |
| <i>Hint:</i> 1 - Old Testament book 4 - New Testament books | How cool that the longest chapter is all about God's word! | This would be a great one to memorize - it is what the Bible is all about! | Aren't you glad you didn't have to learn to spell that name? |

The Bible was originally written in 3 languages... Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. But what if you can't read or speak those languages? Wise people have carefully studied those three languages and translated the words into English as well as many other languages. We call these translations *versions*.

Decipher the following message using a version called New International Version—NIV. Find the verse, count the words, and record the indicated word on the computer 'answer sheet' form!

If you don't have this version at home, you can use the internet to find a digital version of the Bible...with permission, of course! BibleGateway .com is a great place to look .



Congratulations! You have completed *Challenge 1*! Watch for your family's name to appear on the 'wall of fame' in the children's space where the check-in computers are located when your entry is received using the above link. *Challenge 2* will be posted on *June 8—good luck*!