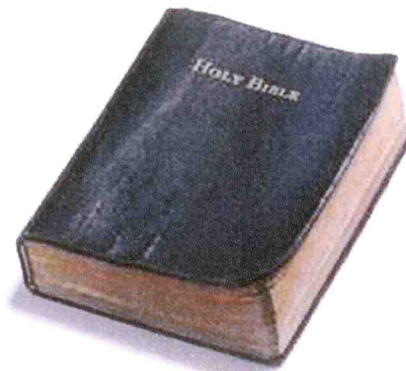


Christian Education

## *Bible 101: Bible Basics*



*Man must not live on Bread alone but on every word  
that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4, HCSB<sup>1</sup>)*

A Discipleship Ministry of East Side Baptist Church<sup>2</sup>

4884 Ward Basin Road, Milton, Florida 32583

Online: [esbcmilton.org](http://esbcmilton.org)

850.626.1481

The Bible. The Holy Bible. Most people have heard about the Bible. Most people have an opinion about the Bible. Some have concluded the Bible is out-of-date even though they have read at best, very little of the Bible. So, why read and study the Bible? Why listen to the Bible on cassette tape, CD, or from your ipod?

*The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.*

Isaiah 40:8, HCSB

From the beginning of this study, know this, the Bible is very relevant. The Bible is fresh and new for every generation. The Bible is the word of God for today!



What does that mean? Consider a few other questions first. Why read the instructions for a newly purchased game? Why read the assembly instructions for a newly purchased, yet to be put together bicycle, cabinet, or model car? Why read the ingredients and directions for a new meal you would like to try? Why follow the instructions for packing a parachute? The simple answer to all these questions is “to get it right”.

That is the same reason why everyone should be reading the Bible. The goal is “to get it right”, a right relationship with God, a right relationship with family, friends, and neighbors, and a right relationship with this beautiful world we are privileged to live in. The Bible is an instruction manual. The Bible is the word of God; and thus, God’s instructions for how to live a meaningful and fulfilling life.

A quick note is in order here. For the most part, the Bible was originally written

in Hebrew and Greek. Thus, Bibles in English are translations. And there are many translations from which to choose. A detailed discussion on translations is reserved for another study. Start with the Bible you have. If you have more than one translation, compare them and then choose one to focus on. You can always compare the translations. If you do not have a Bible, a Bible can be purchased for as little as \$5.00. If getting a personal Bible from a store is not possible right now, contact this ministry for assistance. This study series utilizes the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB). The goal of the translators of the HCSB is to be both a literal translation and a readable translation in our language today.

If you are not familiar with the Bible, here is how you can find your way in the Bible. Like most books, there is a table of contents. If you have a Bible, go ahead, take a look at the table of contents located near the beginning. The Bible is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Usually the table of contents gives the names of chapters and pages. The table of contents for the Bible lists the names of books or letters with their corresponding page numbers. The Old Testament contains 39 books and the New Testament has 27 books. In total, there are 66 books that make up the Bible.

Write in the spaces below, the first five books of each testament.

<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
(1) _____	_____
(2) _____	_____
(3) _____	_____
(4) _____	_____
(5) _____	_____

Each book of the Bible has been marked with numbers to make finding certain

passages much easier. These markings refer to chapter and verse. For example, the book of Genesis has 50 chapters. Each chapter is numbered. Then within each chapter, are verses. These verses are also numbered. Each chapter begins with verse 1 (some translations start the numbering where verse 2 begins). Chapters do not necessarily contain the same number of verses.

Open your Bible to the first page of the book of Genesis. Fill-in the blanks below of the first verse in the first chapter of the first book of the Bible:

*In the \_\_\_\_\_ God created the \_\_\_\_\_  
and the \_\_\_\_\_ (HCSB).*

Scan down through chapter 1. You will see the verse numbers. In chapter 1 of Genesis, there are 31 verses. After verse 31, begins chapter 2.

Look at chapter 1, verse 27 and fill-in the blanks below.

*So God created man in His own \_\_\_\_\_; He created him  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; He created  
them \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (HCSB).*

Here is how you will see this verse referenced in a short form: Genesis 1:27 and sometimes Gen. 1:27. This will be true throughout the Bible. Bible references begin with the name of the book, then the chapter number, and then the verse number. If multiple verses are being referenced, you will see, for example, Genesis 1:1-27, meaning the book of Genesis, chapter 1, and verses 1 through 27.



Now you can find any Bible reference. Until you learn the order and location of the books of the Bible, look up the name of the book in the table of contents, go to the starting page, then find the chapter, and then find to the verse or verses being referenced.

