

Bible Bowl Training: Week 8

Grab your Bible, strap on your thinking cap, warm up your page flipping fingers and let's dive into our training!



Warm Up

Find a comfortable place to sit and go through today's lesson. Repeat last week's memory verse to yourself. Close your eyes and imagine laying in the warm sunshine, next to a babbling brook. Let the quiet relaxation settle on you and say a prayer that God will be with you in your studies today.



Stretch

We have learned a lot about how to find references in the Bible, but we're not done learning! Today we'll look at three tricky types of references.

Here's the first, look at it carefully: Luke 2:40, 52. (We say "Luke two, forty and fifty-two.") The verse numbers in this reference are separated by a comma (,) instead of hyphen (-) like the verses we looked at last week. When you look up this reference, you read only verse 40 and verse 52. You skip all the verses in between. We'll practice that in a minute.

The second tricky reference uses another new type of punctuation, a semi-colon (;). When you read verses in more than one chapter in the same book, a semicolon is used between each set of chapter and verse numbers. In the reference Amos 1:1; 7:15 (we say "Amos one, one and seven, fifteen") first you read Chapter 1, verse 1 and then you skip to chapter 7, verse 15 in the same book of Amos. Confused? We'll practice this in a bit as well.

The final tricky reference is one that asks you to look up just part of a verse. In the reference Psalm 100:2a the letter a after the number 2 means that you read only the first part of verse 2.

The letter a means "the first part of a verse."

The letter b means "the second part of a verse."

The letter c means "the third part of a verse."

Got it? Alright. Let's practice!



Exercise

Let's start working on that first tricky reference. Grab your Bible and look up Luke 2:40, 52. These verses together tell us a little bit about when Jesus was a growing boy, but skip the story in between. Why would we do this? Well, sometimes when referring to scripture we are trying to get more of an overview, rather than specific details. This allows us to get the main idea of a piece of scripture, without reading a long passage. When on our own, we often study and read every detail, but when we are in a group a short passage can be more helpful. Let's look up another: John 15:14, 17. Remember, only read two verses: 14 and 17! This is a very important saying of Jesus to his friends. By combining these two verses, we can make these important words easier to remember, rather than trying to remember

Jesus' whole speech. But what if we wanted to read different groups of verses in one chapter? A comma would also be used between groups of verses. The comma tells you which verses to skip. Go ahead and find and read 1 John 4:7-8, 11-13. How many verses did you read? Five? Great! You're getting it!

Now let's try that tricky semi-colon (;) reference! It was Amos 1:1; 7:15. See if you can find it. How many verses did you read? Two? That's right! Let's try another: Matthew 7:12; 22:36-40. How many verses did you read this time? If you answered 6 you are doing great!

Our last tricky reference helps us find a specific part of a verse. Let's look at Psalm 100:2. Psalm 100:2a starts with the word "worship" and goes all the way to the word "gladness." Psalm 100:2b starts on the next line with "come" and ends at the end of the verse with the word "singing." Does that make sense? Let's look at Psalm 100:3. Can you find the first words of Psalm 100:3a, 100:3b, and 100:3c? If you said "Know", "It", and "We" then you really get it! Let's try another reference for practice: Compare Psalm 136:1b and 136:2b. Notice anything? How about 136:3b? and 136:4b? In a psalm like this you can see why these letter references are helpful. Someone might choose to read just the "a" parts of several of these verses, instead of repeating the chorus of "for his steadfast love endures forever" over and over.

Cool Down

Whew! Good workout! Those were some tough references, but I think you've got it! No surprise, this week's memory verse uses TWO of the new tricky references we practiced!

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:31a,c

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall run and not be weary.



Stretch Again

Get out your thinking caps, cause for this stretch assignment I want you to do a little reflection. We often see scripture references that are short and sweet, the very best, most memorable words in the smallest package. This is great for helping us fill the "Bible of our hearts" by memorizing scripture. Short references are handy, but can you think of any problems that might come from pulling tiny bits of scripture out from the bigger book they are in? If you can't think of any, this might be a great question to discuss with your parent! Make sure you let me know what you come up with by entering it at the Bible Bowl website!



New Training Equipment

SEMI-COLON: A small mark (;) used to separate groups of chapter & verse references within one book.