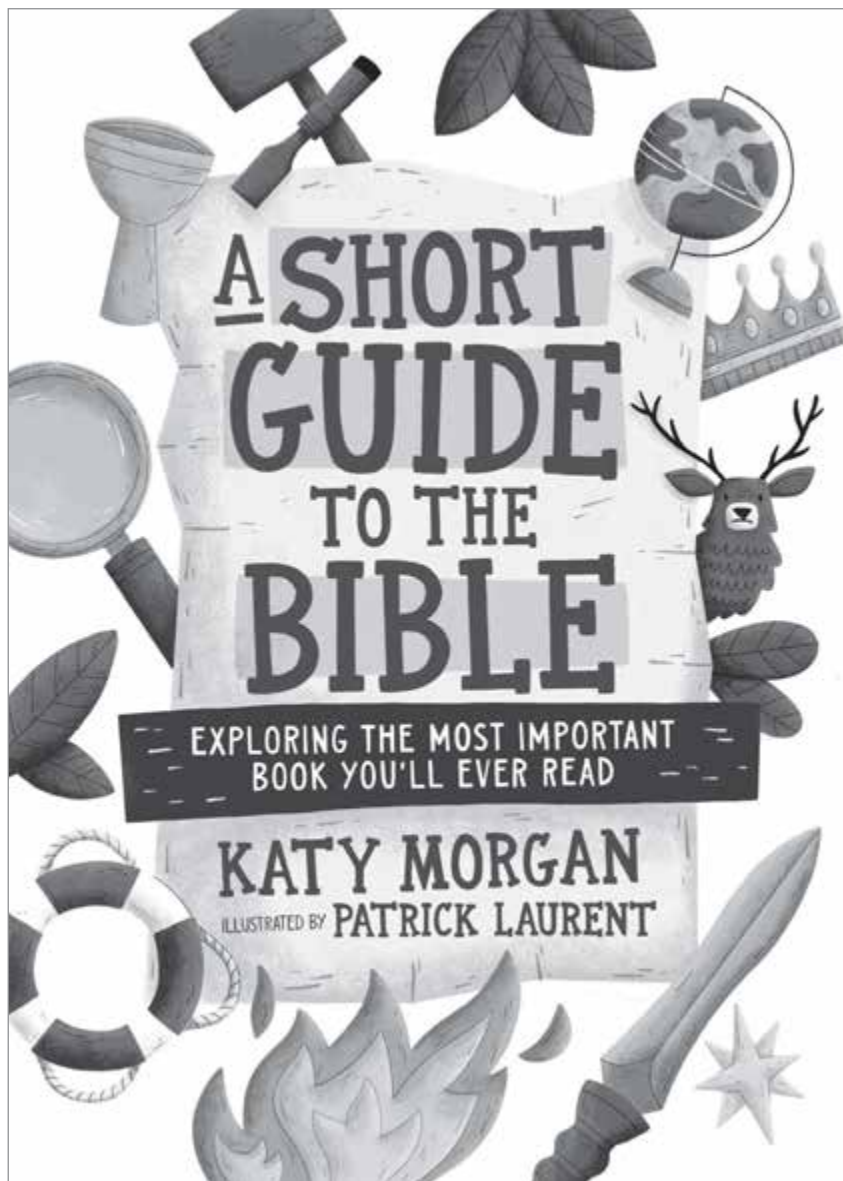


A SHORT GUIDE TO THE BIBLE

EXPLORING THE MOST IMPORTANT
BOOK YOU'LL EVER READ

KATY MORGAN
ILLUSTRATED BY PATRICK LAURENT



REVIEW COPY: NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION OR SALE



WELCOME to the **BIBLE**

Since you're reading this, I'm guessing you are at least a little bit interested in knowing about God. And you think that the Bible is a good place to find out about him. (You're right.)

Maybe you also want to know about how to be a good person and live a happy life. And you think the Bible might have something to say about that too. (Right again!)

BUT WHERE DO YOU START?

The Bible isn't like any other book you've ever read. It's huge, and the writing is tiny. There are not very many fun facts or laugh-out-loud jokes or exciting cliffhangers. And it all happened a very long time ago.

How are you supposed to read a book like that?

This guide is designed to help!

TRUE OR FALSE?



1. The Bible is the best-selling book in the world.
2. The oldest surviving copy of a bit of the Bible dates to about 600 BC.
3. The Bible is the most banned book in the world.
4. The Bible was written in three different languages, across three continents.
5. The Bible is actually a library of 66 books.
6. Parts of the Bible have been translated into 3,658 different languages (so far).
7. The Bible was the very first book to be printed using a printing press (instead of written out by hand).
8. Cats are the animal mentioned most often in the Bible.

*They're all true except the last one. Lions and leopards are mentioned, but ordinary cats never appear!

In the following pages, you'll find everything you need to get going with reading the Bible (except an actual copy of the Bible).

You'll find out that the Bible is really one big story. It tells you about God, it tells you about the world, and it even tells you about you!

You'll learn about how the Bible divides up into different parts, and what those parts are.

There are also maps of Bible places, info about Bible characters, and answers to your most confusing questions!

But most importantly, this guide aims to help you enjoy the Bible and get the most out of it. Because it isn't like any other book you've ever read. It's much, much, *much* more special.



**IT'S GOD, WHO MADE THE
UNIVERSE, SPEAKING TO YOU!**



FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

Step ① Get a Bible

Make sure you have an actual Bible, not a story Bible. You can tell the difference by looking to see if it has little numbers all over the text. If it does, it's a Bible!


Step ② Flip to the Contents Page

You'll probably see that it's divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Basically, the Old Testament is the story of God's people before Jesus came along, and the New Testament is the story of God's people after Jesus came along. (More on Jesus later!)

Step ③ Pick a Book and Flip To It

The names you see in the contents page are the books—Genesis, Exodus, and so on. It doesn't matter which one you choose!

Have a look at the numbers. The big ones are chapter numbers. Within each chapter, there are also tiny verse numbers. The whole Bible is divided into bite-sized verses so that you can easily find the bit you want.



Step 4 Find a Verse

Look at chapter 1 of the book you're in. Can you find verse 4 of this chapter? What does it say?

**You're unlikely to find people writing "verse 4 of chapter 1".
Instead they shorten it to 1 v 4 or 1:4 or 1.4.**

Exodus 9 v 10 = Exodus, chapter 9, verse 10
Mark 11 v 13-15 = Mark, chapter 11, verses 13 to 15
Nehemiah 2 = Nehemiah, chapter 2 (the whole chapter!)

**NOW SEE IF YOU CAN FOLLOW THE SAME STEPS
AND FIND THE FOLLOWING VERSES:**

Psalm 139 v 13

Genesis 1 v 1**

John 3 v 16*

Matthew 11 v 1-4

*Be careful to find John, not 1 John or 2 John or 3 John! Confusing, I know...

**Watch out—the first verse of each chapter usually doesn't have a verse number. It just follows straight on from the chapter number!

Well done! Now you know how to read the Bible.

A BOOK I LOVE

I find that the best way to study the Bible is to read 3-4 verses a day, ask yourself questions about what you have read, and then pray about it.

Kiara
(age 13)



I love that God speaks to me in so many different ways through the Bible, even if I'm reading the same thing over and over again.

Evie
(age 10)



Every time you read it, the Bible teaches you a bit more about God's power and love. I love that it tells you how to pray and how to forgive.

Rio
(age 11)



THE WHOLE BIBLE AT A GLANCE

You might have heard about specific Bible stories and characters. But did you know that the Bible tells the story of God's plan for the whole world and its people?



God Creates the World

It's perfect, but the first humans ruin it by disobeying God.



God Chooses a People

The nation of Israel will represent him to the world.

People Keep Messing Up

Israel is supposed to be a place of justice and peace. Sadly, most of the time, the humans get in the way...



God Rescues His People

The Israelites have become slaves in Egypt, but he gets them out and gives them a land of their own.



God Punishes His People

Powerful empires invade and take God's people away into exile.