

NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

I Live
My Faith

I Am Guided in Faith

The Bible and You

God speaks to us in many ways. One way is through the Bible. The Bible is the most important book in Christian life because it is God's message, or Revelation. It tells the story of God's promise to care for us, especially through his Son, Jesus. At Mass we hear readings from the Bible. We can also read the Bible on our own.

The Bible is not just one book; it is a collection of many books. The writings in the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by many different authors.

The Bible is made up of two parts. The Old Testament contains 46 books that tell stories about the Jewish people and their faith in God before Jesus was born.

The New Testament contains 27 books that tell the story of the teaching, ministry, and saving events of Jesus'

life and the experience of the early Christians. For Christians the most important part of the New Testament is the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—which tell about the life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. The New Testament also contains letters written by leaders such as Saint Paul.

How can you find a passage in the Bible? Bible passages are identified by book, chapter, and verse—for example, Genesis 1:27–28. Sometimes the name of the book is abbreviated. Your Bible's table of contents will help you determine what the abbreviation means. After the name of the book, there are two numbers. The first one identifies the chapter, which in the example below is Chapter 1; it is followed by a colon. The second number or numbers identify the verses, which in the example are verses 27 to 28.

