

Introducing Biblical Navigation

In step 4 of unit 1, you teach the students how to navigate the Bible. This article provides some additional commentary to assist you in working through this step with the students.

Step 4: Teach the Students How to Navigate the Bible

In this step you will help the students learn how to find a biblical verse or passage from simple and more complex citations. You will also teach the students how to use the table of contents and index and to find biblical passages.

1. To prepare for this learning experience, make double-sided copies of the handout “How to Find a Scriptural Reference” (Document #: TX001088), one for each student. (*Note:* The handout is at the end of this article as well as included with the other handouts.)

2. On the day of the learning experience, discuss with the students the Bible’s table of contents and index. You may want to ask these types of questions.

- Where do you usually look for a table of contents and an index?
Table of contents in the front of the book, index in the back
- What is the role of each one?
The contents explains the sequence of the book or books and provides page numbers; the index helps you find the page numbers, names, places, and topics when do you do not know how they fall within the sequence.

Assign the students the following two tasks using the table of contents and the index, or provide your own search activity:

- Locate the Book of Job and find out what book comes before Job and what book comes after.
This can be accomplished using the table of contents or a simple search through the biblical sequence of books. Answer: Second Maccabees and Psalms.
- Where could you find the story of Joseph and his brothers?
In *The Catholic Youth Bible*[®], third edition, there is an “Events, People, and Teachings” index in the back that leads the reader to Genesis, chapters 37–46. Note that not all Bibles will have such an index. Most study Bibles have various indices for maps, illustrations, articles, and other frequently searched for Bible stories. Indices are very helpful to new biblical “scholars.”

Note that the students will find these tools helpful when locating scriptural citations.

3. Distribute the copies of the handout “How to Find a Scriptural Reference” (Document #: TX001088). Review the handout with the students, teaching them how to find biblical passages and how to understand the way we refer to passages. Assign them the matching section of the handout as class work or homework.

4. If you have not assigned your students the handout “Biblical Scavenger Hunt” (Document #: TX001089), this would be a good opportunity to do so.

Remind the students that they are responsible for developing the skill of biblical navigation, based on the handout “How to Find a Scriptural Reference” (Document #: TX001088).

