

# What Is the Structure of the Bible? (Youth)

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The Bible has a very particular structure. If you understand this structure, then you will have a better grasp on the Bible.

## The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament

The Old Testament is called old because it came first. It is the Bible that Jesus had, and it's also called the Hebrew Bible. The New Testament was written by the apostles and those who worked with them. It was confirmed in the 300s AD by the Christian church as Scripture.

## The Bible is organized by genre

The Old and New Testaments are ordered by the type of literature that they are. This gives us the following the breakdown:

- Law: Genesis – Deuteronomy
- History: Joshua – Esther
- Poetry: Job – Song of Solomon
- Major Prophets: Isaiah – Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea – Malachi
- Gospels: Matthew – John
- History of the Church: Acts
- Epistles: Romans – Jude
- Apocalypse: Revelation

## A book's genre guides the way you read it

It's important to be aware of a book's genre. You don't have to be an expert on types of literature, but a little knowledge will help you interpret the book correctly. For example, Psalms are poetry. As such, the Psalms use figurative language to convey meaning. Proverbs are aphorisms that describe the way that life usually works. The epistles are written to Christians just like us. We apply each of these genres slightly differently.

## Discussion Questions:

1. *Watch the video together or invite someone to summarize the topic.*
2. *What is your initial reaction to this video? Do you disagree with any of it? What jumped out at you?*
3. *Which part of the Bible are you most familiar with? Why?*
4. *Try to summarize the story of the Old Testament. Summarize the story of the New Testament.*
5. *Which part of the Bible do you know the least?*
6. *Why are the genres of the Bible important to understand?*
7. *Which part of the Bible are you most interested in studying? Why?*

8. *Write a personal action step based on this conversation.*