

July-August 2025



LORY TO GOD

Family Faith Fun

I wonder if you enjoy reading, getting lost in stories? Lots of books have some wonderful pictures in them to illustrate the story and bring it to life. But I wonder if you have a book with such beautiful pictures as this:



And do you have one with a cover as wonderful as this one on the right? See the gold and jewels on it.

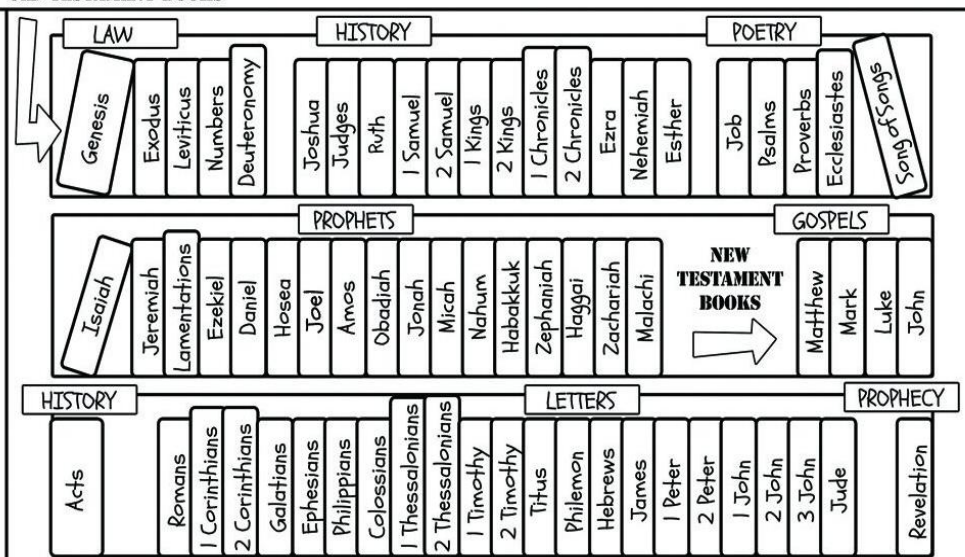
These are from very special, and very old, Bibles



In the days before printing was invented, all books had to be written out by hand, so there were not very many of them. Also, very few people could read or write anyway. These early Bibles were written by monks who lived in monasteries. The cover is from one called the Lindisfarne Gospels (the books about the life of Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John), copied by monks on Lindisfarne Island in about 720. They are called "illuminated manuscripts" because of the jewel like coloured inks they used, and for the gold leaf that was added to many of the pictures. They were written in Latin, the language of the church in those days. They were made so beautiful because it was thought that the "Word of God" (the Bible) was so very special it should be shown to be so.

Did you know that the Bible we use today is actually a collection of 66 books. It's a whole library, and like all good libraries the books are arranged in groups. Looking at the picture below you will see that they are labeled as Law, or Poetry, or Letters etc.

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS



Name one of the Poetry Books.

Which is the first Law book?

How many Gospels are there?

How many books are about Kings?

How many different people are named in the Letters?

What is the last book called?

The letter below is in the Celtic style of the decorations in the illuminated Gospels. Colour it in with your best colours to remind you of how special the monks made the bibles they copied. Can you see the eagle on top of the letter. They often included weird and wonderful animals in the pattern. You could also draw out your own initial and design a pattern around it.

