

Sunday 1st September 2025

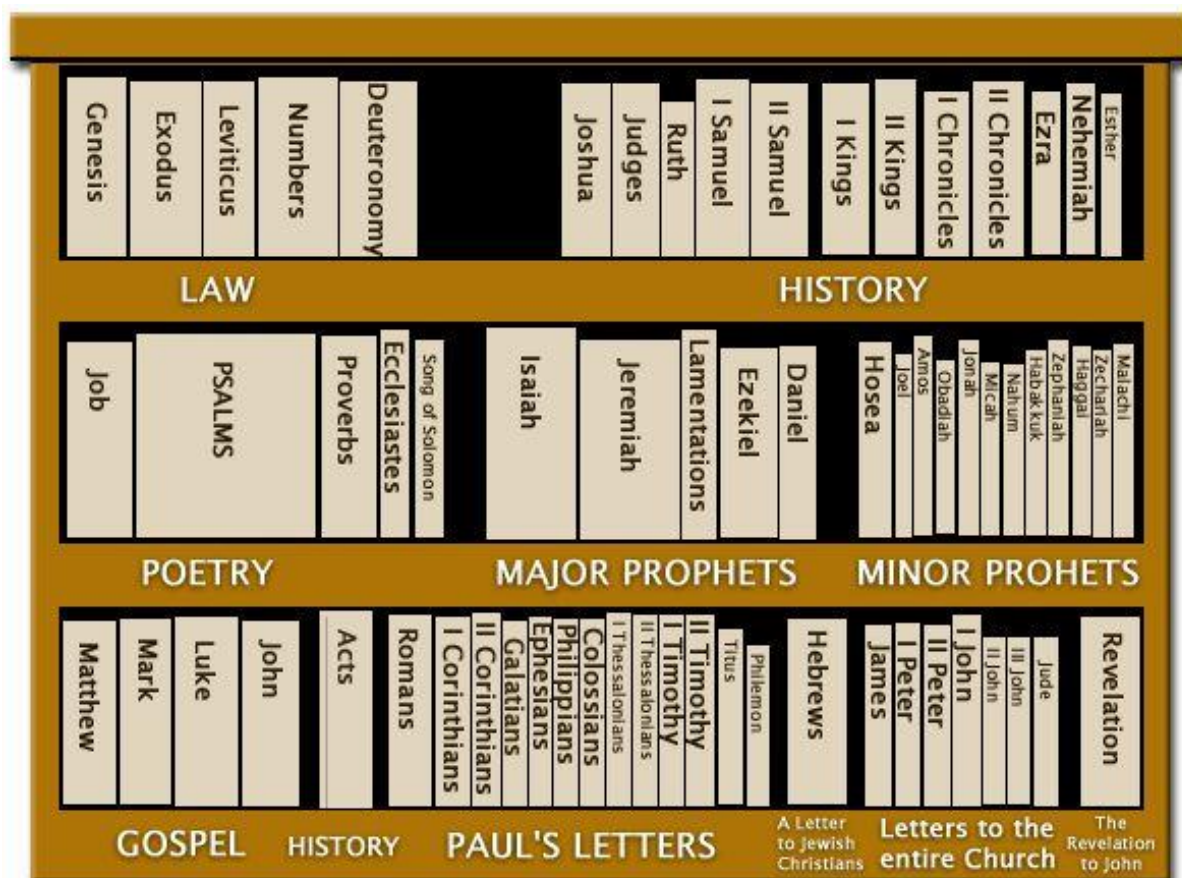
It's September – the time of year we associate with new beginnings. So, welcome to a brand-new year of activities to help us to know Jesus better!

New starts, whether a move to a new class or school, job, college or university, often involve new people too. As someone once said, “Strangers are simply friends we haven’t yet met” - so we hope we will be making new friends!

This can be fun, or rather scary.... but we know that our special friend, Jesus, is always with us, loving us and helping us in all that we do and in all the people we meet, as we get to know them better.

Our job, as followers of Jesus, is to get to know him better too. We do this through the Bible. Did you know that the Bible is more like a library than a book?

Here are all the many books in the Bible:



How many books altogether?

How many books in the Old Testament (the top two shelves)?

How many books in the New Testament (bottom shelf)?

The Old Testament tells the story of God making himself known to his people long ago.

The New Testament tells us how Jesus came to really show his people what God was like and how much he loves us all. We hear the story of how the Church began and how it continues to do his work in the world, through his Holy Spirit. We are part of that Church.

Can you think of a story in the Bible which talks about meeting new people and making new friends? When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, and James and John, to be his disciples, they were very quick to leave their lives as fishermen and follow him. They were strangers but, together with the other disciples, became close friends of Jesus and of each other, as their lives changed, and they had a new job – as fishers of people!

I wonder if we are as quick to follow Jesus when he calls us to be his friends? Jesus is our friend, and he wants us to show our love for him by being a good friend to others. Back to school time is a wonderful time to put this into action!



A prayer for this week, as we return to our new classes and schools:

Loving God, we thank you for the rest we have had over the summer holidays. Bless us as we return to our schools and places of learning. Help us to remember that Jesus is always with us, in happy times and in challenging times, as we settle back in and meet new friends and teachers. As followers of Jesus, may we always be aware of others who might be struggling and quick to be kind to them and help them. Amen.

Answers to questions about the Bible:

66 books altogether (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament)

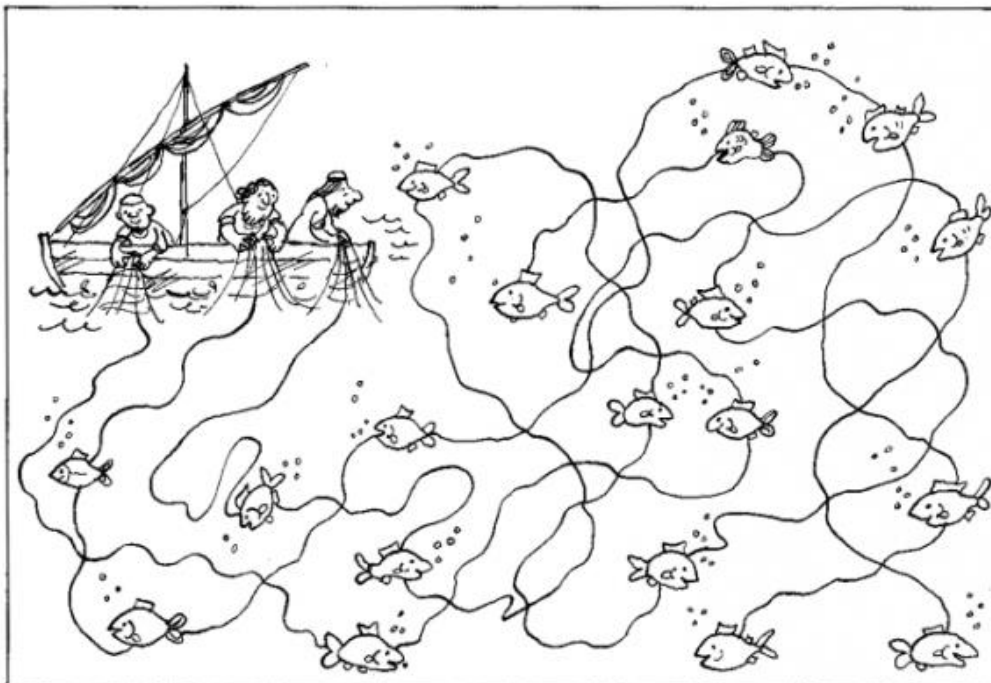
Jesus showed us how to love others



Jesus' Disciples



Jesus had twelve disciples. One appears twice in the picture. Find him.



Which fisherman caught the most fish? Follow the lines to the nets.