

## GOSPELS

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

*New Testament*

**P**lace this bookmark at the end of the Gospel of John and prepare to enter the part of the Bible where we walk with Jesus! The Gospels contain the stories that are most sacred to our Christian faith and heritage: the life, teachings, miracles, Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Here are some highlights:

- the birth of Jesus (the Magi, the shepherds, etc.)
- the Holy Family (Mary and Joseph)
- the finding of Jesus in the temple
- the temptation in the desert and the baptism of Jesus
- the Beatitudes and the Our Father
- parables (the prodigal son, the Good Samaritan, the sower, the mustard seed, etc.)
- the Golden Rule and the Great Commandment
- numerous miracles (calming of the storm, raising of Lazarus, changing water into wine, feeding of the five thousand, walking on water, healing of the blind, deaf, and paralyzed, etc.)
- the Last Supper, Eucharist, and the washing of the feet
- the Agony in the Garden
- Peter's denial and Judas's betrayal
- the way of the cross and Crucifixion
- the Resurrection and appearances
- dozens of fascinating characters: Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, Martha and Mary, etc.
- powerful images such as the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, and the Way, Truth, and the Life

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

*New Testament*

**T**his section of the Bible is easy because it is just one book—the Acts of the Apostles. Place your bookmark at the end of this book and relive the experience of the early Christian community. In many ways, the book of Acts is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke because both were written by the same author. Here are some highlights of the Acts:

- Jesus' ascension
- the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- descriptions of the communal life of the early Church
- Stephen's martyrdom
- Philip and the Ethiopian
- Saul's conversion and baptism
- the missionary work of Peter, Saul (Paul), Barnabas, and others
- miracles performed through Peter and Paul
- Paul's travels, imprisonment, trials, shipwreck, and arrival in Rome

## LETTERS (also called Epistles)

Romans through Jude

*New Testament*

**P**lace this bookmark at the end of the Letter of Jude. Welcome to the communications of the early Church, before e-mails, phones, and faxes. Of the twenty-one letters, a little more than half are attributed to Paul. All of the letters are addressed to communities of Christians and to the leaders of these communities, and were designed to teach, admonish, encourage, correct, and update the various churches. Here are some highlights:

**The letters of Paul** (such as Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians) feature theology, teachings, and exhortations concerning

- grace
- justification by faith
- the Law
- the Eucharist
- the metaphor of the Body
- variety and unity of gifts
- ministry
- suffering
- Christ and his cross
- Christian conduct

**James:** faith and good works, Anointing of the Sick

**1 Peter:** be prepared to explain your hope

**1 John:** "Beloved, let us love one another . . ."

## REVELATION

*New Testament*

**P**lace your last bookmark at the end of the book of Revelation and you've reached the end of the Bible! As you enter the book of Revelation, be aware that it is one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible. Many falsely use this book to predict the end of the world. Written in apocalyptic style, the book of Revelation uses many symbols and figurative language to describe the eternal struggle between good and evil. Despite all of the frightening imagery, the uplifting conclusion of this book is that good has and always will prevail. Here are the highlights:

- visions and messages to the seven churches
- the scroll and the lamb
- the one hundred forty-four thousand saved
- the seven trumpets
- the woman and the dragon
- the King of kings
- the thousand-year reign
- the new heavens and new earth
- the new Jerusalem
- "Come, Lord Jesus!"