

RUN THROUGH THE BIBLE

ATHLETE STUDY

ZERO WEEK

THE DIRTY DOZEN

Like many of us, you've probably heard stories from the Bible about Moses, Abraham, and David. But, you're not sure who begat who, when the begats happened, or what a "begat" even is—it sounds like it comes from a bakery.

If you've grown up around church, we often receive bite-sized stories without understanding how those stories fit into a single, unified whole. In fact, it's often mind-blowing for people to realize that all 66 books of the Bible really are telling *one* story. That story spans thousands of years, written in multiple languages on multiple continents. In the Bible, we see powerful empires rise and fall, and yet, the story remains—steadily progressing. And, when you finally understand how the Bible tells one story that all fits together, all of a sudden everything makes sense. We can then see how the story builds, gaining momentum, all the way through to the culmination of God's ultimate redemption.

Believe it or not, this *Run Through the Bible* began while watching the 1967 film, *The Dirty Dozen*. With a classic film and a passion to help people understand the biblical story, this study was born.

The rhyme scheme in the QR-code inspired the idea, "*This would be a great way to study and memorize the Bible!*" You can see the complete rhyme scheme that we'll be using throughout or study below. It doesn't make much sense now, but over the next 12 weeks, it will clear the fog in your understanding of the biblical story in the Old Testament.

Our hope is that these stories will serve as fence posts in your mind. As you study the Bible for the rest of your life, you'll be connecting these posts together, deepening your understanding and appreciation for God and his Word.

RHYME REVIEW

1	CREATIONS GLORY NOW UNDONE
2	FLOOD OUT THE WORLD, START FRESH WITH YOU
3	NEW LANGUAGE BRINGS DISUNITY
4	THE SOD, THE SEED, AND BLESS SOME MORE
5	WALK THROUGH RED SEA AND STAY ALIVE
6	POSSESS THE LAND, BUT DO NOT MIX
7	IN SIN, ENSLAVED, THEN LOOK TO HEAVEN
8	WE WANT A KING AND WILL NOT WAIT
9	OBEYING GOD AND DOIN' FINE
10	THE KINGDOM SPLIT, TWO AND TEN
11	FRACTURE, CAPTURE, 10 X 7
12	HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE GOD DID SHELVE

GENESIS 1:1–2,

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Perhaps you're interested in the Bible, but you're not sure about it. After all, is it true? Has it been corrupted?

Thankfully, faithful men and women have done incredible work to answer these questions and more. For a great explanation regarding the historical roots behind the Bible and our confidence in it, scan the QR code for a 40-minute video by Wesley Huff.



DISCUSSION

On a scale of 1–10, how well do you feel like you understand the story of the Bible?

ICEBREAKER

1. What existed before "the beginning," and who was there? (1)

2. What did God create, and what was the earth like at this point? (1–2)

OBSERVATION

3. Where was the Spirit of God, and what was he doing? (2)

4. What do we learn about God from these two verses?

INTERPRETATION

5. Genesis opens with God as the main character. How would this semester be different if you read the Bible looking for what it says about God instead of what it says about you?

APPLICATION

6. Who's someone you know who's only ever heard pieces of this story? What would it take to invite them into this study?

As we begin the study, you may have questions along the way about what you read or how to follow God. Your coach may not have all the answers, but they're here for you!

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STUDY NOTES

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

What's your favorite story—a love story, heroes and villains, an underdog beating the odds? From Shakespeare to Spielberg, every story shares elements of God's grand story. We long for love, justice, and a hero's victory—those longings are baked into our design.

In school we learn a story needs characters, conflict, and change. The Bible shares many stories, but they all advance one. Though we meet many people along the way, the main character is God himself. The story opens, "***In the beginning, God.***"

The conflict comes next Week, when sin entered the world in Genesis 3. Unlike movie villains, sin can't be fought with weapons. It corrupts everything—and we don't even want to fight it.

Then the change. "***The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.***" God made something from nothing and order from disorder. Sin wrecked that, but the rest of the Bible is his rescue plan—until sin is no more, death is defeated, and God's people step into eternity.

THE GAME PLAN

This Fall, we're covering half of our year-long *Run Through the Bible*. This half highlights the entire Old Testament story, setting the twelve key sections in a simple rhyming sequence. Each rhyme covers one Week of study corresponding with that Week's number. For example, Week 1 is "Number one, Creation's Glory Now Undone." The last word is "undone." It rhymes with the number "one." This pattern flows all the way through Week 12 where we conclude the Old Testament story.

In this study, we've made it easy for you to actually memorize all 12 parts. Therefore, we would like to challenge you and your entire study group to do that as a group. To both remind you and help you, we've provided a Rhyme Review starting in Week 3. We encourage you to repeat the rhymes together as you wrap up each Week of study.

Each of the 12 weeks will zoom in on significant biblical characters and events that greatly contributed to the overall story of the Bible. Unfortunately, that means we cut out many stories and events we wish we had time to share.

Our study, like the whole of Scripture, doesn't shy away from the sin the Bible describes. We'll read about many hard things, but the Bible doesn't celebrate death, that's a product of sin. Instead, there's three things we must remember:

#1 - God *created* a plan in response to a problem. In the Old Testament, God models his master plan to solve the greatest handicap the world has ever known...sin. We not only read the sin-problem origin story, but we also read about God's long-range strategy to overcome and defeat this greatest rival to God's community. God not only had a strategy, but he executed it flawlessly.

#2 - God clearly *communicated* his requirements to his followers. Through his actions and authors, God revealed and executed his strategic plan, step-by-step, achieving his desired results. Throughout the centuries and millennia, he never communicated any more nor any less than they needed. He also perfectly communicated *when* they needed it, and *through whom* they needed to hear it.

#3 - Most importantly, God's strategic plan *always* demanded more of *himself* than he ever demanded of followers. He demonstrated consistent *faithfulness* to his promises despite frequent *faithlessness* by them in return. He revealed unflinching patience in response to their impulsivity. Ultimately, he sacrificed his own Son to save those he loved who could never save themselves.

We'll see all of this and more as we continue in our study. For now, the chart below offers a helpful overview of the books of the Old Testament. We won't be opening many of them in this study. However, as we *Run Through the Bible*, you'll understand the biblical story such that you will soon be able to understand how each one fits in to God's grand story.

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

