

Reading the Reference

Materials

- Whiteboard and marker
- Bibles
- Memory Verse Poster

Instructions

Do this activity if you think it is appropriate for your students. This is a review on how to find Scripture references in the Bible.

Suggested Discussion

Refer to your Bible. We are going to study the Bible this year. But this is a very big book, and it is often hard to follow along when people are talking about things inside of it.

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. What I wanted to do quickly today is explain something that may help. Notice these numbers on this Memory Verse Poster? They tell us where these verses can be found in the Bible.

? **What book are these verses found in?** *Psalms. Write the name "Psalm" on whiteboard while explaining.*

? **Now, where is the book of Psalms found?** *Allow discussion.*

It can be tricky finding all the books of the Bible. After all, there are 66 of them! But you can always use your table of contents at the front of your Bible if you need help locating a book.

? **Show students where the table of contents is in your Bible. Find the book of Psalms in your table of contents. What page is it on in your Bible?** *Allow discussion. Help students who need it.*

? **Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. Turn to the book of Psalms. What does this number, 119, refer to?** *Allow discussion.*

This is the chapter in Psalms where we can find these verses. When you open your Bible to Psalms, you will see that it starts with Psalm 1. We are looking for Psalm (or chapter) 119. I want you to turn to that Psalm. Have students find Psalm 119.

When writing the reference for the verse we put the chapter, in this case 119, after the name of the book. Write "119" after the word "Psalm" on the board.

? **Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. So, we found the book of Psalms, and we found chapter 119. What verses are we going to memorize in Psalm 119?** *Take a look at the Memory Verse Poster. Verses 89–90.*

Now find those verses in Psalm 119 in your Bible. The first verse in each chapter of each book is always 1. Psalm 119 is a very long chapter. You are looking for verses 89 and 90. Allow students to find the verses in their Bibles.

Great! These are the verses we are going to learn. Watch how I write it on the board. I will put a colon (:) behind the chapter and write the verses with a dash (-) between them. Complete "Psalm 119:89–90" on the board. That means I am referring to the book of Psalms, chapter 119, verses 89–90.

Finding verses quickly in the Bible takes a lot of practice and sometimes many years. Don't get discouraged. Like I said, it is a BIG book! And don't forget to use your table of contents. It is there to help you.