

Reading the Bible Better: using the concordance



Thanks for downloading and visiting my site! Please use this as a read aloud for younger kids or allow older kids to read alone. Go through the lesson examples together to learn how to use a Bible concordance.

What do you think of, when you hear someone say, “Old McDonald had a farm”? *EIEIO*, right?

Children in Bible times heard the stories of the old Testament read aloud often. As young adults, they did special study of the Old Testament (they called it *Torah*) and knew many of verses by heart *and* remembered most of the meanings of the stories and poems.

We grow up listening to stories, but not a lot of word for word long readings aloud. So, to really understand all that Jesus was thinking about as He was teaching, it is important to use something called a **concordance**.

A concordance is a list of all the words and phrases that hook one verse or story to another. The **Jews** (God’s nation of people in the Bible) didn’t need a concordance, because it was all in their mind! I am thankful for Bible **scholars** (studiers and teachers) who put together concordances for us!

I bet if you look at a verse in your Bible where Jesus is speaking, you will see a little letter mark by some of His words. When you see that, look up the verse the mark is

noting. When you do this, you have exactly the verse that Jesus was using to fully explain a truth to the people!

When you are in school, your teacher will talk about **prior knowledge** or **what you already know** about a subject. The concordance marks are letting you read about what the people listening to Jesus already knew, and how Jesus was teaching more about that.

Let's work qt using the concordance.

As you grow in understanding the Bible, you will learn that a lot of what Jesus taught was more explaining the book of Deuteronomy.

- Find and bookmark Mark 12, 28-29 in your Bible. (It should point to Deut. 28)
- and Matthew 4:4 (Duet 8:3)
- Take a look at what words have a concordance mark by them.

- Write the connecting verses here:

- For

- Mark: _____

- For

- Matthew: _____

- After reading each, do you see ideas that connect together (sorta like pieces of a Meaning Puzzle)?

- After reading the connected verses, what do you think Jesus was trying to say to the people?

Other Verses:

