

AS THE PAGE TURNS

by Jacqueline Hurley



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AS THE PAGE TURNS

A Walk through the Bible

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SYNOPSIS: Join host Pat Sayjock on As the Page Turns, a TV show devoted to understanding God's Word. Pat's assistant Ivana Whit calls in sick, so Temps R Us sends a substitute. As Pat and child helpers describe the basic parts of this book that is really 66 books, the bumbling Assistant turns the pages of an over-sized Bible. His baffled misconceptions and helpful props offer an opportunity to learn more about the Torah, the Histories, the Wisdom Books, Major and Minor Prophets, the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Epistles, the General Epistles and Revelation in this walk through the Scriptures. Younger children sing "The B-I-B-L-E" and other pertinent songs. All this plus maps, a game for the book of Ephesians, and an owl's appearance add up to an educational but far from stuffy performance. Directions for making the eye-catching giant Bible are included. Excellent for confirmation or Sunday school students to perform for your congregation.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male, 9 either, 4+ extras)

PAT SAYJOCK (m)	Older student, fair amount of memorization required. As the host, he narrates the show. (Acts of the Apostles.) <i>(15 lines)</i>
ASSISTANT (m/f)	Older student, fair amount of memorization required, comic counterpart to Pat. <i>(7 lines)</i>
STUDENT 1 (m/f)	Middle grade to older student, modest memorization. (Torah) <i>(3 lines)</i>
STUDENT 2 (m/f)	Middle grade, minimum memorization, dramatic reading. (Histories) <i>(2 lines)</i>
STUDENT 3 (m/f)	Middle grade, modest memorization, map illustration. (Prophets) <i>(1 line)</i>
STUDENT 4 (m/f)	Middle grade, modest memorization, uses map illustration and "Twister"

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	game illustration. (Paul's Epistles) (1 line)
STUDENT 5 (m/f)	Middle grade student, some memorization. (General Epistles) (1 line)
STUDENT 6 (m/f)	Middle grade, modest memorization. (Revelation) (1 line)
SHEPHERD (m/f).....	Middle grade or older student, short memorization, comic. (1 line)
OWL (m/f)	The owl leads primary children in song. (Wisdom Books) (<i>Non-Speaking</i>)
PRIMARY STUDENTS (m/f).....	Any number sing. Includes ten short speaking parts.

DURATION: 20-25 minutes

PRODUCTION NOTES

SET and PROPS: Large bag to hold the following: red cape, gavel, newspaper, hatchet, and cell phone. Oversized Bible (instructions follow). Large table or stand to hold the Bible, Center Stage. To the left and right of the Bible's stand, two other stands hold two oversized maps. Map 1, Stage Right, pictures an outline of the modern-day Middle East. Map 2, Stage Left, shows an identical map with city, country, and regional names from Isaiah's day displayed in bold lettering. (See www.freehandmaps.com.) Twister-iffic Game (instructions follow).

COSTUMES: Pat Sayjock may wear a suit and tie, if desired. The Owl needs a costume. The remaining children may wear normal clothing.

MUSIC: The music is optional, but it does enhance this performance. "The B-I-B-L-E" may be sung by the youngest children. A soloist or duet may perform "This is My Father's World." "The Ten Commandments Song" may be sung to the tune of "Ten Little Angels." "Proverbs 3:5-6" may be sung to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel." A trio may sing any song about the life, mission, or character of Christ, for example, "Jesus, name above all names" by Naida Hearn (CCLI #21291) or "He," copyright © 1954 by Jack Richards and Richard Mullan.

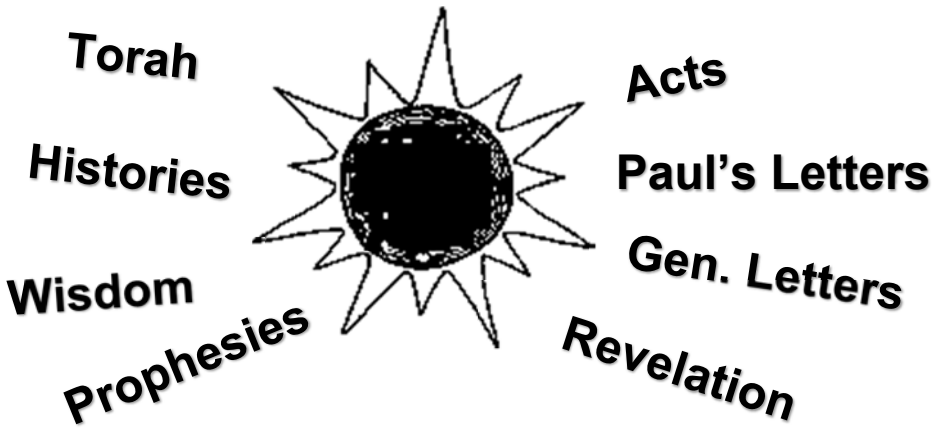
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OVERSIZED BIBLE



Here are directions for one possible version of a standing oversized Bible. The closed Bible dimensions are approximately 30" wide by 50" tall. Construct it from heavy cardboard from an appliance or similar type of store. A range box works well. The box should be 60" wide with a flexible center fold to close to the 30" width mentioned above. Remove the top and bottom of the box while keeping the four sides connected and intact. Fold the front corner of two sides into the back corner of the other. Cover the exterior in

wallpaper or contact paper. Affix "Holy Bible" in large letters on the front. Insert seven round rings that open and close, like those used in binders, into the spine of the book to hold sixteen oversized pages, with the first and sixteenth pages adhered to the inside of the front and back covers. Add the pages to the inside of the book. Velcro glue dots should be affixed to the upper corners of each page to hold their weight as they are turned throughout the performance. Otherwise, they will collapse. The inside pages' text should be large enough that it is visible to the entire audience.



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Pages 1 and 2 display the four rays of the Old Testament and the four rays of the New Testament with the Gospel “Son” in the center.

Page 3, title: **Torah**. List Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy beneath the title.

Page 4, title: **Genesis**. List Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Lot and his Wife, Hagar and Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph and his Brothers beneath the title.

Page 5, title: **Histories**. List Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings beneath the title.

Page 6, list 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Page 7, title: **Wisdom**. List Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs beneath the title.

Page 8, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (*Proverbs 3: 4-5*).

Page 9, title: **Prophecies**. List Isaiah, Jeremiah (Lamentations), Ezekiel, and Daniel beneath the title.

Page 10, list Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Page 11, title: **Gospels**. List Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John beneath the title.

Page 12, title: **Acts**. A large church with a cross is drawn on the page beneath the title.

Page 13, title: **Paul’s Letters to the Churches**. List Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, and 2 Thessalonians beneath the title.

Page 14, title: **Paul's Letters to Individuals**. List 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon beneath the title.

Page 15, title: **General Letters**. List Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude beneath the title.

Page 16, title: **Revelation**, with the following quote underneath: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life" (*Revelation 22:17*).

TWISTER-IFFIC EPHESIANS GAME

Our group studied Ephesians and played this game before performing the play. Using an old mat with columns of six circles in red, blue, yellow, and green, use a permanent marker to draw the following shapes on the circles.

RED—heart with an upside-down triangle within, for the love triangle in Ephesians. "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" (*Ephesians 3:10-12*).

YELLOW—peace symbol, standing for peace through salvation to the Gentiles and the Jews. "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all" (*Ephesians 4:3-6*).

GREEN—family love, mutual respect, and obedience, symbolized by stick figures. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (*Ephesians 6:1-4*).

BLUE—strength. Draw the shape of a shield to demonstrate one piece of the armor of God. “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one” (*Ephesians 6:10–16*).

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AT START: *The youngest Sunday school CHILDREN enter the sanctuary via the center aisle. Together, they carry an oversized Bible. The Bible is placed on a stand at the front of the church. The children sing "The B-I-B-L-E" song as they walk toward dais. PAT SAYJOCK awaits the children's arrival and assists in placing the Bible on its stand. With Bible in place and opened to the first page, the CHILDREN take their seats in reserved pews at the front of the church. Older Sunday school CHILDREN are already seated.*

SONG: "The B-I-B-L-E"

PAT: *(Standing left of the Bible.)* Welcome, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Pat Sayjock, and this is *(Slowly.)* As... the... Page... Turns. Today we will discuss a very special book: the Holy Bible. It's not really one book. Rather, it's a collection of sixty-six books written by many authors over hundreds of years, making it unique among religious guidebooks. Please join me in welcoming my delightful assistant, the lovely Ivana Whit. *(PAT indicates the audience should clap by clapping himself.)*

ASSISTANT: *(Scuttling forward from the rear of the church, the assistant joins PAT on the dais. He/she carries a large bag and deposits it with a thud, Stage Right.)* Ivana called in sick. I'm from Temps R Us. Didn't know exactly what I'd need, so I brought it all! Just let me know what I'm supposed to do.

PAT: *(Annoyed, PAT demonstrates. He flourishes his right hand to the right, and the ASSISTANT imitates; left hand to the left, ASSISTANT imitates; then both hands simultaneously to the right and left, assistant imitates.)* That's pretty much it. *(PAT indicates the ASSISTANT should place him/herself at the right of the Bible. When in place, ASSISTANT flourishes right and left and smiles broadly.)* We will review our book by discussing its parts. Notice the first pages of this Bible. *(PAT must prompt the ASSISTANT. The ASSISTANT flourishes.)* Do you see the large sun with four rays extending to the left and four rays to the right? The sun represents the Son of God. The rays to the left *(House Left)* represent the Old Testament, and the rays to the right, the New Testament. *(Pointing to the Old Testament ray.)* Let's begin

with the first five books of the Old Testament known as the Torah. A member of our group will—

ASSISTANT: *(Interrupting.)* I have something for that! *(He/she hurriedly opens the bag and retrieves a red cape. Waving it about as though enticing a bull, calls out...)* El toro, toro!

PAT: Not toro! Torah! _____, [Insert actual name of Student 1] could you please explain?

STUDENT 1 steps forward as ASSISTANT steps back.

STUDENT 1: *(Opens the book to page three and four and points out the five books listed on the left-hand page.)* The first five books of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Genesis *(Pointing to the right-hand page, where “Genesis” is written again and stories included in Genesis are listed below.)* is an extremely short summary of famous events, from Adam and Eve to the story of Joseph who is sold into slavery by his brothers. This last story puts the Hebrew people in Egypt at the time of the Exodus. We’ve prepared a song that reminds us God created everything. That includes his Word, beginning with the first five books of the Bible found in the Torah. *(PAT and ASSISTANT move to the wings as soloist or duet steps to the microphone to sing.)*

SONG: “This Is My Father’s World”

STUDENT 1: *(PAT and ASSISTANT move back into place.)* Exodus through Deuteronomy are considered law books. In fact, our most famous laws, the Ten Commandments, are found in this part of the Bible.

ASSISTANT: Law books! Then you’ll... *(Goes to bag, comes back with gavel and hands to STUDENT 1.)* need this!

STUDENT 1: Right, thank you. The Ten Commandments... Ten great laws. Our Sunday school can tell you all about them.

SONG: "The Ten Commandments Song."

CHILDREN file to the front as STUDENT 1 takes his/her seat, face front and sing to the tune of "Ten Little Angels." CHILDREN count on fingers as they sing. They repeat this song after individual children recite the Ten Commandments.

THERE WAS ONE, THERE WERE TWO,
THERE WERE THREE GREAT COMMANDMENTS,
THERE WERE FOUR, THERE WERE FIVE,
THERE WERE SIX GREAT COMMANDMENTS,
THERE WERE SEVEN, THERE WERE EIGHT,
THERE WERE NINE GREAT COMMANDMENTS,
TEN GREAT COMMANDMENTS IN GOD'S WORD.
OH, TELL ME WHAT THEY SAID,
OH, TELL ME WHAT THEY SAID,
OH, TELL ME WHAT THEY SAID,
TEN GREAT COMMANDMENTS IN HIS WORD.

CHILDREN pass a microphone and recite the following commandments paraphrased from Exodus 20:1-17.

CHILD 1: I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.

CHILD 2: You shall not worship idols.

CHILD 3: You shall not misuse my name.

CHILD 4: You shall remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

CHILD 5: You shall honor your mother and father.

CHILD 6: You shall not commit murder.

CHILD 7: (*Brilliantly.*) The commandment especially for you grown-ups ... you shall not commit adultery.

CHILD 8: You shall not steal.

CHILD 9: You shall not lie regarding others.

CHILD 10: You shall not envy anything that belongs to another.

SONG: "The Ten Commandments Song"

CHILDREN repeat the above song and take their seats.

1

2 **PAT:** Nicely done, children. (*ASSISTANT gestures to the next*
3 *section of the Bible.*) The second ray of the Old Testament
4 concerns the history of the Jewish people after they return to the
5 Promised Land. We will call on another member of our group to
6 discuss this section.

7 **STUDENT 2:** (*Steps forward, hand cups chin, scans the list, and*
8 *makes a project of deciding which history to discuss. To the*
9 *audience.*) I could go with one of the Judges. Deborah, for
10 example. What a gutsy lady! Or Ruth. She certainly knows
11 something about loyalty... but King David and King Solomon are
12 probably the most familiar. (*Pointing to 1 and 2 Chronicles*) Ah!
13 Chronicles! First and Second Chronicles have the same stories
14 as found in First and Second Samuel and First and Second
15 Kings, but Chronicles sticks the facts. No drama.

16 **ASSISTANT:** What, no drama? Dry as the evening news? Why
17 don't you go for something a little more (*Gestures air quotes*)
18 entertaining? Headline news...tabloid news... make it snappy!
19 Say it with feeling! (*Goes to bag, retrieves newspaper, hands it*
20 *to STUDENT 2.*)

21 **STUDENT 2:** OK... (*Takes copy questioningly, begins to read.*)
22 This just in! Saul anointed first king of Israel! (*Looks to*
23 *ASSISTANT for reassurance and gets the thumbs-up.*
24 *Continues, pausing dramatically at each comma and period in*
25 *clipped presentation.*) Saul's servant, David, defeats Philistine
26 giant, Goliath. Saul sins, loses favor with God. David anointed
27 new king. Saul plots to kill David. Loses own life instead. David
28 ascends to the throne. New king imperfect. Repents and rules
29 wisely. Absalom, King's own son, plots to kill father. David's
30 soldiers respond. Kill Absalom. Hollow victory for grieving dad.
31 David's son, Solomon, next in line. Builds fabulous temple.
32 Solomon wise but foolish. Marries many women. Foreign women
33 invite idol worship into Israel. Israel falters. Kingdom divides.
34 (*STUDENT 2 looks to ASSISTANT and gets another thumbs up*
35 *before taking seat.*)

PAT: Interesting presentation. Our next books are the Wisdom Books. (*ASSISTANT turns pages to the list of Wisdom book and gestures with a flourish as PAT reads their names.*) Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs. These books cannot be considered on any timeline. They are collected words of wisdom from the beginning of time to Solomon's time. Let's have our wisest student join us and discuss one of these great books. (*Pause. When no one volunteers, PAT says...*) Ah, humility. I like it! How about an owl, our symbol of wisdom? Is there an owl in the house? (*A costumed OWL comes forward accompanied by the Sunday school CHILDREN. The OWL whispers into PAT's ear and PAT announces...*) The children have chosen a verse from Proverbs 3, verses 5 and 6.

SONG: "Proverbs 3:5-6"

Sung to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel." The CHILDREN sing it through twice while marching in place.

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART,
LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.
ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ALL OF YOUR WAYS,
AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PA-TH,
HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATH.

CHILDREN and OWL are seated.

PAT: Great! Now for the Prophecies, the last ray of the Old Testament. (*ASSISTANT opens to the pages listing the Major and Minor Prophets and flourishes.*) Discussing the prophets is a tall order, so let's call on another of our older students to fill that order.

STUDENT 3 walks up to the front.

STUDENT 3: The longest books, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, are referred to as the Major Prophets. The shorter books are called the minor prophets. The prophecies, written from about 700 to 400 BC., overlap and repeat one another with similar warnings regarding the same set of events. When the people of Israel become sinful and worldly, God allows the world to move in. When the people repent, God rescues a remnant to rebuild. I'll use this map of the Middle East as a guide to discuss the basic ideas. *(Using markers on the outline map of the Middle East, STUDENT 3 writes Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians in their respective places and connects them to Israel with arrows as various events are described. It is also possible to have a helper draw and write as this student speaks.)* It is predicted the Assyrians will come from the north and capture northern Israel. Later, the Babylonians will come from Babylon, or modern-day Iraq, and defeat all of Israel. They will destroy the temple in Jerusalem, kill many, and carry off some, including Daniel and Ezekiel. This will become known as the Babylonian Exile. Later, Persia will defeat Babylon. This permits a new generation of Jews to return to Israel and rebuild. A Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem, and he is to be called the Son of God. Prophecy says this Lamb of God will be pierced for our iniquities, but will also become the cornerstone of a new covenant with God. After the Messiah's death and resurrection, Jerusalem is to be destroyed once again. This happened in 70 A.D. The prophets also talk about a time in our future when Christ will come back to establish a new kingdom on earth. *(STUDENT 3 steps down as ASSISTANT turns the page and flourishes.)*

PAT: The Son begins the New Testament in the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels talk about Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. To recognize this special part of the Bible, let's hear a song about our Savior.

SONG: "He," "Jesus, Name Above All Names," or any other song about the character, mission, or life of Christ.

The trio takes a seat after performing.

1 **PAT:** That was just beautiful. On to the Acts of the Apostles.

2 **ASSISTANT:** Oh boy, do I have that one covered! (*The*
3 *ASSISTANT goes to his bag and returns with a hatchet.*)

4 **PAT:** Not an ax! *The Acts of the Apostles.* Luke's history of the
5 building of the early church. It's mostly about Paul and the early
6 Christians, Christ's resurrected appearances, the formation of
7 the church council at Jerusalem, persecution... I could go on,
8 but—

9 **ASSISTANT:** (*Indignantly*) OK, so you need to build a church? How
10 about using an ax? Persecuted? Not if you carry an ax!

11 **PAT:** (*Resignedly.*) Point taken. (*ASSISTANT crosses his/her arms*
12 *and ax smugly.*) Let's move on to the letters of Paul, shall we?
13 May we have another student to help with that? (*ASSISTANT*
14 *replaces ax and turns to the pages listing Paul's letters,*
15 *flourishing as STUDENT 4 steps forward.*)

16 **STUDENT 4:** Paul wrote many letters as he spread the message
17 of Christ throughout the Roman Empire. Thirteen are included in
18 our Bible. The first nine are circular letters to the new churches
19 growing in this part of the world. The last four are addressed to
20 individuals, with three focusing on job descriptions for church
21 leaders. We can't take the time to discuss all of Paul's letters,
22 so let's focus on one: Ephesians. Ephesians has four central
23 themes. Our group discussed those themes and played the
24 "Twister-iffic Ephesians Game" to emphasize Paul's point.
25 (*Displaying a modified plastic mat used in which the red, yellow,*
26 *blue, and green circles reflect the four major themes found in*
27 *Ephesians.*) First, Paul talks about a mysterious love triangle.
28 (*Pointing to red circles with hearts and triangles drawn within the*
29 *hearts, explains.*) God's wisdom is made known to the heavenly
30 realms and accomplished through Christ. By placing our faith in
31 him, believers are able to approach God. What love! (*Pointing to*
32 *the peace symbol circle, explains.*) Christ's justification brings
33 salvation to Gentiles and Jews alike. What peace! (*Pointing to*
34 *the "stick figure" family, explains.*) Christian families are to treat
35 one another with respect, love, and obedience to Christ as our
36 example. What order! (*Pointing to the shield, explains.*) We are
37 to put on the armor of God to resist the devil. What strength!



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