The Prophets

Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify the messages of Jonah and Habakkuk.
- The students will describe one way that each of these prophets trusted God.
- The students will state one way that they will trust God when things go wrong.

Lesson Text

Habakkuk 1-3 Jonah 1-4

Scripture Memory Work

The minor prophets: Hosea: Joel: Amos: Obadiah:

Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk;

Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah;

Malachi

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Minor Mix-Up

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: In God He Trusts

Craft: Minor Markers

Scripture Memory: Name That Prophet

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

















Minor Mix-Up

The students will preview today's lesson as they unscramble key words from today's Bible Story.

Materials

For each student:

pencil

Reproducible Pages:

• Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

Minor Mix-Up Instructions: These minor prophets are a little mixed up Can you unscramble their names, and then place them in their correct Biblical order? Th		has been done for you
MICHAAL NUMAH	1	Hosea
Maracin Nahum Habakkuk	2 3	Joel Amos
MACIH HIGAGA ASOM	4 5	Obadiah Jonah
Micah Maggai Amos	6. <u> </u>	Micah Nahum
ZIPENU. TOOL OUAS	8 9	Habakkuk Zephaniah
Lephaniah JAHNO Obadiah	10 11.	<u>Haggai</u> Zechariah
ZARCHAIFH Jonah HEASO Zechariah Hosea	12	Malachi
ariah		

Instructions

- 1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that today they will be learning about two more prophets, Jonah and Habakkuk. Explain that today's lesson will introduce them to the minor prophets.
- 2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and pencils. Tell the students that the names of the twelve minor prophets are all mixed on this page. Show the students where to find the Table of Contents in their Bibles. Next show them where the minor prophets are listed under the Old Testament books. This can help them unscramble the names on their pages.
- 3. Tell the students to work with a partner or in a small group. Encourage the students to help each other.
- 4. Circulate among the students to offer help and encouragement.

Teacher Tips

• If your space permits, play contemporary Christian music in the background as the students are working.



In God He Trusts

The students will learn about Jonah and Habakkuk and how these prophets both learned to trust God in difficult situations.

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- pen

Reproducible Pages:

Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

- 1. Cut out the six story squares from your copy of Reproducible Page B.
- 2. On their backs, number them from one to six using the chart

On this story square:	<u>write the number:</u>
Ran away from God	1
Repented and trusted God	2
Rescued Nineveh	3
Complained	4
Convinced of God's power	5
Calmly trusted God	6

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Jonah and Habakkuk. Show the students where to find these books in their Bibles. Explain that these are two of the minor prophets. Ask the students to note that these books are much shorter in length than Isaiah, Jeremiah or the other major prophets. However, their shorter length does not make them less important or less inspired by God. Emphasize that God used both of these men to help save people and trust God.

If you have an American coin, take it out and read the words, "In God We Trust." (If no coin, just ask the following question.) Ask the students what they think it means to trust God. Tell them that it is not always easy to trust God, but God always gives us what we need. Encourage them that they will hear, and help tell, two amazing stories about two men who had a difficult time trusting God at first. But they changed to trust God and help many people.

Show the students the cards you prepared. Tell them that you will tell the story once, and then they will tell it in their own words using the cards.

Presenting the Bible Story

Many years ago there lived two men named Jonah and Habakkuk. They lived at different times in history. God chose these men to be his prophets. Here are their stories.

The Bible says that God called Jonah to go and preach to the great city of Nineveh. Jonah knew that it was a city full of wickedness. God saw all the evil that was being done there and he wanted Jonah to go and teach the people God's laws so that they could repent and be saved. Listen to what happened: "But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD." (Jonah 1:3)

Jonah ran away from the Lord! Tell the students to wave their hands and say, "Jonah ran away from the Lord." Give card #1 to a student to hold. But God was not finished with Jonah. Because of Jonah's sin, God caused a great storm to come on the ship. Jonah told the people on the ship that he was the reason for the storm, and he told them to throw him overboard. The people were afraid to throw Jonah overboard, but they prayed and then did it. As soon as Jonah was thrown into the sea, the storm stopped and the sea grew calm. Then, the Bible says:

But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said:

"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me." (Jonah 1:17-2:1)

Tell the students to say, "Jonah repented and trusted God." Give card #2 to a student to hold.

After the great fish spit him out, Jonah obeyed God and went to the city of Nineveh. He preached the word of the Lord and everyone repented and turned to the Lord. God used Jonah to save an entire city of people! Tell the students to applaud, saying, "Jonah rescued the city of

Sharing with Others

Nineveh." Give card #3 to a student to hold

Many years passed, and God spoke again to another man named Habakkuk. He was surrounded by people who did not love or obey God. He saw nothing but evil and wickedness all the time. He was angry and he complained to God. He said, "How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?" (Habakkuk 1:2) Have the students repeat this verse with you. Give card #4 to a student to hold.

But God told Habakkuk that he had plans to do amazing things with these people even though they were doing so much evil. He reminded Habakkuk of his promise to bless those who believe and obey. God told Habakkuk about all that he would do and told him to be patient and trust God. Habakkuk was convinced that God was right and had power to overcome evil so he repented and preached that message. Give card #5 to a student to hold. Habakkuk knew that no matter how bad things might seem, he would rejoice in the Lord. He calmly trusted that God would be in control. Have the students breathe a sign of relief. Give card #6 to a student to hold.

Using the cards, have the students retell today's Bible Story in their own words. If time permits, mix up the cards and let them take turns retelling it.

Ask the students if they know someone who is having a hard time trusting God-including themselves. Encourage them to share the story of Jonah and Habakkuk with that person to give them hope that they can change. Close with a prayer for the students to be able to trust God even in difficult situations.

Teacher Tips

- Present this Bible Story in a Bible Times costume for greater student appeal.
- Look up in ancient history books or illustrated study Bibles for pictures of Nineveh to show the students.







The Prophets















Minor Markers

The students will make two markers to help them remember the prophets Jonah and Habakkuk.

Materials

For each student:

- 2 large craft sticks
- glue stick
- crayons
- thin markers

For the teacher:

scissors

Reproducible Pages:

Page C, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

- 1. For each student, cut out the two prophet markers from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
- 2. Make a sample craft to show the students.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: This week you are learning about two prophets named Jonah and Habakkuk. Jonah tried to run away from God after God called him to preach. But God caused a giant fish to swallow Jonah alive and helped Jonah to change his mind. Jonah repented and helped save an entire city from destruction. Habakkuk complained to God about all the evil and violence in this world. God told him to wait and see what God was going to do in his lifetime. Habukkuk repented and realized that he needed to be grateful and trust God-not focused on the problems around him.
- 2. Show the students the prophet markers you made. Tell them that these markers will help them find Jonah and Habakkuk in their Bibles, as well as help them tell others about these prophets.

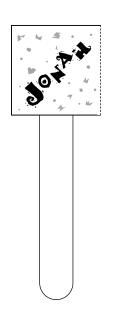
- 3. Distribute the prophet markers you prepared and the crayons. Have the students color them.
- 4. Distribute the large craft sticks and have the students use markers to write "Jonah" on one and "Habakkuk" on the other.
- 5. Distribute the glue sticks and have the students fold their prophet markers in half, along the dashed line, and glue them to either side of the craft sticks, as shown in Figure A.
- 6. Have the students write their names on their crafts and place them in their Bibles.

Conclusion

Remind the students that it is impossible to run away from God. Encourage them to remember the stories of Jonah and Habakkuk the next time they want to complain or run away from God. Close with a prayer for God to show the students how they can trust him everyday.

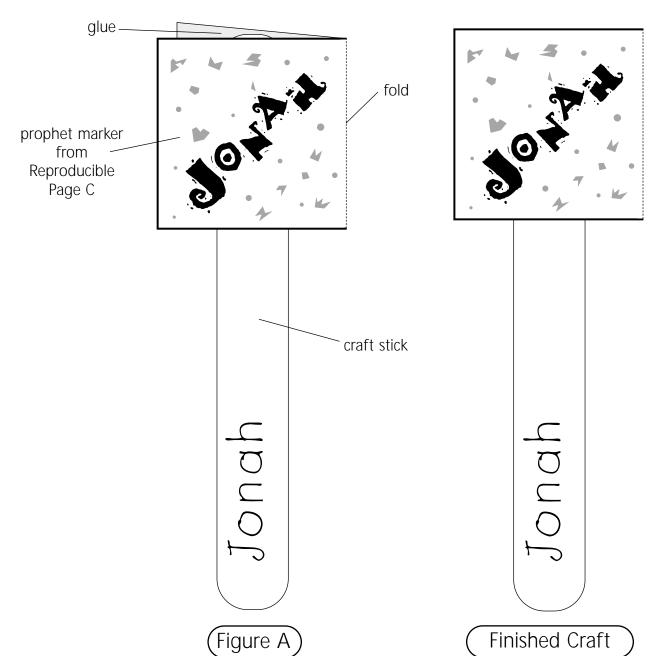
Teacher Tips

- Large craft sticks are the size of tongue depressors.
- Think of additional ways to decorate these crafts.











Name That Prophet

The students will learn and memorize the names of the minor prophets through this fun activity.

Scripture Memory Work

The minor prophets:

Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi

Materials

For the teacher:

1 potato

Preparation

- 1. Memorize the twelve minor prophets.
- 2. Practice leading this activity in advance.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: This week you are learning about two more prophets, Jonah and Habakkuk. The books in the Bible named after these men are called the minor prophets. Even though their books are shorter than the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah, their message is from God and is just as important! Both Jonah and Habakkuk lived through some difficult times in their lives and God taught them to trust him. These men teach us a lot about trusting God.
- 2. Show the students the list of the minor prophets on the back of this Lesson Card. Say the complete list of names to them as they listen, pointing to each name as you say it. Do this three times. Ask them to say the names together with you three more times, still pointing to each name as you say it. Finally, ask each student to say the list of names together with you to the rest of the group, having the student point to the names as you say them. Ask for volunteers to say the list by themselves or with a partner.

- 3. Have the students sit in a circle. Show them the potato that you brought. Tell them that they will be playing a game to help them learn these names. Begin by placing the list of names where all the students can see it. Begin by saying, *Hosea*, and then passing the potato to the student on your right. Have each student say the next name when they get the potato and then continue passing it to the student on their right. Continue in this way until all the names have been said. Do this three more times, beginning slowly and building more speed. Each time, begin with a different student.
- 4. Remove the Lesson Card from the students' view. This time repeat the activity from memory. Encourage the students to help each other if they forget a name.

Changing Directions

For a variation: have the students begin by passing the potato to the left. When it gets to the student who says "Jonah" then the direction changes and goes to the right, until the student who says "Habakkuk" and then the direction changes again. This can be a lot of fun and more challenging.

Conclusion

Explain to the students that these were twelve men who spoke to the people for God. Their messages were to help the people learn to trust him through lots of difficult times. Ask the students if they had ever heard of Jonah and the big fish before. Encourage them that this story really did happen and it changed the future of an entire city! Close with a prayer for the students to trust God with every aspect of their lives.

Teacher Tips

• You may want to have the students say the names to a clapping beat, or have them make up a rap. If you know a song that uses the books of the Bible, use it to reinforce this activity.



The Prophets

Name That Prophet

Hosea

Jonah

Zephaniah

Joel

Micah

Haggai

Amos

Nahum

Zechariah

Obadiah

Habakkuk

Malachi



Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify the messages of Jonah and Habakkuk.
- The students will describe one way that each of these prophets trusted God.
- The students will state one way that they will trust God when things go wrong.

Lesson Text

Habakkuk 1-3: Jonah 1-4

Scripture Memory Work

The minor prophets:

Hosea: Joel: Amos: Obadiah: Jonah: Micah: Nahum: Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Parade of Prophets

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: In God We Trust

Game: JONAH!

Bible Skills: What's Your Minor?

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Parade of Prophets

The students will review this week's lesson as they play a memory game using the names of the minor prophets.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 24 index cards, 3" x 5"
- glue sticks
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

• Page D, 2 copies for the teacher NOTE: For larger classes, make more sets of these activity cards.

Preparation

- 1. Cut out the cards from both copies of Reproducible Page D.
- 2. Glue each card to an index card.

Instructions

- 1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that they will review the names of the minor prophets in today's Preclass Activity.
- 2. As the students arrive, seat them in a circle to join this concentration activity.
- 3. Place the cards in four rows of six. Have the students take turns turning over two cards at a time to find matches. Have the students say the name on each card that is turned over.
- 4. When the students turn over the cards with Habakkuk and Jonah, have them tell one thing they remember from this week's Bible Story.

Another Game Idea

Give two groups a set of twelve cards and see how quickly they can place them in their correct Biblical order.

Teacher Tips

• For more durable cards, reproduce Page D on heavy, colored paper, and then laminate.



In God We Trust

The students will review this week's lesson as they think of ways that they can trust God in difficult situations.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 6 index cards, 3" x 5"
- scissors
- alue stick
- 1 medium gift bag Reproducible Pages:
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

- 1. Hold the index cards horizontally and then fold them in half.
- 2. Cut out the story squares from your copy of Reproducible Page B and glue them to the right side of the index cards. Fold the left side over making a small folder with the story square inside.
- 3. Place the six cards inside the gift bag.
- 4. Think about how you would respond in this activity.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Have the students open their Bibles to the books of Jonah and Habakkuk. This week we learned about Jonah and Habakkuk, two prophets who learned to trust God in difficult situations. At first, Jonah tried to run away from God, but he was swallowed by a huge fish and repented. God used him to rescue a whole city of people! At first, Habakkuk complained to God about the people around him. God spoke to Habakkuk and convinced him that God was in total control.

Today, you are going to see if you can identify the messages of the prophets and then think about how they relate to your lives.

Life Application

Bring out the gift bag. Tell the students that inside the bag are six cards. Tell them that they will take turns pulling a card out of the bag. First, they must decide which prophet it describes, and then how the situation would relate to their lives today.

Take out the first card and read it to the students. Ask the group to identify the prophet. Ask the corresponding questions to the group using the chart below:

If the student takes this card,	ask the group this question:
Ran away from God	Which is better: to run away from a difficult situation
	or to pray and get help?
•	What does the word repent mean: to
trusted dod	change; to paint; or to draw again?
Rescued Nineveh	Would you like God to use you to help someone
	learn about how much God loves them?
Complained	If you have a problem, should you: complain
	and get mad or pray and get help?
Convinced of	Name one way
God's power	that you are convinced of God's power.
Calmly trusted God	What is one thing you need to trust God about?
	takes this card, Ran away from God Repented and trusted God Rescued Nineveh Complained Convinced of God's power

Conclusion

Encourage the students that God can help them to change and trust him in the same way that he helped Jonah and Habakkuk. Close with a prayer for the students to be convinced of God's power in their lives so that they can help others the way Jonah and Habakkuk did.

Teacher Tips

• For a more thorough review of the Bible Story, use the Story Cards to help retell the story. This is especially helpful for students who did not hear the Bible Story.









HANOL

The students will review key ideas from the Bible Story about Jonah as they play a variation of Bingo.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- 25 small pieces of paper, ½" x ½"

For the teacher:

- scissors
- large writing surface
- 15 index cards, 3" x 5"
- pen or pencil

Reproducible Pages:

Page E, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

- 1. On the large writing surface, write the following words: Jonah; fish; fear; ship; Lord; pray; repent; save.
- 2. On the first eight index cards, write one of the words from the large writing surface.
- 3. On five more index cards, spell out JONAH by writing one of the following letters on each card: J; O; N; A; H.
- 4. On the last two index cards, write the word: WILD!
- 5. Practice playing this game at home.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: This week you have been learning about Jonah and Habakkuk, two minor prophets who lived during a time when most people did not obey the Lord. At first, Jonah tried to run away from God, but he was swallowed by a huge fish and changed his mind. God used him to save a whole city of people! At first, Habakkuk complained to God about the people around him and told God to do something about it. God spoke to Habakkuk which changed his mind to get happy. In your game today, you are going to review some key words from the story of Jonah as you play a game just like Bingo called JONAH!

- 2. Show the students the list of words on the large writing surface. Say them together.
- 3. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page E. Tell the students to write each of these words randomly across their bingo boards three times in whatever order they choose. Show them the board on the back of this Lesson Card as an example.
- 4. When they have finished, distribute the cut up paper to the students. Take your index cards and mix up both sets of eight cards, keeping the sets separate. Take one from each set and call them out, for example: O—Pray. If a student has the word "Pray" under the "O" column on his board then he may place a piece of paper on it. When the "WILD!" card is read, they may place a piece of paper in any column. Continue until a student has all one row completed. When a student fills a row, he calls out, "Jonah!" and must tell one thing he remembers from the story that happened to Jonah.
- 5. Continue for as long as time permits. You may choose a student to be the caller.

Conclusion

Remind the students that Jonah tried to run away from God. Ask them if they think it is possible to run away from God. Why or why not? Tell them that God still loved Jonah and wanted to use him so he put him in a place where he could not run away: the belly of a giant fish! Encourage the students to trust God in everything, even if it seems hard at the time, because God has a plan for them. Close with a prayer for the students to trust and not run away from God.

Teacher Tips

• To save time, fill in the game boards in advance, making sure that no two are alike. Use the board on the back of this Lesson Card as an example.







sample game board

ij.	O	N	A	3
pray	Jonah	fear	ship	fish
Jonah	pray	fish	save	Lord
ship	fear	FREE	pray	save
fish	repent	Lord	repent	fear
repent	Lord	ship	save	Jonah



What's Your Minor?

The students will review the names of the minor prophets and explore these books.

Materials

For each student:

pencil

For the teacher:

• large writing surface Reproducible Pages:

Page F, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

- 1. On the large writing surface, write the names of the minor prophets in order, using the list on the back of this Lesson Card.
- 2. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page F.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: This week you are learning about two prophets, Jonah and Habakkuk. These men are called minor prophets. Even though their books in the Bible are shorter than the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah, their message is from God and is just as important! Both Jonah and Habakkuk lived through some difficult times in their lives and God taught them to trust him. These men teach us a lot about trusting God. In your activity today, you are going to explore the books of the minor prophets.
- 2. Point to the list of names on the large writing surface. Ask the students to say it together with you. Ask for volunteers to say them in order from memory. Tell the students that they will find each of these twelve books in the Bible and learn something about each one.

- 3. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page F and pencils. Have each student find a partner or group of three. Tell the students to open their Bibles to the book of Hosea. Do the first one together, asking them how many chapters are in the book and write the answer on their pages. (14) Ask them to find the first and last words of the book and write them in the spaces provided. (The; them) Have the students complete the rest of their activity with their partners.
- 4. Circulate among the students to offer help and encouragement.
- 5. When they have finished, have students review their answers together as a group. Check their answers using the Answer Key on the back of this Lesson Card.

Conclusion

Encourage the students for their efforts and to share what they learned about these books with their parents. Close with a prayer thanking God for the Bible.

Teacher Tips

• Bring in a copy of *The Radical Edge* by Gordon Ferguson. Tell the students that the prophets were radical men for God.



The Minor Prophets

Hosea

Amos

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Haggai

7echariah

Malachi

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Obadiah

Joel

What's Your Minor

instructions: Look up each of tr	ie rollowing i	ninor Propriets and answer the questions below.
RADICALRADICALRADICALRADICALRA	DICALRADIO	CALRADICALRADICALRADICALR
HOSEA		NAHUM
How many chapters are in this book?	14	How many chapters are in this book?

The

JOEL How many chapters are in this book? ____3

What is the first word in this book?

What is the last word in this book?

What is the first word in this book? ____The___ What is the last word in this book? Zion!

AMOS

How many chapters are in this book? ___ What is the first word in this book? The What is the last word in this book? God

OBADIAH

How many chapters are in this book? 1 What is the first word in this book? The What is the last word in this book? Lord's

JONAH

How many chapters are in this book? _ What is the first word in this book? The What is the last word in this book? ___city_

MICAH

How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? The What is the last word in this book? ___ago_

What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book? cruelty

UABAKKUK

How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book? instruments

ZEPHANIAH

How many chapters are in this book? _ What is the first word in this book? The What is the last word in this book? Lord

HAGGAI

How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book? Almighty

ZECHARIAH

How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book? Almighty

MALACHI

How many chapters are in this book? 4 What is the first word in this book? An What is the last word in this book? curse



Instructions: These minor prophets are a little mixed up.
Can you unscramble their names, and then place them in their correct Biblical order? The first one has been done for you.

Malachi	NUMAH	HUKKBAAK	1 2
MACIH	HIGAGA	ASOM	345
ZIPENHAAH -	JOLE	OHABIDA	6789.
ZARCHAIEH	JAHNO	HEASO	10 11 12Malachi
			GENERATION

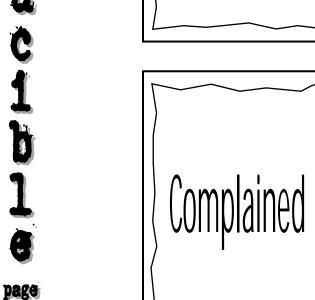


Summer 1

Ran away

from God

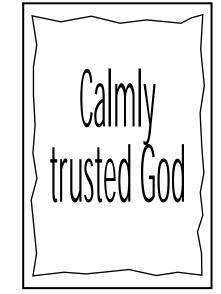


















- Ran Away
- Repented and Trusted God
- Rescued Ninevah



- Complained
- Convinced of God's Power
- Calmly Trusted God





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page



Supplement/Game 1 copy for each student



page

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		/(6		
		FREE		
		14		



Supplement/Bible Skills 1 copy for each student



What's Your Minor

Instructions: Look up each of the following Minor Prophets and answer the questions below.

v RADICAL	PICALRADICALRADICALRADICALRADICALRADICALRAD
HOSEA How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?	How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?
How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?	HABAKKUK How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?
How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?	How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?
OBADIAH How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?	HAGGAT How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?
How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?	ZECHARIAH How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?
How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?	How many chapters are in this book? What is the first word in this book? What is the last word in this book?



page