

## Bible Study Tools – Bible Concordances

Modern technology has changed the pace at which we do Bible study. A 21<sup>st</sup>-century Sunday schooler can have an entire library of Bible reference books on a tiny, handheld device. They can find things at lightning speed. But have we prepared them to know what they are doing?

All too often in Sunday school, instruction in the use of Bible study tools falls through the cracks while we, as teachers, try to cover as many lessons as possible. Even when a lesson requires the use of a concordance or some other study tool, instruction in its use can be limited. Bible Study Tools activities are designed to let you stop and focus on good Bible study skills.

Bible Study Tools activities get back to basics: the use of Bible maps, cross-reference systems, and concordances and lexicons. Afterward, by all means, encourage your students to get a Bible app for their electronic devices and have at it. Only now they will have a better understanding of what modern technology allows them to do.

### Bible Concordances

Two of the most widely used Bible concordances are Young's and Strong's. *Young's Analytical Concordance to the Holy Bible* was published in 1879. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* was published in 1894. Both concordances list the words that are used in the King James Version of the Bible (KJV).<sup>1</sup> This activity focuses on the use of Young's and Strong's concordances. Be sure to have copies of these concordances on hand.

## Finding Passages in the King James Bible

1 – Here is a remarkable Bible prophecy of the resurrection of Christ:

*Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

This passage can be found by looking up any of its words in a King James concordance, but some words give quicker results than others. Which of these words would you look up in the concordance to find the passage as quickly as possible? Why?

SOUL

HELL

HOLY

CORRUPTION

Look at the passage again. What other word might you look up to get quick results?

Use a King James concordance and find where the passage is located. How many answers are there? Write the references here.

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<sup>1</sup> Strong's Concordance also lists the words used in the English Revised Version (RV or ERV) of 1881/1885.

2 – Here is a Bible passage with an important message about salvation:

*Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

What word would you look up in a concordance to find where this passage is located? Circle it. (There is no right or wrong answer to this question, so pick a word that will let you find the passage as quickly as possible.)

Use either Young's or Strong's concordance and find where the passage is located.

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3 – Find where these passages are located in the Bible and write the reference for each one in the space provided.

*The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*

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*For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*

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*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

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*For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool.*

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*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

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*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then*

*we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

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