

# LEARNING THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

During this section of *The Journey*, you will memorize the books of the New Testament to help you get a handle on Scripture. Use the following nonsense stories (a longer version, written as a mini-play is on this page) and the house illustration as memory aids. Then fill in the blanks on the final page.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The 27 books of the New Testament were originally written in Greek which was the common language of the Roman Empire.
- All the New Testament books were written before the close of the first century.
- The fish was a code symbol used by persecuted Christians under the Roman Empire. The Greek word for fish, *ichthus*, was used as an acrostic, which translates to “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior” in English.

## ACT 1: THE LEFT COLUMN: The Pauline Epistles.

A Roman soldier (**Romans**) enters the left stage wearing full armor and eating *two* apple cores with juice running down his beard (**I & II Corinthians**).

A beautiful *gal* (**Galatians**) enters the right stage, frantically, clutching some *fees* (**Ephesians**) in one hand. She also has a *fat lip* (**Philippians**), as if someone has hit her. She stops and looks for help. She sees the centurion and *calls* (**Colossians**) to him. She then spies the *two saloons* (**I & II Thessalonians**) at the back of the stage and tells the centurion to meet her there.

## ACT 2: THE CEILING: The Pastoral Epistles

A mother is looking out her kitchen window and sees her son in the garden with his pony that is trampling the vegetables. She cries out, “*Timmy, Timmy* (**I & II Timothy**), *tie up* (**Titus**) your *filly* (**Philemon**).”

## ACT 3: THE RIGHT COLUMN: Non-Pauline Epistles

A Hebrew (**Hebrews**) scholar enters the left side of the stage. He is eating *jams* (**James**) and it is running down his beard. Peter and his clone Peter (**I & II Peter**) enter the right side of the stage. All three of them urgently need to use the bathroom. *Three porta-johns* (**I, II, & III John**) are at the back of the stage, but only one of them works. The three actors race for the working one, and guess who wins. The *Jew did* (**Jude**). He had a *revelation* (**Revelation**) about which one worked.



**CEILING**

*The Pastoral Epistles: Paul wrote these letters to give pastoral counsel.*

A mother looks out a window and sees that her son's pony is trampling vegetables in the garden. She cries out, "Timmy, Timmy (I & II Timothy), tie up (Titus) your filly (Philemon)."

**LEFT COLUMN**

*The Pauline Epistles: An epistle is an instructive letter. The apostle Paul's (Pauline) letters were named for their recipients.*

A Roman soldier (Romans) is walking while eating two apple cores (I & II Corinthians). A beautiful gal (Galatians) is running after him, mourning her recent court fees (Ephesians). She has a fat lip (Philippians), as if someone has hit her. She sees the soldier and calls (Colossians) to him. She then spies two saloons (I & II Thessalonians) and asks him to meet her there.

**RIGHT COLUMN**

*The Non-Pauline Epistles and the Revelation: These letters (except Hebrews) were named for their authors. The Revelation is a type of literature called an apocalypse, which was written by the apostle John.*

A Hebrew scholar (Hebrews) is eating jams (James). Peter and his clone (I & II Peter) follow after him. They need to find a bathroom and see three porta-johns (I, II & III John). They race to find an empty one. Who won? The Jew did (Jude), because he had a revelation (Revelation) about which one worked.

**SUB-FLOOR**

*The Acts of the Apostles: Acts describes the early history and mission of the church.*

**FOUNDATION**

*Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry.*

