

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).

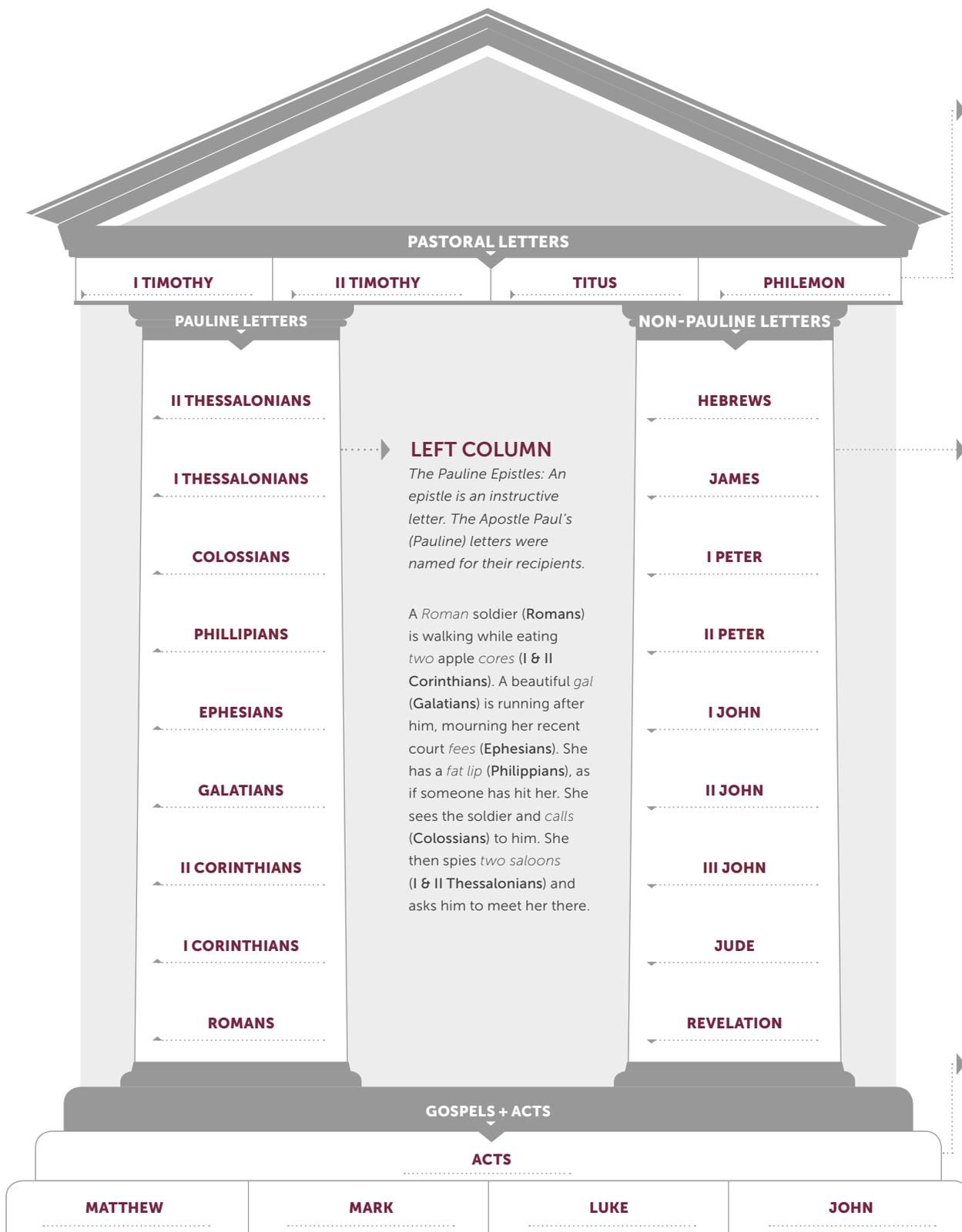
A beautiful gal (Galatians) enters the right stage, frantically, clutching some fees (Ephesians) in one hand. She also has a fat lip (Philippians), as if someone has hit her. She stops and looks for help. She sees the centurion and calls (Colossians) to him. She then spies the two saloons (I & II Thessalonians)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

