

BOOK	OVERVIEW	GOD'S MESSAGE	HAND GESTURE
MATTHEW	The first of four gospels; Jesus as the Son of David , the kingly Messiah of the prophecies. More sermons than the other gospels.	All authority in heaven and earth is Mine.	sign language for "family": touch tips of index fingers to thumbs with three other fingers extended palms facing outward. Touch hands together. Rotate hands in shape of a circle until two hands connect again (pinky finger to pinky finger) with palms facing you
MARK	Jesus as the suffering Son of Man, sent to serve. Jesus as a servant	I did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many.	cup hands together and hold them out while bowing head, as though in service
LUKE	Jesus as the compassionate savior of the World; more of His parables than the others.	If you want to follow Me, you must deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow me.	Clasp hands together before you and then throw them over your shoulder, as if lifting your cross
JOHN	Jesus as the Son of God, the Word made flesh , who provides eternal life to all who believe in Him. Mostly about what happened in or near Jerusalem (versus Galilee). No parables. Only 7 miracles (5 of which are found nowhere else).	I so loved the world that I gave my only Son, that whoever believes in him will live.	Make a book with your hands, raised above head, and then lower to chest level; representing the Word coming down from Heaven
ACTS	The early church history & the movement of the Holy Spirit.	You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and You will be My witnesses.	Cup hands on top of head, as if the flame alighting there
ROMANS	Paul's letter to Roman Christians— the gospel explained	I have thrown open the promise to any who would come.	Hands stretched out as in an open invitation for embrace
1 & 2 CORINTHIANS	Paul's letters to church at Corinth about church trouble (encouraging unity & love, and defending his apostleship)	Boast only in Me.	Move straightened hands from either side of face (like blinders) toward heaven; only He can fix churches

GALATIANS	Paul's letter to churches in Galatia, warning against legalism , and clinging to the old covenant	You are justified by your faith.	With palms open and face up like a book, rotate the right hand toward the left as if closing the book or turning the page (a new covenant)
EPHESIANS	Paul's letter to church in Ephesus from a Roman prison, describing a believer's new heavenly position in Christ.	It is by grace that you have been saved through faith.	Sign language for "life," make an "L" with each hand (index finger and thumb extended) and then sweep them from lower hip up beside body to shoulders
PHILIPPIANS	Paul's letter to church in Philippi from a Roman prison, expressing his love and affection for them.	Do everything without complaining or arguing.	One hand over heart, then thump fingers as if tracking heartbeat
COLOSSIANS	Paul's letter to church in Colossae from Roman prison, to clear up heretical teaching and exhort believers in the deity of Christ .	I am the head over every power and authority.	sign language for "God;" One arm raised to side, bent at elbow, palm facing body, with hand slightly forward, rotates backward until fully upright
1 & 2 THESSALONIANS	Paul's letters to a new church in Thessalonica, stressing Christ's return & our commitment to hold to what is good	Hold on to what is good.	Clasp hands together as if you've caught a bug (or valuable thing) and are holding it
1 & 2 TIMOTHY	Paul's letters to Timothy, addressing issues of leadership at Ephesus, and encouraging Timothy's ministry despite his suffering. Instructions for Christian workers.	Set an example in speech, life, love, faith & purity.	Palms facing up in front of you, slide them forward as if passing a tray to someone before you (like Paul passing his teaching to Timothy)
TITUS	Paul's letter to Titus to encourage the church in Crete to do good works, a guide on beginning & operating a church .	Be good, and do good works.	Form one half of a roof with one forearm, and then bring the other forearm for the other side of the roof (as in building a church)
PHILEMON	Paul's letter to Philemon from a Roman prison, asking him to forgive and receive a runaway slave .	Welcome him as you would welcome me.	Scoop arms around an imaginary person, drawing them close

HEBREWS	Letter to Hebrew believers emphasizing that Jesus is the new covenant , as the completion of the picture	Fix your eyes on Jesus.	Two fingers pointed at your eyes, then moved toward heaven, as if you are watching up
JAMES	Letter from James to Jewish believers encouraging them to live out their faith in good works such as social justice	Your faith, without works, is dead.	Gesture one hand in a circular motion out and around with palm up, as if spreading around to others, then bring it back to other hand
1 & 2 PETER	Letter from Peter to Christians, calling them to holiness & dedication	Be clear-minded and self-controlled.	Open hand, palm toward you, moves from forehead to chin as if putting on a face of calm and sobriety
1, 2 & 3 JOHN	Letters from John assuring salvation and the need for diligence	Walk in love and truth.	Gesture with both hands from your feet to out before you, as if indicating the path
JUDE	Letter from Jude to Christians warning against heresy, and to stand firm in the faith	Stand firm.	Take two fingers like legs and stand them upright on the open palm of other hand.
REVELATION	Letter from John to the seven churches, a vision of Christ's return.	I am coming quickly.	Point finger to imaginary watch in indication of "time"