

How to determine what a book in the Bible is about

1. Read the book! (or a section if it's a big book like Genesis or Isaiah).
2. Ask good questions!
3. Read the book a second time more closely, actively looking for the answers to those good questions.
4. Write down the answers you find. If you can't find the answer, see #5.
5. Consult reliable sources (your pastor-teacher(s) are hopefully one of those!)
6. Construct a high-level outline of the book (5-7 major sections, one sentence each)
7. Summarize the entire book in a paragraph of no more than 3-5 sentences. Then state the MAIN MESSAGE of the book in ONE sentence.

So....what are some GOOD QUESTIONS to ask?

1. What does this book have to say about **the Lord Jesus Christ**?
How does it relate to the person, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. If it is a New Testament book, how does it relate to **the church**, the Body of Christ?
3. What words or points are **repeated** in the book?
4. What things are said with a particularly **strong emphasis**?
5. What topics or messages show up in **several sections** of the book?
6. Who is the **author** of the book, and who was the **original audience** for it?
7. **When** was the book written?
8. What were the **historical and personal circumstances** that accompanied the writing of this book?
 - a. What were the historical circumstances around the book that contributed to the purpose for its being written?
 - b. What are the personal circumstances of the author, the audience, and/or main characters in the book?
9. What **genre** is the book? What are the main features of that genre in the Bible?
10. Where does the book **take us**? Where does it start, and where does it end?
11. What are the **turning points in** the book? How do you know?
12. What are one or more **key verses** in the book?