

Bible Skills: **The New Testament—Who wrote what?**

YOU WILL NEED: *Bibles and a Bible Book Chart.*

The New Testament—Who Wrote What?

Quickly divide your class into two teams. (*Either boys vs. girls or this side vs. that side.*)

SAY: Take a look at the books of the New Testament. (*Refer to your Bible Book Chart*) Saul, who was later called Paul, wrote thirteen of them—almost half because there are only twenty-seven books in the New Testament. I am going to give you two minutes to discuss with your team which ones you think he wrote and to write them on a piece of paper.

After two minutes, compare their pages. Tell them that you're going to teach them how they can know which books in the New Testament that Paul (Saul) wrote.

SAY: Paul wrote all the books from Romans to Philemon. (*Show them on the Bible Book Chart.*) All of these were letters to churches in different towns—That's why they have town names. The book of Romans was written to Christians in Rome. The book of Philippians was written to believers in Philippi. All of these were letters to churches in different towns—except for the last four. These were letters he wrote *to* a young man named Timothy and to a man named Titus and Philemon. These four books are the only ones he wrote that contain a person's name, and these are the only "T"-named books in the New Testament. Philemon, though, is not the only "P"--There is also 1 & 2 Peter. There are two ways to remember this:

Repeat after me:

*If it's a name with T's or a P's, Paul wrote these.
He was a great leader, but he wasn't named Peter.*

Or you can simply remember *Toilet Paper!* Because the initial to toilet paper is T.P. Just remember that Paul didn't write 1 & 2 Peter. He wrote 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon and all of these books are right next to each other in the Bible.

SAY: All the other "Name" books in the New Testament are the names of the people who wrote them.

Ask the students--**So who do you think wrote Matthew?** (Matthew) / **1 & 2 Peter?** (Peter) / **The Gospel of John?** (John) / **What about 1, 2, & 3 John?** (John--These are letters John wrote to a church.) / **What about Jude?** (Jude)

SAY: So you should be able to tell me who wrote all the books of the New Testament except for three of them.

Quiz the kids pointing at different books on the Bible Book Chart. Remind them that Paul (Saul--who arrested and killed Christians before he came to Christ) wrote all the books from Romans to Philemon.

Ask the students--**What three books have we not talked about?** (Acts, Hebrews, and Revelations)

Ask the students--**Who wrote the Gospel two books before Acts?** (Luke--Luke wrote the book of Acts.)

Ask the students--**Who wrote the letter two books before Revelation?** (John--John wrote the book of Revelation.)

Ask the students--**So who do you think wrote Hebrews?** (They'll probably follow the pattern to look two books before and guess Paul, but the answer is: Although many people believe Paul wrote it or had a hand in writing it, nobody really knows for sure.)