

How Prepared are Your Students to Read the Bible?

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters.

-- Genesis 1:1-2

Most literacy programs prepare beginners for only four of the twenty-one vocabulary words in the first two verses of the Bible (*and, in, on, god, spirit*) plus several suffixes. Students need a stronger foundation.

		1st sound	2nd sound	3rd sound
single vowels	a	and	cre-ate, face	wa-ters, was
	e	-en (heaven)	the, be-gin, cre-ated	
	i	in, -ing, spi-rit	—	
	o	God, on, of*	o -ver	moved
single consonants	s	spi-rit	was, waters	
	c	cre-ated	face	

multi-letter phonograms		1st sound	2nd sound
(2 of 5 spellings for/er/)	ar	dark -ness	
	ea	—	heav -en (2 of 3 sounds)
	er	wa- ters	
	ear	earth	
	ee	deep	
	-ed	creat ed	mov ed (2 of 3 sounds)
	ng	be-gin- ning	
	oi	void	
	or	form	
	ou	with out	
th	earth, with out	the (2 of 2 sounds)	

silent final E's			
	type 1	cre-ate	Vowel sound changes because of the E. English words do not end with V. A said /A/ and C said /s/ because of the E.
	type 2	move	
	type 1+ 3	face	

E's dropping words		
	create + -ed	= cre-at-ed
	move + -ing	= mov-ing

These two verse use:

- 30 of the 70 basic phonograms (including single: *b, d, f, g, h, k, m, n, p, r, t, v, w*)
- 33 of the 45 English sounds
- 3 out of 5 reason for silent final E's
- 8 of 28 spelling rules (Rules 2, 4, 7, 15, 16, 17, 26, 28)
- * Just one exception (f saying /v/) which can be explained

By the end of first grade, *Spell to Write & Read* teachers have introduced all the concepts involved (except for the 2-1-1 rule) and have taught 75% of these words using teacher guided, sight-last dictation. Students spell the words by sound, blend the sounds together for normal speech, and then analyze them. This foundation helps them more quickly and independently read the most important book of all.