Tips for Citing the Bible

Citing in MLA

In-text citations:
- Cite the reference in parentheses at the end of the sentence.
- Use abbreviations for the books of the Bible.

Example:
Throughout his life, David learned to trust God as his “refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Ps. 46.1).

However, if you state the reference in the sentence you do not need to use a parenthetical reference at the end.

Example:
In Psalm 46.1, David describes God as his “refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

Works Cited page:
- Cite editor information, if it is given, otherwise cite the translation, place of publication, publisher, and year published in normal MLA format.

Example:

Citing in APA

In-text citations:
- In the first citation in the text, identify the version of the Bible that is used.

Example:
In Psalm 46:1 (New Jerusalem Bible), David declares that God is his “refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

Reference List:
- No reference list entry is needed for the Bible.