

Faith Practices for Families:
BIBLE READING



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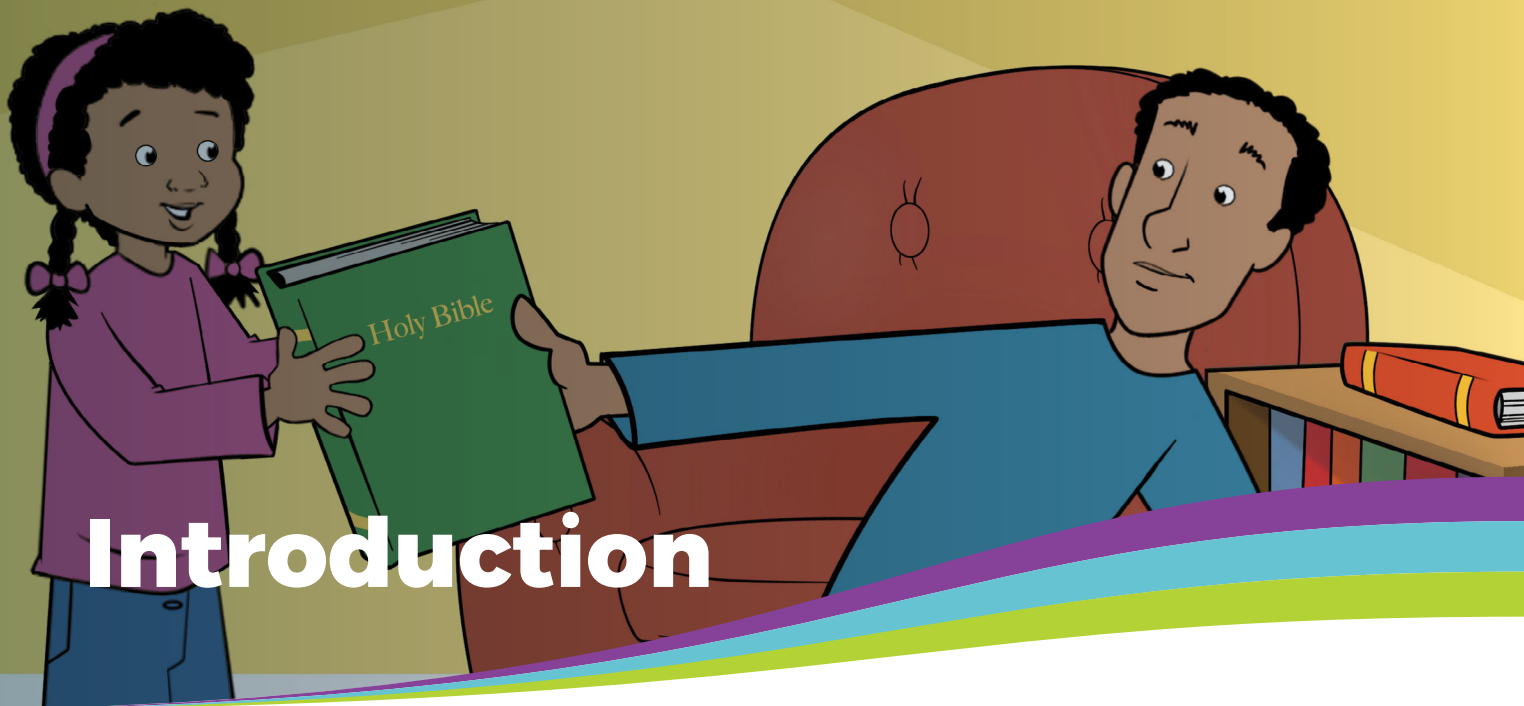
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Introduction

Bible reading, along with prayer, service, and worship, teaches us to turn our hearts and minds to God. We begin to think and act as Christ's image-bearers. As we develop our relationship with God, we receive his love, respond with service to our neighbors, and observe God's care for creation.

For you and for your children, our prayer comes from Ephesians 1:17: "*I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you his Spirit. The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God.*"



Teach your children
right from wrong,
and when they are grown
they will still do right.

Proverbs 22:6



Bible Reading

As Christian parents, we want our children to grow in their relationship with God and get to know God's big plan of salvation for his people. God calls us to be the main spiritual guides for our children, and the Holy Spirit equips us to do that. One of the best ways is by reading the Bible together and teaching them how to read it. Our goal is that our kids not only know Scripture but also love it! *"Nothing brings me greater happiness than to hear that my children are obeying the truth" (3 John 1:4).*

We wrote this ebook to help you create a plan and a space for Bible reading in your family's weekly routines. It's our hope that you find this guide practical and relevant. Please refer back to it as you look for new ways to read the Bible together.

The guide encourages you to share your love of the Bible with your children. Let your kids "catch" you reading the Bible. Let the Bible become part of your everyday language, and incorporate it into conversations with your children. Encourage your kids to spend time with God, and let them see your joy and excitement in spending time with him, too. We hope this ebook will help your family Bible reading and inspire you and your family as you open God's Word.

"But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well" (Matthew 6:33).

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black and white striped shirt, sitting at a table and reading a red Bible. A young girl with dark hair in a bun with a red bow, wearing a dark vest over a white shirt, is looking down at the Bible. The background is a simple indoor setting.

Why Should We Read the Bible Together?



The Bible connects us with God. In the Bible we meet God. We are in a real relationship with God and he reveals who he is to us through the Bible. In the Bible, we see what it's like to live with God in our hearts, and living with God is a treasure that we can introduce to our children. As a family that spends time enjoying God's word together, we'll always learn something new about our Heavenly Father. In the pages of Scripture, God teaches us to love him and the Holy Spirit shapes us to live Christ-like lives.

Here's a prayer that you can share together: *Dear God, we want to know you more. Thank you for giving us this wonderful book so we can get to know you better. Open our eyes so we can find you in its pages. Amen.*

The Bible connects us as a family. Creating family time of Bible reading declares a family value, *"In this house, the Bible guides our lives!"* When we read the Bible as a family, we learn together our roles in God's story and the guiding principles that show us how to live our lives as a family and as individual people. We see who we are, what we are going to do as a family, and why we are doing it. Looking back at your time spent reading the Bible together, your children will remember enthusiastic parents who showed that God is worth knowing, and enjoying, and loving.



Everything in the Scriptures is God's word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

Reading the Bible creates a love for God's story. Reading the Bible as a family helps our children develop a language of faith that will grow with them. *"Mom, that's just like when King David..." "I remember that Jesus said..." "Dad, which Fruit of the Spirit works best here?"* It directly relates God's story to their own. Even when God isn't specifically mentioned in a passage, the Bible's pages are full of his actions. Sustained time in the Word helps us see how God's story shapes our lives.

In the Bible's chapters, we meet people of faith just like us, imperfect people. When our children struggle with challenges, we can point out God's place in their lives and talk about **Joseph's** trust in God during bad times. When we look at **Esther's** faith as she confronts difficult choices, we see God's hand in our own decision-making. Remind your kids that they are chapters in God's big story too.

When we read the Bible, we can connect to God's story by asking:

- *What did God do in this passage?*
- *What does God say in this passage and to whom does he say it?*
- *How did God move in the hearts of the people in the story?*
- *What does this passage teach us about who God is?*

The Bible can lead to a child's life long relationship of faith. The Holy Spirit gives the gift of faith, and what we say and do today can stick with our children for a lifetime. A great example of the gift of faith comes from 2 Timothy. The apostle Paul writes to Timothy, a young pastor, *"I also remember the genuine faith of your mother Eunice. Your grandmother Lois had the same sort of faith, and I am sure that you have it as well."* (2 Timothy 1:5). Paul sees that Timothy's faith passed through three generations: first in his grandmother, then with his mother, and finally to him. Reading the Bible together passes our faith down through the generations to our children.



Nothing brings me greater happiness than to hear that my children are obeying the truth.

3 John 1:4

Later, Paul affirms a promise from God to Timothy, *“Keep on being faithful to what you were taught and to what you believed. After all, you know who taught you these things.*

Since childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures that are able to make you wise enough to have faith in Christ Jesus and be saved” (2 Timothy 3:14-15). This promise holds just as firmly for our children. God’s Word is sufficient to forge a lifelong relationship of faith with their Heavenly Father.



When and Where Can We Read the Bible Together?



When Moses gave instructions to parents about passing their faith along to the next generation he said: **“Memorize his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you’re at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning”** (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Finding the right time to come together as a family helps cultivate regular family spiritual practice. Moses’ instructions provide your family with a list of suggestions about times to read the Bible, discuss what you see God doing in a passage, and reflect together on how what you read from God’s Word that day affects your lives.



When you’re at home, Most families struggle a little to find time in their busy days to read the Bible together. But even the busiest families spend most of their time at home. We might be surprised how we might spend some of our downtime reading Scripture. It doesn’t have to be long. Start with just five minutes. Over time it might grow a little longer, but start with five minutes. Start by reading a short passage each evening right after dinner. This is a great place to begin, while everybody is still at the table. Read together, ask questions, and talk about the Bible together. And don’t worry when you miss a day; God’s Word will still be there!



When you walk along the road. Car time is a big part of family life, so it's a great opportunity for prayer and Scripture. Car rides are already a form of family time—use these moments of togetherness to incorporate Bible reading into your everyday life. On short trips—even to and from school, basketball practice, and music lessons—listen to a **devotional podcast** with short segments that engage your children with the Bible and brief reflections on its teachings. Long car rides provide opportunities to listen to an audio Bible and talk about what everyone sees God doing in the passages and what it means for your family.

We can reflect on God's Word when we walk places as well. Time spent walking in God's creation invites us to see and experience God's world and connect with our Creator. It's also a great time to recall Scriptures that you might have memorized or talk about when you read that day.



*Your word is a lamp that
gives light wherever I walk.*

Psalm 119:105



*Oh, how I love your law! I
meditate on it all day long.*

Psalm 119:97



When you go to bed at night. It's comforting to go to sleep with God's words echoing in our hearts. With little children, after closing the storybook, open the Bible and read a short psalm or blessing (like Ephesians 3:14-21). Or before bed, read or **listen to Bible stories**, and then pray with your children.



Everything in the Scriptures is God's word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



When you get up in the morning. Especially on weekdays, our days typically begin in a rush to get up, get dressed, grab a bit of breakfast, and get on with whatever we've got to do that day. But first thing in the morning is a perfect time to acknowledge God and give your day to him. Perhaps your family memorizes a Bible verse each week: post it on the bathroom mirror or refrigerator, text it to everyone, or drop it in your child's lunch bag to read at school. Before everyone goes out the door, gather together and say the verse and a prayer. As your family's day gets started, look for ways to integrate God's Word into your daily routine.

Reading the Bible together is different in every family. God knows your schedule—the best time for you to focus on him, the busiest work time of your day, and the time you need some peace. Take some time to figure out what works and what doesn't work. Ask God to help you be creative and choose the most effective time for your family to read Scripture together. We hope you can continue returning to this guide for new ideas as your children grow.

To dig deeper, check out Traci Smith's book [Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home](#) to create daily practices that are simple, profound, and welcoming.

How Do We Read the Bible?



The Bible is a big book telling God's story of salvation through different settings and writing styles. For your child, talking about how to read the Bible can raise a few questions. Where should we start? How much time will this take? What are some good ways to keep our children interested?

We've divided this part into three sections:

Section One: Guiding into the Bible

Six steps for your kids to not only read the Bible but treasure the Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11), and apply it in their own lives.

Section Two: Lively Learning in the Bible

Seven tips to help you explore and enjoy God's Word.

Section Three: Studying the Bible

Five questions to help you take a deep dive into Scripture with your family.




The Law of the Lord is a lamp, and its teachings shine brightly. Correction and self-control will lead you through life .

Proverbs 6:23

An illustration of a woman with dark curly hair and a young girl with braids and a yellow headband. The woman is holding an open book, and both are looking at it. The background is a soft gradient of green and blue.

Section One: Guiding into the Bible

The Bible offers us a glimpse into God's big story that includes you and me. Interacting with Scripture requires us to take steps on a journey toward discipleship. These simple steps build on one another and guide us to know God and find our place in the story. As we explore God's Word, we begin to catch glimpses of God's unfailing love and grow in relationship. These six steps can help us to engage the Bible in meaningful ways.

 We won't keep secret the glorious deeds and the mighty miracles of the Lord. God gave his Law to Jacob's descendants, the people of Israel. And he told our ancestors to teach their children, so that each new generation would know his Law and tell it to the next. Then they would trust God and obey his teachings, without forgetting anything God had done.

Psalm 78: 4b-7

1. Connect

Faith is built in our hearts through loving relationships so set the scene by stepping into each other's world. Find the space where you will read together: the couch in the family room, the child's bedroom, or around the dinner table after a meal. To begin, transition from what you were doing to the devotion time by asking questions like:



- **How was your day?**
- **What was one good thing about today?**
- **Was there anything that made you sad?**
- **Where did you see God's blessings today?**
- **How were you a blessing to others today?**

Take time for some dialogue and an opportunity for the day's reflection. God cares about all the ups and downs. Talk about how God is present in our laments as well as our joys! Don't forget to share about your day too. Let your children see how God is at work in your circumstances and shaping you today.

2. Tune-In

Find a good way to dive into stories from the Bible. Reading aloud from the Bible or listening to a recording of the text being read are simple ways to begin. Switch it up once in a while to keep your devotion time interactive.



- **Read the Bible story taught in Sunday School.**
- **Encourage your child to read the story.**
- **Reread your child's favorite Bible stories. Children love repetition.**
- **Listen to the [Kids Corner Bible story podcast](#).**
- **Show them a Bible story on YouTube. "[God's Story](#)" and "[Saddleback Kids](#)" are two good video series.**

3. Rest and Reflect

Take a minute and just sit with the story in silence. Set a timer if needed. Encourage your children to reflect on a word or phrase that they connected with in the text. A quiet moment may be difficult with young children at first, but it's a practice that can be learned. Perhaps a younger child could have a crayon to draw their feelings about what they heard. Give your children a starter question that they can wonder about in silence.



- How was the main character feeling?
- How would you react in that situation?
- What was God teaching his people then?
- What might God want me to learn today?

Quiet contemplation time is a gift to all of us in our loud and busy world. As children grow the practice of quiet reflection can guide them to approach God's Word as a place for their heart and minds to dwell and find refreshment.

4. Consider & Imagine

Invite your child to step into the story with curiosity and wonder. Let them ask the odd and interesting questions and take the time to learn together. You don't have to have all the answers about the story, so don't be afraid of questions. It's okay to say, "That's a great question. What do you think?" or "Let's think about that question together." It is a chance to explore together and learn about what Ephesus looked like in Jesus' day or what tools Jesus might have learned to use from his dad. Let their curiosity widen your understanding of the text.



- What's God doing in this story?
- Who is in the story and what happened to them?
- Why do you think...(Why do you think Rahab helped the spies?)
- What if...(What if Peter admitted he knew Jesus instead of denying him?)
- Which is the most important part of this story?
- Which is your favorite part of the story?
- How do you think God feels about...?

These questions will get your kids thinking, and it will teach them to wonder with God and to get comfortable with exploring the Bible. Don't give up and don't get bogged down in the tough stuff.

5. Plan Action

Consider how God might be using this text to transform your behavior or guide you into action. Maybe the text reminded you to care for others or ask for forgiveness. Let the Bible speak to your situation.



- Where do you see yourself in this story?
- Where do you see the theme of this story in your own life?
- How can you use the lessons of this story throughout your school day, at sports practice, or with friends?
- What action is God inviting you to take?

6. Speak Blessing



End your time together by helping your children understand what a blessing scripture is to each of us. Choose at least one main takeaway idea—keep it simple enough that kids can repeat what they learned in one sentence. Return to the laments and joys your child shared about their day. For some suggestions about different ways to pray, check out [Faith Practices for Families: Prayer](#) for prayer resources. Finally, say a blessing over your family. *“The Lord bless you and keep you”* (Numbers 6:24).

To dig deeper, check out Elizabeth F. Caldwell's book [I Wonder: Engaging a Child's Curiosity about the Bible](#) and Christine Aroney-Sine's book [The Gift of Wonder: Creative Practices for Delighting in God](#) to create daily rituals for drawing both children and parents into God's presence in meaningful ways.

An illustration of a woman with dark curly hair and a young girl with braids, both looking at an open book. The woman is wearing a light blue shirt, and the girl is wearing a dark blue shirt. They are sitting at a table with a green and yellow striped border. The background is a simple room with a yellow wall and a red chair.

Section Two: Lively Learning in the Bible

You want your child to grow in their love for God’s Word. For anything to grow, it needs regular care and attention. You don’t have to be a Bible expert, do everything on this list, or make your Bible reading time perfect. Anytime you dive into Scripture has value! Find what works best for your family. Jump in and have fun! Here are seven suggestions to equip you as you explore the Bible.

1. Open the Bible

Start with the actual Bible. Choose a version that works best for your family. Versions like the New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) or the Contemporary English Version (CEV) are very readable for kids. There’s something cool about having God’s Word in your hands. But the digital Bible on your phone or tablet has its own advantages, most importantly, that you can access the Bible anywhere, anytime. If you haven’t already, take time to introduce your children to the Bible.

Pass the family Bible around the table and have your children touch it, turn the pages, and read from it. Show them how it works: point out the Old and New Testaments, the books of the Bible, and how each is divided into chapters and verses. Demonstrate how to find a Bible story or passage (Make it into a game!).

Tell your children about your first Bible, and what it meant to you to receive it. If you still have it, show them the notes you made in the Bible as a kid yourself. Give your children their own Bibles so that they can start writing their own notes. A journal can be valuable for young children to draw as they imagine the story and for older children to think through the Scripture and talk with God.



Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

2. Pick a Passage

The family has got their Bibles and are excited to start. Where do you begin? Here are just a few ways you can decide which passage to select:

- **Start with the Gospel of Mark.** It's the shortest gospel, and might be the easiest to read together as a family. This lets you introduce your children to Jesus' ministry as the foundation and purpose of the Bible, revealing God's ultimate love for them.
- **Let your kids choose stories** or books of the Bible to read. If your children attend Sunday School, you can ask if they have a favorite story from class. Let them guide the direction of your family reading time together.
- **Pick a theme.** Try the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 or Jesus' seven "I Am" statements in the book of John. Find verses that relate to a theme your family wants to explore.
- **Follow a premade Bible reading plan**, like [Kids Corner's The Bible in One Year Plan](#).

Wherever you choose to begin, be confident that God's Word will accomplish his purpose for your family: *"Rain and snow fall from the sky. But they don't return without watering the earth that produces seeds to plant and grain to eat. That's how it is with my words. They don't return to me without doing everything I send them to do"* (Isaiah 55:10-11).



3. Read the Bible Together

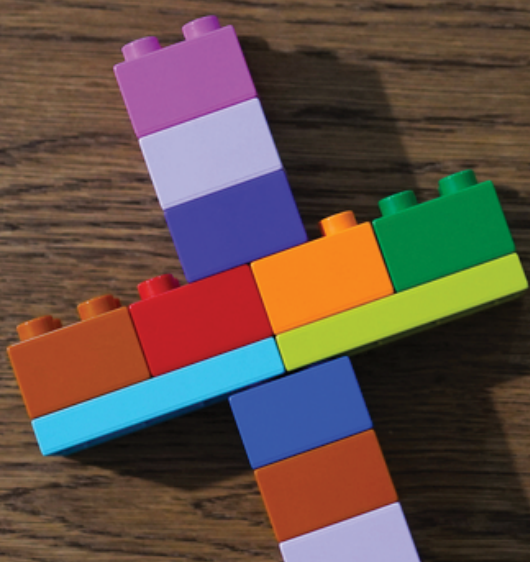
Make your family Bible reading a collaborative activity. When your kids can help take the lead in devotion time, they will be more excited and interested in participating.

- **Keep it simple.** At least at the start. For at least five minutes, read a Bible passage, discuss it, and then pray. You can also do other fun, age-appropriate activities too!
 - **Invite everyone** to ask questions for the family to talk about. “What do you think the story is about?” “What’s God doing in this passage?” “Why do you think this chapter is important?” “Do you like this verse?”
 - **As a family,** make notes in the margins that you will come back to or come across again. Use bookmarks.
- **Encourage kids** to be creative with the text. They can draw a picture or build a Lego scene as you read. Imagine Noah’s Ark artwork or a Lego Palm Sunday parade!
 - **Make sure** to hit one main takeaway idea each time. Keep the idea simple enough that you and the kids can repeat what they learned in one sentence. Kids learn through repetition. Return to the idea several times throughout the week, using Post-it notes on the bathroom mirror, in kids’ lunch boxes, or as a Bible bookmark.



Do not conform to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2



4. Look for Relevance

Whatever our age, we want the Bible to apply to our daily lives. Talk about the struggles and victories that God's people face in the biblical stories. How do they relate to what's going on in your family today? With something a child is dealing with? Share your own faith stories and what you saw God do in those situations. Did you see a biblical promise fulfilled? Reading God's Word together is about growing as disciples of Jesus and learning how to follow him.

Hold tight to the teachable moments. Relate the Scriptures to real life events that are happening here and now. For example, when you read about The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), ask your kids how they've helped others recently. Talk about the Bible and encourage children to share their thoughts. Apply what you are reading together and find practical ways to enable children to live what they learn.

5. Find the Fun

Enjoy studying God's Word together. Find ways to make the Bible come alive for your kids. Laugh and joke around together. Share creative ideas. Kids learn better with play. Tell funny stories about yourself. Positive attitudes can set a good tone.



If you have a gift for drama, read the Bible with expression, excitement, and wonder. Kids will remember when Dad used a deep Moses voice and commanded the waters to part.



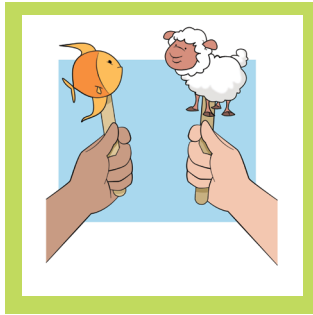
Play a Bible quiz game online, as a board game, or from a quiz book.



For those children who can't sit still, give them a Bible story role and let them act it out. No one will ever forget when Mom danced like Miriam (maybe even with a tambourine)!



Dress up. Use old ties, tea towels, and bathrobes to make creative costumes, like shepherd's garb or armor.



Use finger puppets, **popsicle stick puppets**, or sock puppets!



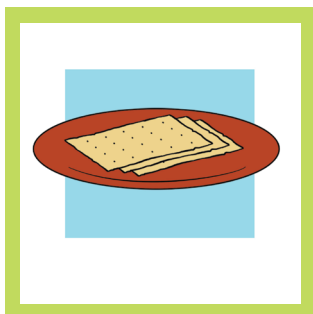
Singing the Bible can be a great way to put the truth of God's Word into our hearts and minds. Lots of favorite hymns and new worship songs are based on the Psalms and other Scriptures.



Memorize a verse together as a family. Celebrate the accomplishment when everyone can recite a verse together. These words tucked into our hearts can come back to bless us when we need it (Psalm 119:11). Pick a favorite verse to start memorizing like John 3:16 or Psalm 100. Encourage each other as you learn together!



Create wall art of your family verse or your child's favorite Bible verse.



Eat foods that biblical characters would've eaten (for example have matzos when reading about Jesus and his disciples in Luke 22).



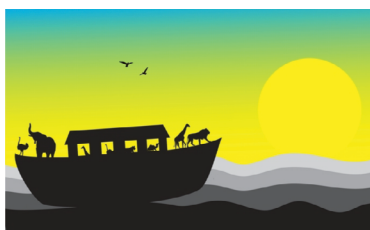
6. Find Resources

In today's technological world, there are so many great resources to help you in establishing a routine of Bible reading.

Kids love their screens. Make sure they have an on-screen Bible that is easy to access and intuitive to use. On your child's phone or tablet, download a Bible app like the **Kids Corner App**, **Bible App for Kids**, Bible Gateway, or the Bible translation of your choice. Check out **The Bible Project**. Our *Kids Corner* ministry has **DIY Activities**, an online video **Bible study**, and immersive **audio Bible Studies** that retell the great stories of the Bible!



DIY Activities



Audio Bible Studies



Video Bible Study



Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

7. Find a Bible Storybook or Devotional

Children's storybooks help tell Bible stories at an appropriate reading level. Start reading these books to your kids early not only to tell the Bible's message, but also to develop language skills and a love for reading.

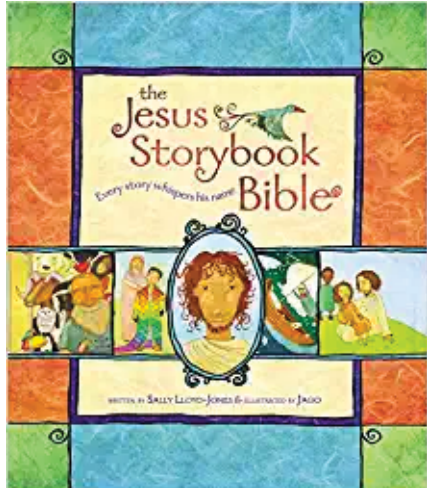
On one day, read a Bible story book version. The next day, read the Bible story directly from Scripture. Talk about the new things you learned from each version.

Turn each page together and see the wonderful artwork and illustrations. These books feature pictures of everyday relatable kids making godly choices, trusting God, and serving others. Read the lessons that begin conversations about the Bible stories and add to the wondering that can happen. When reading these illustrated Bible stories and devotions, we can develop our child's faith and love for Scripture.



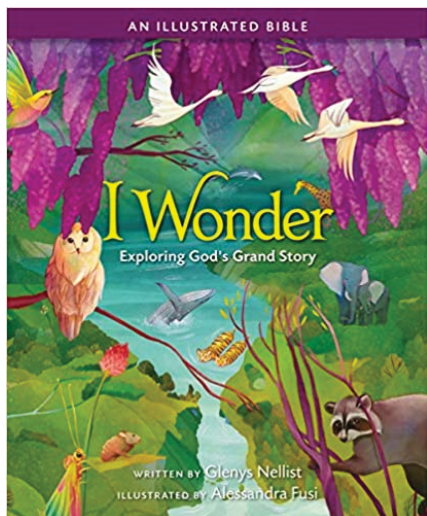
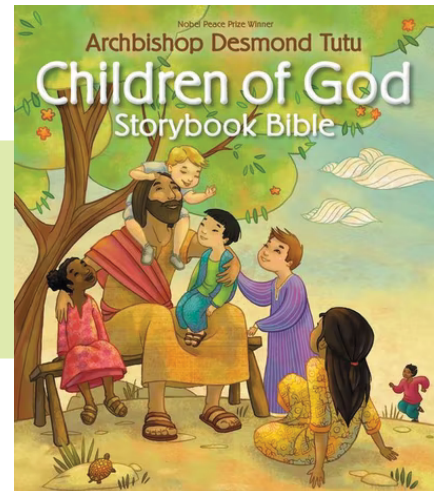
When choosing a storybook Bible to share, look for illustrations that correctly reflect the skin tones of the people of that time and place. Review the additional illustrations for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Great ones to look for are [The Book of Belonging](#) by Mariko Clark and [God's Colorful Kingdom Storybook Bible: The Story of God's Big Diverse Family](#) by Esau McCaulley.

Check out these Bible storybooks:



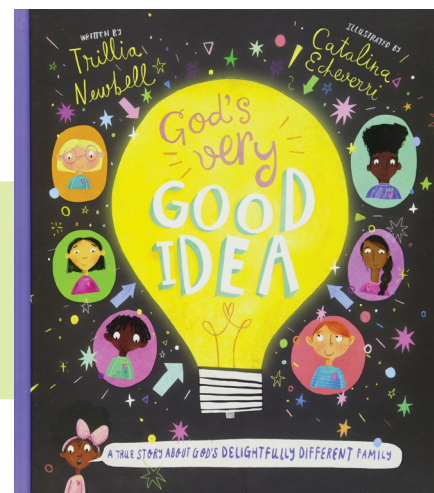
The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name written by Sally Lloyd-Jones; illustrated by Jago. Ages 4 and up.

Children of God Storybook Bible written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu; illustrated by various artists. Ages 4 to 8.



I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story: an Illustrated Bible written by Glenys Nellist; illustrated by Alessandra Fusi. Ages 4 to 8.

Tales that Tell the Truth A 14 story book collection written by various authors and illustrated by Catalina Echeverri. Ages 3-6

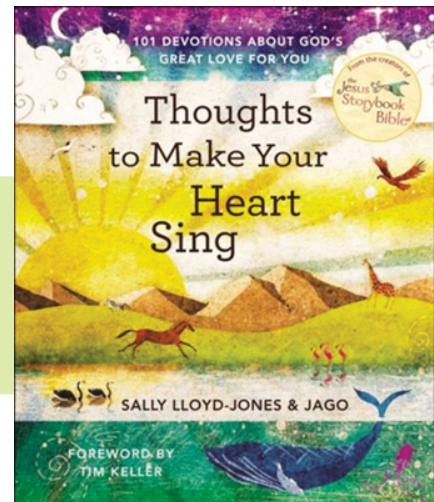


Consider these devotionals:



Kids Corner Weekly Devotions an online devotional which includes a weekly Bible message, readings, and prayer. Ages 6-10.

Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing by Sally Lloyd-Jones; illustrated by Jago. Ages 6-10.



"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9

An illustration of a woman with dark, curly hair and a purple shirt, holding a green book. A young girl with dark hair and a red headband is smiling and looking at the book. The background is a simple landscape with a blue sky and a green field.

Section Three: Studying the Bible

Want to take a deeper dive into God’s Word with your family? A Bible study gives you extra time and focus to zero in on the significance of specific passages. Invite family members to linger, discuss, and ask deep questions about what they are reading in the Bible. A Bible study provides great teachable moments.

Drill down on the meaning of the text. Reread passages, break down particular words and phrases and talk about what God is saying. Ask you children if they have questions about what specific words or phrases mean, and talk about the definitions together. Ask questions like “What does this word mean?” “What’s the history behind this story?” “How does this apply to our lives?”

A simple format for Bible study is to work through these five questions to help you unpack scriptural understanding for your children.

1. When and Where is the Story Happening?

Since the Bible was written thousands of years ago, in a far away place, and in an unfamiliar culture, we need to try to understand what life was like back then.

- **Use a Bible map** to find where events happened and see how the landscape shaped events.
- **Wonder together** what this passage meant to the people it was written for. What did God want them to understand? Does it still apply?
- **Talk about** what things were like for people in biblical times. How did people live? What work did they do? What was the culture like? How were the people governed?
- **What other world** events shape the story? For example, in Daniel it helps to understand that virtually the entire nation of Israel had been exiled to Babylon or that during the New Testament period, the Romans ruled in Israel.
- **Use a Bible commentary** to help you understand confusing texts.

2. What's the Writing Style?

The books of the Bible appear in many different writing styles and formats. When we know the style of a book, it helps us understand the original purpose of a passage.

- **Historical narratives** of events that actually happened (examples include parts of Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Esther, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts).
- **Biblical law** outlines God's commands to his people (Leviticus, parts of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy).
- **Biblical poetry and song** lyrics (Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and several OT narratives)

- **Wisdom literature** shows the collected wisdom of godly people (Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes).
- **Prophetic literature** called God's people to repentance for their sins and proclaimed both God's judgment and the hope he gives to his people (some of these include Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel).
- **Apocalyptic literature** contains visions from God concerning the end of the present evil age and the final coming of God's kingdom (Parts of Isaiah, Daniel, and Revelation are good examples).
- **Letters sent** to far away friends (for example, Paul's letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians).
- **Fictional parables** were stories designed to teach a lesson (for example, the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37).



Now follow the example of the correct teaching I gave you, and let the faith and love of Christ Jesus be your model.

2 Timothy 1: 13



The word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12



3. What Words are Used in the Passage?

Word choices matter in the Bible, and sometimes English translations don't communicate the full meaning of words in the original languages. Check more than one translation to unpack a particular passage. This can help identify key themes. A Bible commentary can bring clarity to a verse's original language and meaning, and put the emphasis in the right place.

4. Where is This Text in God's Big Story?

Use this principle: when one passage deals with a topic, we can't fully understand it without considering all the passages that deal with the same topic. For example, if one verse talks about giving or tithing, it's helpful to see how tithing is treated throughout the Old and New Testaments.

You can also consider the context of the verse in Scripture—what is the bigger story surrounding that verse? These big picture questions help us place a passage in its wider context within God's Big Story.

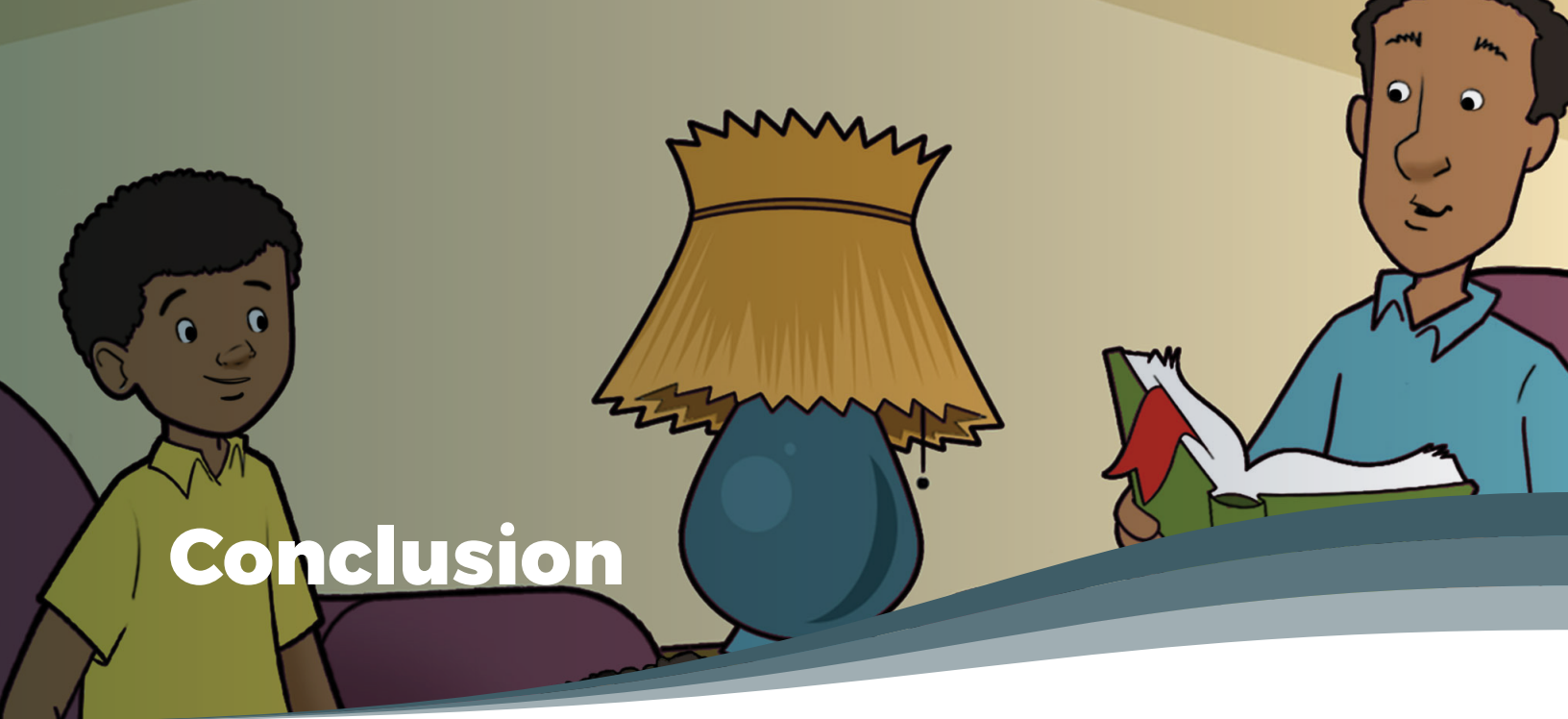
5. *What is the Holy Spirit Saying Here?*

Scripture is God's Word. The Holy Spirit speaks directly to our hearts through it.

The Holy Spirit does many things in our lives including helping us to remember and understand what Jesus taught on this earth (John 14:26). The Spirit helps us know the difference between right and wrong (John 16:7-8) to guide us to live with wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:10-11) and discover what is true (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit comforts us in our sadness and even helps us to pray when we are having a hard time (Romans 8:26-27). The Spirit shapes us to be more like Jesus by creating gifts within us that can bless others (Galatians 5:22-25).

Before reading the Bible, ask in prayer that the Holy Spirit make God's Word easy for you to understand. Read the words, and have your heart moved by what you're reading. Listen for God's voice as you read. That's the whole point of reading the Scriptures!

These five questions will help us read the Bible well. When we have a clearer idea of what a passage meant to its original audience, we can hear more clearly what God is saying to us today. May the Holy Spirit give your family ears to hear and eyes to see God's Word at work in your life.



Conclusion

We are praying that the ideas in this book help you support your child's wonderings about the Bible. When parents make space and take time to read the Bible with their children, everyone is blessed.

We can be encouraged by Jesus' words in John 14:26, "But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you." As your family reads God's words and Jesus' words, you'll partner with the Holy Spirit who will remind you of everything that you read when you need it.

As Elizabeth Caldwell says, "**Our hope in reading the Bible with children is that its stories will grow with them so that reading and hearing the Bible becomes more than just gaining information.**" Our parental goal is for our children to grow up and mature in Jesus Christ. They do that when they know the Bible but also come to love the Bible.

Thanks for engaging with our materials and sharing Bible reading practices in your family.



Ron Vandenburg
Senior Producer of *Kids Corner*

KIDS CORNER



THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR PLAN

Here's how it works:

KC's Bible reading plan is a 52 week guided plan designed especially for children and their parents that can be started at any time! This plan includes a Bible passage and a link to KC's Bible Stories podcast and discussion guide.

Discover God's big story to save his people. Meet the real people in the Bible and learn how God called them to their roles in his rescue plan. Use the weekly system to read through the Bible together in one year!

OLD TESTAMENT

Find the best way that this plan can work for your family. Do one step each day of the week or dedicate some focused time.

Week 1 Week 4



- 1 Post** this reading plan where everyone in the family will see it. The fridge is a good place.
- 2 Listen** to the week's KC Bible Story podcast as an introduction to the Bible story. <https://kidscorner.net/bible-stories/>
- 3 Discuss** the week's KC Bible Stories discussion guide, do the quiz together, and work through the reflection and weekly challenge.
- 4 Read** the Bible passage for the week. The next day, read a Bible story book version. Talk about the new things you learned from each version.



Discover God's big story to save his people. Meet the real people in the Bible and learn how God gave each a role in his rescue plan.

A 52-week guided Bible reading plan designed especially for families, featuring the *Kids Corner* audio Bible Stories podcast and God's amazing Word.

Start at any time and use the reading plan to read and listen through the Bible together in one year!

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**ReFrame
Ministries**

God's Story. Today's Media.

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Edited by Christopher Hunt, Rachel Syens.

Special thanks to Trudy Ash.

Design and layout by: Five Q

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