

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional about your child's spiritual growth in the coming year?

- ☐ Pray daily *with* and *for* my child.
- ☐ Spend consistent time in God's Word with my child(ren).
- ☐ Offer a daily blessing to my child.
- ☐ Plan regular family time.
- ☐ Write a Prayer Plan for your family.
- ☐ Other _____

The next step on the Faith Path is Worship, recommended for fourth graders. After reading the Bible, the hope is that children will want to praise God for His Word. When our eyes are opened to God's promises, we can't help but worship and praise Him daily. When children are taught not how to praise but Whom to praise, they will want to praise!

ADDITIONAL READING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Very Best, Hands-On, Kinda Dangerous Family Devotions by Tim Shoemaker

Long Story Short: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God by Marty Machowski

The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever New by Marty Machowski

Telling God's Story: A Parents' Guide to Teaching the Bible by Peter Enns

What Does the Bible Say About That? by Carolyn Larson

Seeds Family Worship Scripture Songs from seedsfamilyworship.com

Parenting With Scripture by Kara Durbin

What the Bible Is All About Bible Handbook for Kids by Frances Blankenbaker

Bible Project Series on YouTube.com



BIBLE

RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 7+

The Bible is the living, breathing Word of God. As 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." As a parent, you have the privilege and responsibility to instill a love for God's Word in your children. This doesn't happen overnight; it requires intentional effort and consistent modeling throughout your relationship. By prioritizing Scripture in your own life and family routines, you can help your children build the essential lifelong habit of engaging with God's Word.

In the previous milestone, you focused on developing a daily prayer habit, learning to communicate with God in heartfelt and meaningful ways. Now, we turn to the discipline of daily Bible reading, which deepens our understanding of God's will and character. This discipline reveals His nature, guiding us in decision-making, even when the Bible is silent on specific cultural issues. As Psalm 119:105 reminds us, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Knowing Him allows us to develop applications based on His principles. As you practice and teach this discipline, you'll also prepare for the next one: living out genuine daily worship, where God's Word and prayer overflow into every area of your life.

MAKE IT A PRIORITY

Understanding and applying God's Word requires dedication. Begin by demonstrating its importance in your own life. Let your children see you reading and relying on the Bible for guidance. Talk about what you are learning and studying. Make your home a place where it is natural to share what God is teaching you.

Set a family goal for what you want to learn together and take the first step. Show your children that, even as an adult, you're still growing in your



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faith and knowledge of Scripture. As James 1:22 says, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

A church family wants to partner with families in this journey, so children develop a deep love for God’s Word and a personal desire to read it.

OVERCOMING THE AWKWARD START

Starting a family Bible reading habit may feel awkward at first, especially if it’s new. But remember, the enemy loves to use discomfort to discourage us. Push through the awkwardness, and it will soon become a natural part of your family rhythm.

For example, one family began meeting in the living room every evening. They turned off the TV, put away their phones, and focused on reading and praying together. It wasn’t easy at first, but over time, it became something they all looked forward to. In fact, the kids began reminding their parents when it was time to sit down and pray.

Not only will you learn more about God and His nature, but you’ll also learn more about your family. It will strengthen your leadership and deep-en relationships. If you miss a day, don’t let that discourage you. What matters most is consistency over time.

WHAT CAN GOD’S WORD DO FOR YOUR FAMILY?

The Bible is a powerful and living guide for every aspect of life. When you or your children face challenges, turn to Scripture for direction. As Hebrews 4:12 declares, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

The Bible is filled with promises about its power to transform, guide, and equip us. Here are some additional Scriptures that highlight the effectiveness of God’s Word in our lives:

- **Guidance and Wisdom:** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).
- **Strength and Encouragement:** “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).
- **Purification and Holiness:** “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word” (Psalm 119:9).

- **Success and Prosperity:** “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:8).
- **Equipping for Good Works:** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).
- **Protection Against Sin:** “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11).
- **Renewal of the Mind:** “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).
- **Peace and Stability:** “Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble” (Psalm 119:165).
- **Fruitfulness and Growth:** “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers” (Psalm 1:1–3).
- **Healing and Restoration:** “He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction” (Psalm 107:20).

Share stories from the Bible that illustrate how God helped imperfect people navigate difficult situations. Many examples show God using ordinary, flawed people for extraordinary purposes. The same God who worked in their lives is active in ours today.

RELYING ON GOD’S WORD

Demonstrate the Bible’s value by keeping it visible and well-used in your home. Model what it means to study Scripture and let your children see how it shapes your decisions. Be honest when faced with questions you don’t know the answer to. Take those opportunities to learn together as a family, showing that growing in faith is a lifelong process.

By practicing both prayer and Bible reading, your family will be prepared to move into the next spiritual discipline: genuine daily worship, where prayer and Scripture lead to praising God in every area of life.