



# 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

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 deepen 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.

## FAITH PATH PLAN

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](http://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](http://YouTube.com)



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# ENGAGING THE BIBLE

## PRACTICAL STEPS TO GET STARTED

**Choose a Bible.** Help your children pick a Bible they can call their own. Consider their age and reading level to ensure it is accessible and engaging. As a church, we use the ESV. It is a readable yet word-for-word translation. While it may be challenging for small children, parental guidance helps them engage and understand more deeply. Remember, the best version of the Bible is the one you will read with diligence and obedience.

**Set a Family Bible Time.** Establish a specific time each day to read and discuss Scripture together. Whether it's after dinner or before bed, consistency is key.

**Adopt a Family Verse.** Select a verse that resonates with your family and serves as a daily reminder of your faith. Write it down and display it in visible places like the fridge, bathroom mirror, or car. Rotate through verses for memory. After moving to a new one, circle back to previously memorized verses to ensure they are not forgotten.

**Embrace Questions.** When your child asks a tough question, don't shy away. If you don't know the answer, admit it and promise to find out. This models humility and a teachable spirit.

**Pray and Seek Scripture Together.** When making decisions, involve your family in prayer and look for guidance in the Bible. Share how specific verses apply to your situation and celebrate when God answers prayers.

**Make Sure You Value Sunday Morning Bible Studies.** While devotions at home are essential, the value of growing in a faith community only enhances what happens at home.

**Use Additional Resources.** Leverage tools like devotionals, Bible storybooks, videos, or songs (Seeds Family Worship is a great choice) to make Scripture more engaging and relatable.

## FUN ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

**Verse Cards:** Write verses on index cards and place them around your home or car for daily reminders.

**Foundational Verses:** Encourage your family to memorize key passages such as John 3:16, Philippians 4:13, Matthew 6:9–13, and Psalm 23.

**Family Devotionals:** Choose a devotional to read together as a family or individually.

**Daily Prayer and Reflection:** Set aside time each day—whether at breakfast, bedtime, or another moment—to pray and talk about God's Word.

By combining the disciplines of prayer and Bible reading, your family will build a strong spiritual foundation that naturally leads to a lifestyle of daily worship. These habits will help your children grow in their faith and create a legacy of seeking and glorifying God as a family.