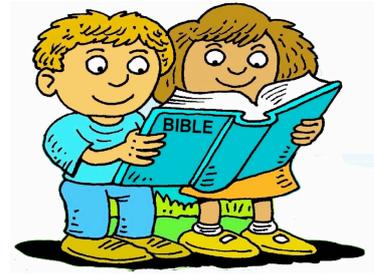


Ideas on how to use the Bible in your family

Using the Bible in the flow of everyday life...

Have a topical Bible or an easy to use concordance and use these to find out what the Bible says about issues or topics as they come up in everyday life. This will role model and establish good habits of turning to the Bible for guidance. You can buy 'God's Promises for Boys' or 'God's Promises For Girls' from Book Depository for about \$10. There are also smaller versions of these which you can download eg at www.truthforkids.com.



Have Bible verses displayed in your house... and change them regularly. Good places are the toilet, fridge, beside the bed, in the bathroom or on the dining room table. Display the memory verses from children's ministry.

Flip charts of Bible verses are good for use at breakfast or dinner. The ones in your pack come from www.icanteachmychild.com. And you can find others at www.adventurebible.com.

Make the most of technology. Have Bible verses sent to your computer or phone and read them to your family when you see them.

Do your children see you reading the Bible? Share with them what you have been reading and what you think God may have been saying to you. Dinner time is a good time for this.

Include a Bible story when you read to your children before bed or any other time. Maybe try to read a story from the Bible several times a week if you find everyday too difficult. Reading them the story they heard on Sunday in Children's Ministry is a great way to reinforce what they are learning at church.

Make use of video Bible stories or audio Bibles. Phil Vischer's 'What's in the Bible' is great for teaching older children the Big God Story and teaching them about Bible history in an age appropriate way. The Jesus Storybook Bible has an audio version. Music CDs which put scripture into songs is another great way to expose children to God's Word.



Buy your child a good age-appropriate Bible that they can start to use themselves. You can also encourage your child to do their own devotions or quiet times. There are resources for this online. For example:

www.truthforkids.com. (This also has resources to help you teach your children the books of the Bible, a printable mini-Bible with topical verses and a template for creating a Bible verse puzzle.)

www.adventurebible.com (This has online Bible games plus verses and devotions you can print)

The author of the Jesus Storybook Bible has just released a devotional book called 'Thoughts to Make your Heart Sing.' This looks very good and would make a lovely Christmas present.

Family Devotions

These are more organised, formal ways of reading the Bible as a family and discussing or doing activities which help our children understand the passage and how it applies to our life. There are many free resources on the internet...too many to list here. If you do a Google search on Bible devotions or 'using the Bible with children' you will find many websites.

For a New Zealand resource check out the Faith Box by Mary Grant and Nicky Watson.

Another good Bible reading guide is 'God's Amazing Plan' from Scripture Union. This teaches children to see the big story of God and how it is all connected. There is a copy of this in your pack... we hope you find this a useful resource.

