

IT BEGINS WITH YOU

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

TAKE ACTION

Your child's faith begins with your faith. So, we encourage you to let God equip you for life as a parent by spending time in his Word on your own. While many people choose to begin their day with reading scripture, some find time over lunch, or even before bed. There are many devotional guides that can be used. If you need help picking one out, just ask a member of our staff. We also recommend the devotional journals that coincide with our weekend services. They're great for applying our weekly messages to daily life. Allowing God to speak truth into your life will not only build a strong foundation for your life, but will help you build a strong foundation for your child, as well.

PRAYER

God, help me build a regular rhythm of Bible reading and spiritual growth in my own life, then captivate my child's heart with the richness of your Word, as well. Fill our home with joy as my child learns that God knows me, God loves me, and God leads me. Shape my heart's posture to be one of excitement to share your truths with him/her as we have fun learning and engaging the Bible together. Amen.



MOUNTAINPARK
CHURCH

PARENTING MATTERS

READING THE BIBLE

— BIRTH - PRESCHOOL —

YOUR CHILD'S LIFE

During these early and formative years, your child is filled with curiosity, adventure, and questions which makes this the best time to begin sharing the greatest story they will ever know! By setting aside regular time to read the Bible and bring it to life through interactive play, music, and reading, you will not only teach about God's love but also build a solid foundation for your child's faith.

YOU WIN AS A PARENT WHEN YOU

KNOW:

Regularly reading stories from a children's Bible promotes brain growth, emotional empathy, and mental processing. Furthermore, the conversations that come from reading the Bible together not only shape their spiritual maturity and character development, but also foster your child's emotional bond with you and God.

EXPECT:

During this phase your child is experiencing a lot of change. Expect your little one to need structure and consistency. Repetition is a source of stability, so expect your child to have favorite stories they want to hear over and over. And remember, they can be very imaginative so let them have fun with the story.

PREPARE:

Purchase a storybook Bible with visually captivating pictures and rhyming stories to read with them. The Internet and Pinterest hold lots of inspiring ideas for follow up activities. Choose a scripture and pick a song to practice regularly. We recommend the monthly verses and songs we teach at church. Ask a member of our staff about how to maximize your family's daily rhythms using our church's Parent Cues.

TALK:

Frequently refer back to what you've learned in your conversations through the day. Try to connect every story to one of these three big ideas: God knows me. God loves me. God leads me. Ask lots of follow up questions. Never shame your child for forgetting an answer, not understanding a concept, or for questioning it. Practice your verse together daily to help your child hide God's Word in their heart.

PRACTICAL IDEAS

READ - Incorporate Bible stories into your routines around bedtime, naptime, or playtime. Point to the words and pictures as you read them. Use different voices, animal noises, activities, role play, and Bible songs. Invite your child to say key words and identify people with you.

MEMORIZE - Develop a routine where you learn and practice Bible verses together. We recommend one verse each month. If you'd like, you can use the same verse we do at church. Make memorizing fun by singing a song and/or using hand motions.

PRAY - Bring the Bible to life through coloring pages, arts and craft projects, dramatic and sensory play, and by using Bible-inspired toys such as the Fisher-Price World of Little People Noah's Ark or Nativity. Search Etsy or Amazon for "Bible toys," "christian toys," or "Bible action figures."

PLAY - With your child, thank God for giving us the gift of the Bible and pray that God would help you learn from the story and apply the topic to your lives.

RESOURCES

> Bibles

- The Rhyme Bible Storybook for Little Ones by L. J. Sattgast
- The Beginners Bible by Zondervan
- Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- My First Hands On Bible by Group Publishing
- The Big Book of Bible Stories for Toddlers by BH Publishing

> Apps

- Bible App for Kids from Life.Church
- Parent Cue App from Orange (the reThink Group). This app connects with the curriculum we use at church every Sunday.