

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 will get excited about the things you're excited about. Show a genuine love for reading the Bible together (not fake, they can tell the difference). Your child will take their conversational cues from you, as well. If you cultivate a culture of shame and criticism, they will not come to you with questions about the Bible nor with problems and personal struggles. If you take a posture of peace, grace, and compassion, your child will feel safe enough to come to you with anything. Think about the childhood conversations you had with your parents or other adults about the Bible, faith, problems, and personal struggles and how they shaped who you are today. Then ask God to help you continue your healthy habits, and to change the ones that are unhealthy.

PRAYER

God, first show me the joy and wonder of your Word working in my life. Plant it deeply in my heart so that joyful and obedient living will grow from it. Then, Lord, help me cultivate that same joy, wonder, and obedience my child's heart. Guide our reading times together and lead our conversations. Help me cultivate a culture of conversation in my family—filling our home with peace, grace, and compassion. Remind my child everyday that they can come to me with anything and that my love, like your love, is unconditional. Amen.



MOUNTAINPARK
CHURCH

PARENTING MATTERS

READING THE BIBLE

— KINDERGARTEN - 3RD GRADE —

YOUR CHILD'S LIFE

Your child's world is expanding through experiences at school, extracurricular activities, and by forming unique friendships. With this comes understanding that the truth of the Bible is one not everyone knows or believes. So, the role you play as a parent, consistently teaching biblical truth and providing loving guidance, is critical in developing your child's faith. Be intentional about cultivating a love of God's Word through creativity and by being in community with others.

YOU WIN AS A PARENT WHEN YOU

KNOW:

Having fun releases dopamine which causes our brains to hit the “save” button for remembering an experience or new information. Science experiments, STEM challenges, and games help make learning new stories or concepts fun. Making the Bible relevant to their lives will heighten their interest. Helping them understand that the Bible is one big story creates the “what happens next” intrigue.

EXPECT:

Kids at this age are concrete thinkers and visual learners. Younger kids are ready for more detail and can understand the consequences of poor choices. Older kids are becoming more curious about how things work or fit into the biblical story (like dinosaurs and aliens). They are both likely to follow your example, so you can expect them to model your own Bible reading habits.

PREPARE:

Select an age appropriate Bible for your child. There are many options. The next page has a few recommendations. Put some time into making a reading plan. Read along with what they are learning at church, or create a plan of your own. Set some goals together with your child so they have ownership in reaching that goal. Preview each story so you can anticipate possible questions.

TALK:

Cultivate a culture of conversation in your family. Explain metaphors, concepts, parables, and meanings. Be careful not to refer to people in the Bible as “characters” but “people.” Kids tend to think of “characters” as being fictional. Try to connect every story to one of these three big ideas: Trust God. Choose Wisely. Love Others.

PRACTICAL IDEAS

READ - Generally, NIV or NLT Bibles are going to be easier for kids to understand. The Gospels can be a good place to start reading. Let them know it is okay to write in their Bibles. Put a star by their favorite stories and underline things that are important. Write notes in the margins about any thoughts they have.

MEMORIZE - Continue to learn and regularly practice at least one Bible verse each month. You can use the same verse we do at church. Make memorizing fun by singing a song and/or using hand motions.

PLAY - Looking at maps of where places in the Bible are today, timelines, etc. helps kids understand the stories are real. Looking up simple object lessons you can do at home is a good way to bring the Bible to life in a visual and real way.

PRAY - Devotionals targeted for your child’s age are a great place for them to record prayers, God sightings, questions, and any other reflections. Praying together on a daily basis helps your child build comfort in talking with God.

RESOURCES

> Bibles

The Adventure Bible
The Hands On Bible
The Action Bible

> Apps

Bible App for Kids
Parent Cue App

> Bible Handbooks

The Radical Book for Kids, Thornton
The Ology, Machowski
The Biggest Story, Deyoung
What the Bible is All About, Blankenbaker
Bible Handbook for Kids, Gospel Light
The Good Book for Kids, Bergen
Bible Infographics for Kids, Harvest

> Websites

Superbook Kids Bible by the Christian Broadcasting Network
Kidsreadtruth.com