

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 high schooler will be navigating complicated issues. You need to walk with them. Find ways to grow in your own understanding of what God teaches about about complex issues such as evil and suffering, gender and sexuality, politics and global affairs. You should be having these conversations with them before they leave your home. Model your dependence on scripture as the only perfect guide for our convictions and morality. And remember, fight for the relationship, not to be right.

PRAYER

God, develop within me a rich understanding of your Word and the complicated issues of our world. Inspire me and challenge me each day. Then, guide me as I help my high schooler engage in your Word on their own to foster a genuine relationship with you and a mature understanding of your truth. Help me navigate the difficult questions and complicated issues and conversations in a healthy way. Surround them with other godly men and women they can trust who love your Word. In the midst of all this, help me to continue developing a culture of conversation in my family—maintaining a posture of peace and confidence along with grace and compassion so that my high schooler feels safe enough to come to me, and to always trust you, with anything.
Amen.



MOUNTAINPARK
CHURCH

PARENTING MATTERS

READING THE BIBLE

— HIGH SCHOOL —

YOUR HIGH SCHOOLER'S LIFE

Your High Schooler values friends and freedom and is ready to explore truth and transitions as they look at the significant changes ahead. During these years, they're ready to move from reading stories and verses to analyzing the bible's teachings, deciding what they believe, and putting it to action. Their experiences and observations of the world may cause them to reconsider what they see in the bible. It's also an opportunity to discover the role they can play in the continuation of God's story today and in the future.

YOU WIN AS A PARENT WHEN YOU

KNOW:

High Schoolers are capable of grappling with more complex issues, retain and organize more information, and reflect on their own beliefs and perspectives. They can be more observant of the world around them and engage social and political issues. As they wrestle with some difficult issues, a personal feeling of connecting with God will keep them motivated to engage with Scripture.

EXPECT:

Their new mental capabilities may lead them to overly romanticize their ideas without nuance or the ability to contextualize. They're increasingly aware of global issues and may become more and more critical of the adult world. Because friends and freedom are so important, your time with them will decrease but your influence is still the most significant.

PREPARE:

Pay close attention to what they're learning and talking about at school so you can enter into more significant conversations when possible. Find resources to help them think about difficult issues like evil and suffering, gender and sexuality, politics and global affairs. Find a devotional that connects with their personal life and helps them grow closer to God when dealing with common issues like friendship, acceptance, loneliness, relationships, and stress.

TALK:

Continue to cultivate a culture of conversation by fighting for the relationship, not to be right. You may have debates and they may assert ideas that are different from yours. Asking them what they think and what the bible says will help them process and learn. Remember they're just exploring their beliefs so it's more important to win the relationship than to win a debate. Share your ideas and conclusions but do so with humility and care.

PRACTICAL IDEAS

READ - First, make sure they have a good readable, life application bible to use. Encourage them to read or study the Bible for 15 - 30 minutes each day.

Encourage your high schooler to download the Bible App - YouVersion, choose a reading plan, and find some friends to do it with them to hold each other accountable.

Encourage them to download the Read Scripture App from the Bible Project. It's full of hand-illustrated contextual videos that explain the scripture.

ENGAGE - Start a family challenge such as memorizing with the Topical Memory System from the Navigators, or the Beatitudes, or Psalm 23. Read and discuss a Proverb a day. Pray through the Psalms. Read through the Bible together in a year.

RELATE - Schedule a regular coffee or burger date. Ask what they think about particular issues and explore with them what the Bible says. Don't always give your answer. Leave space to dialogue. Connect the significance of their story to God's story - their vocation and call is a reflection of God's purposes on earth as displayed through Biblical stories.

Go on a Bible Hike a hike while listening to the audio reading of a Psalm and talking about it at the top or reading a passage together at the top of hike. As a family identify which Bible character you think each of you are most like and why?

RESOURCES

> Bibles & Books

NIV Life Application Bible by Zondervan
The Jesus Bible by Zondervan
She Reads Truth Bible by Holman
The Mission of the Body of Christ by Russ Ramsey
This is the Gospel by She and He Reads Truth

> Apps

Bible App-YouVersion by Life.Church
Read Scripture by The Bible Project
Daily Audio Bible App
Blue Letter Bible App

> Websites

TheBibleProject.com or YouTube channel