

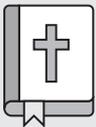
PARENTING *resources.*

PARENTING MATTERS: SPIRITUAL MILESTONES

THE BIBLE

LIFE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE...

...navigating through a maze. The Bible can take on so many functions throughout your child's journey. It's a storybook and a roadmap, an encourager and a challenge, a textbook and a refuge. As your child grows, they need you to teach them how to engage with God's word in new and relevant ways, and how to navigate their struggle and doubt. This milestone is about leaning on God's powerful and beautiful word during each and every phase.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the most tangible connection we have to the character of God, the life of Jesus and the nature of the Holy Spirit. It is a collection of stories, poems, genealogies, and narratives that are inspired by God and written by his followers. The Bible helps us realize God's consistency and omniscience by resonating just as deeply now as it did when it was written. Engaging the Bible is about seeking God's truth, power, and love in the pages of the scripture he gave to us.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT IT?

Even when it was being written, the power and significance of the Bible was recognized. People knew that this wasn't just another book, that it truly was the word of God. You are called to let these words dwell with in you, to help you grow wise and to fill you with thanksgiving (Colossians 3:16). Scripture also tells us that these words are living and active, which means that they will always be powerful, no matter what (Hebrews 4:12-13). The first verse of John even hints that the word of God has existed since before creation, saying, "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God" (John 1:1). While the Bible itself has been around for years and years and years, these powerful, true, and instructional words have been part of God's gift to his people since before time even began.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT TO US?

There are many ways to grow close to God. Service, prayer, worship, and many other things that can be done to help understand who God is and how he works. However, there is only one thing that connects our current lives with the reality of the world in which Jesus existed. The Bible is the one thing that we can hold in our hands, we can study, we can journal, we can memorize, we can dwell in that articulates the words and stories that God himself wanted to be written. The Bible is significant because it is proof that, no matter how our world changes, God and his word are always the same.

ENGAGE YOUR FAITH BY...

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE AS A FAMILY

Spending time reading the Bible is incredibly important, and so is having scripture hidden in your heart and in your mind. Set yourself a family goal and work together to memorize scripture and reach your goal. Here are some phase specific ideas:

- **Preschoolers:** Choose simple verses with a clear point that kids will be able to recall easily. Select versions that are easy to remember, and focus more on getting the idea memorized than each individual word. Choose a goal such as family ice cream night, picnic dinner, or movie night. Try to select a verse and a goal that can be reached in about a month so that you keep your child's attention.
- **Elementary:** Select verses that focus on character traits. Start to be a little more strict on memorizing verses word for word, and make sure to include where it is found in the Bible. Set a goal like seeing a new movie in theaters, a pizza party with family friends, or a family fun day. When you decide how to reach your goal, include things like reading the Bible and saying the verse every day, praying at each meal, and doing a devotional together.
- **Middle School:** Pick verses that your student can relate to. This may mean choosing a different verse for each person in your family. If they struggle with anxiety or self worth, pick a verse accordingly, if they struggle with competition or failure, pick a verse that addresses that. Work on the practice of repeating that verse to themselves when they are confronted with their struggles. Set bigger goals with rewards that genuinely excite them. This may mean incentivizing things like new technology or something they've been wanting, a party with friends, or an experience they love.
- **High School:** Up the ante on what you memorize together. Try to memorize multiple verses, or even an entire chapter. Make it a contest to see who can memorize the most verses. Encourage your student to decide what verses they want to memorize and to display their favorites in places that they will see them regularly. Allow them a chance to decide on the family goals so that their ownership and buy in is higher.

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

PRAYER FOR PARENTS

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the Bible. Thank you for taking the time and the intention to inspire these words to be written. Thank you for this tangible, physical connection to who you are and what you do. Draw me closer to you through your word. Help me lead my family well as they learn your stories. Give me the wisdom to guide them through their questions and their ah-ha moments. Please put the right words, verses, stories, and knowledge in our lives to guide us through each day. Thank you for loving us through your word. Amen.

RESOURCES

Lifeway.com - Levels of Biblical Learning

Zondervan.com - How to Choose a Bible for Your Child

Jesus Storybook Bible

by Sally Lloyd-Jones

The Beginners Bible

by Kelly Pulley

The Adventure Bible

by Lawrence O. Richards

Life Application Study Bible

by Tyndale House Publishers



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