

IF YOU
WOULD LIKE
MORE
INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT
US!

Along with living the Christian life and prayer, reading the Bible to your children is one of the most important things you can do with them. Did you know that people whose lives are built on biblical principles are more productive, happier and lead more satisfied lives? The following is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to teaching the Bible to your child, but it is intended to stimulate your thinking—to get you started. Feel free to borrow some of these ideas or experiment on your own. The important thing is that you expose your children to God through His Word!



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HOW TO OPEN THE BIBLE WITH YOUR CHILD



WHERE DO I START? (THOUGHTS ON READING THE BIBLE)

Infants

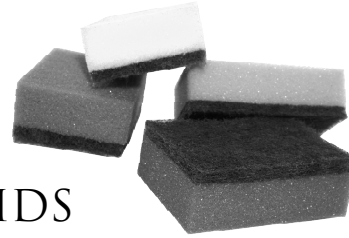
It is never too early to begin reading the Bible to your children. They may not understand a lot, but they will begin to identify the names 'God' and 'Jesus' and how important those names are to mommy and daddy.

Preschoolers

When children get into the preschool years, I recommend having times of reading the Bible together as a family. You can do this daily, reading from a children's Bible or from short snippets of an adult Bible.

Elementary

I encourage families to start considering a 'family night' where mom and dad plan to read a Bible story and play games (illustrating something from the story—God's character, a truth or a promise) together. When your child gets a little bit older, let him or her help you plan the evening.



OUR KIDS ARE SPONGES! (THOUGHTS ON BIBLE MEMORIZATION)

Spaced Repetition

A great way to memorize verses from the Bible is to do it around the dinner table. Make this time fun—"Does anybody remember the verse-of-the-week?" You may need to do a verse of the month, depending on the age of your children. Don't be surprised if your little one knows the verse before you! You will find it helpful to set aside an hour or two to select the verses for the month or next six months.

Strategic Entertainment

Kids of all ages enjoy listening to music in the car. Why not choose songs that put to music the words of the Bible? Our children are like sponges; they can and will absorb every song or lyric they hear. Expose them to something of infinite value! Videos can also help children understand basic biblical concepts.

ASK THE EXPERT

(SOME EXCELLENT RESOURCES)

Books/magazines that help you open the Bible with your kids:

- *Christian Parenting Today*—Christianity Today publication.
- *Heritage Builders series*—Focus on the Family
- *Let's Hide the Word*—Gloria Gaither & Shirley Dobson
- *Shepherding your Child's Heart*—Tedd Tripp
- *The Spiritual Growth of Children*—Focus on the Family
- *Spiritual Nurturing*—Darlene Carpenter

Entertainment that nourishes the soul:

- *The Chronicles of Narnia*—C.S. Lewis (book, elementary age)
- "Hide 'Em In Your Heart"—Steve Green (video & CDs)
- "Veggie Tales" & "3-2-1 Penguins"—Big Idea (videos & CDs)

Helpful websites:

- www.biblestudydepot.com/childrens.html
- www.familylife.com
- www.focusonthefamily.org
- www.movieguide.org

I hope you find this helpful. If you have questions or you would just like to discuss this further, feel free to contact me at 224.764.4027 or lhivnak@theorchardfc.org. Please send me your ideas and resources, so that I can pass them along to others. May you sense God's blessing as you open His Word with your child.

Investing in our kids for Christ,

**Linda Hrivnak
Director of Children's Ministries**