

Bible



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO GOD'S WORD

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is the true, infallible Word of God. God says that His Word is like a lamp for our feet to light the way (Psalm 119:105). He also says that it is useful for teaching people how to live right (2 Timothy 3:16).

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

In these verse, God gives us some commandments that are very helpful for parents. They are:

1. **Love** God with all our heart, soul, and strength
2. **Learn**, and then **remember**, His Word
3. **Teach His Word to our children**. This command is especially for parents!

The message is that children (as well as adults) get to know God by getting to know His Word. Even more importantly, love for God grows as children (and adults) get to know His word. Thus, teaching the Word to our children is one of the primary responsibilities that God gives to parents.

What should I do first?

- Utilize the user-friendly Homefront weekly resource to get into the Bible 1x a week with your KidTrek child(ren)
- Be age appropriate in your efforts to introduce your child to the Bible. **Make it fun.**
- Remember, the most important thing for your child to learn is that he or she can have a personal relationship with God. **Make it personal.**
- Be gentle in how you encourage your child's Bible understanding. Don't push for force. **Make it balanced.**

- Especially for older kids, remember: **It's their faith. Let it be theirs.**
- **Most importantly, pray.** Ask God to show you, as a parent, how to teach your child His Word. Pray for your child to have a desire to learn and love His Word. Pray for wisdom, direction, and a sense of humor. Pray for the time to spend with your child, exploring the Bible together.

When should I start introducing my child to the Bible?

It is never too soon and never too late to introduce your child to the Bible. The Bible tells us that from infancy Timothy was taught about the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:14-15). That would mean that we could start even when children are infants. But what if we have older children and we haven't done anything? Take heart! We know that the Apostle Paul became a believer as an adult. Thus, children of any age can be introduced to the Bible.

What time of day is best?

The Bible tells us that any time of day is a good time to explore God's Word. The idea is that we have a constant closeness to God that is natural to us. Deuteronomy 6:7 exhorts parents: "Impress (these commandments) on your children. Talk about them when you sit and home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." God's Word says: at bedtime, when we first get up in the morning, and throughout the day.

Look for teachable moments. When your child is hungry or tired is not a good time. When he or she is most receptive is a good time.

As a parent, what can I do to help my child really want to know the Bible?

If your child sees you read your Bible regularly, attend a Bible Study, hears you talk enthusiastically about the Bible or watches you apply God's Word to your life, the impact will be great. Your child may "catch" what you model as God works in his or her heart.

What are some final tips?

It may be overwhelming to hear about our great responsibility as parents to introduce children to God's Word if we don't know how to proceed from here. There are two good reasons to take heart! The first is, we're all in the same boat, feeling somewhat daunted by the task at hand, feeling somewhat ill-equipped. The second reason is that we aren't the first parents to consider this! Others have gone before, helping us with suggestions, creative ideas and age-appropriate Bibles to help us get started.

Also, consider asking parents of older children how they are teaching the Bible in their families. As a church family, this not only may help you, but it also strengthens the entire body of Christ by valuing relationships.

Also, attend the next Spiritual Parenting course and/or read the book for great ideas and vision.