



faith PATH

BIBLE

BIBLE

opening god's word with your child

"How sweet are your words to my taste; they are sweeter than honey to my mouth."

Psalm 119:103

God our Father wants us, his children, to know him. The Holy Scriptures are God's self-revelation. For us as Christians and as Episcopalians, we believe that in the Holy Scriptures God has given us a glimpse into his own heart of love for us and for the whole world. We believe this revelation of love to be true, trustworthy, and authoritative. The Holy Scriptures are one long love story from beginning to end, with many ups and downs in between—much like our own lives! One of the greatest joys and responsibilities we have as parents is to teach our children to know and love God's Word.

HERE'S HOW

- **CHOOSE A BIBLE**

Find a translation that is fairly easy for your child to understand.

If you are reading to your child, we recommend *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, but there are many good children's Bibles out there.

- **PRAY**

Ask God to give you both a "heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12) as you read and inwardly digest his word. Pray this prayer before you begin:

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

- **READ**

Some six-year-olds are learning to read. If your child is beginning to read, encourage them to practice with the Bible. *The Beginner's Bible* is a great one for early readers, although a six-year-old will usually need some help.

- **KEEP IT SIMPLE**

Get into the habit of reading at a time that is most convenient for your family. Many families do this at the dinner table, before bed, or even over breakfast. Don't expect miracles of transport and delight each day, but keep at it. As parents, we are playing the long game in the spiritual formation of our children.

- **BE CREATIVE**

Don't just read the story; help your child to imagine the scene by embellishing details that don't change the story's meaning. You can also use games and crafts to engage all five senses in the learning experience.

- **DON'T BLUFF**

If you don't know the answer to a question your child asks you about the Bible or God or anything related to your faith, it is ok to say, "I don't know." It is also ok to admit that you struggle with the hard passages of Scripture and what they mean. But it is not ok to disregard Holy Scripture because we don't like what it says. We must model obedience to our children. We are under God's authority, just like our kids are under our authority.

- **FIND TOOLS**

There are many other great tools out there that may make reading the Bible more fun. Songs, Bible videos on YouTube, even apps for your phone and tablet. Just pick one and try it out! See below for more recommendations. You can also follow the lectionary (set passages of Scripture to be read each day) if you want specific suggestions (see recommended resources on the back).

- **MODEL IT**

Schedule a regular time for yourself to read and meditate on God's Word, and let your kids see you do it. Model for them that reading the Bible is a "big kid" thing to do. If they see you value the Scriptures, they will too.

RECOMMENDED BIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Have your child memorize the books of the Bible by singing along with one of the songs on YouTube. Simply search for "Books of the Bible songs."
- Write verses on index cards to put in your child's Bible, backpack, or lunchbox. Or you can also tape them to the bathroom mirror or refrigerator.
- Write out Bible verses using colorful pens or markers, then cut each word out and mix them up on the floor. Play a game as you put the verse back in order, or make it into a matching game for memorization.
- Allow your child to pick a book of the Bible to read with you at breakfast or bedtime.
- Don't leave Bibles laying around on the floor like other books. Treat them with special respect.

INTENTIONAL FAITHPATH PLAN

CHILD'S NAME _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Attend church regularly.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- Create a habit of worship with my child, teaching them “why we do what we do”.
- Consistently spend time in God’s Word with my child.
- _____

The next step on the FaithPath is *Giving and Serving*, recommended at age eight. You will receive an email in the month of your child’s birthday, and the resource will be available for you with your child’s name on it at the Bringing Faith Home Center, right outside the Incarnation Bookstore.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *The Beginner’s Bible* by Zondervan
- *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago
- *The Child’s Story Bible* by Catherine F. Vos
- *Parenting with Scripture* by Kara Durbin
- *Seeds Family Worship* scripture songs from seedsfamilyworship.net
- *Jesus Calling and Jesus Calling for Kids* by Sarah Young
- The Bible App for Kids (Apple and Android)
- missionstclare.com is really helpful website that posts the Bible readings from our Book of Common Prayer for each day.

INCARNATION’S CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Bringing Faith Home: incarnation.org/bringing-faith-home

Children & Family Ministry: incarnation.org/grow/children