

PARENTS' PAGE:

FIVE TIPS FOR MAKING THE BIBLE A FAMILY BOOK

1. Keep a copy of the Bible—preferably age-appropriate for your children—out and available for your family to see, pick up and read.

Think about it: If I call myself a Christian, what makes me uncomfortable about having a Bible on my coffee table with the rest of the things I read often?

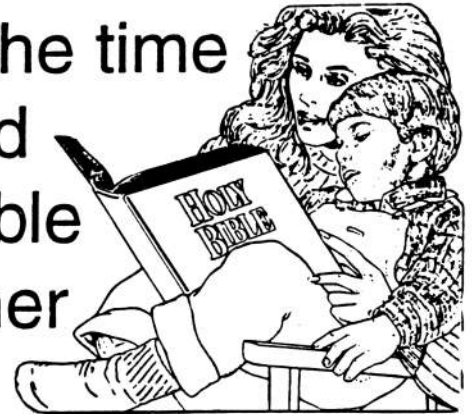
2. Read younger children Bible stories along with all the other wonderful stories they hear. Bible heroes and heroines, adventures and tales are as exciting as anything. Even more, because God's involved!

Think about it: Wouldn't it be great to let my child get a glimpse of real people making real choices about what's really important in this world (God, love, helping others)?

3. Make Bible reading a regular part of whatever meal you all eat together. OK. Don't get excited! Start slowly, perhaps just on Sunday evenings. Have older children do the reading or younger children can read from an "early reader's Bible." Read from a contemporary translation such as the *Contemporary English Version (CEV)*, *Today's English Version (TEV or Good News)*, or the *New International Version (NIV)*; make sure it's an edition with sub-headings to make it easier to select a reading.

Think about it: What better focus for the family than a few minutes of Bible togetherness at mealtime?

Take the time
to read
the Bible
together

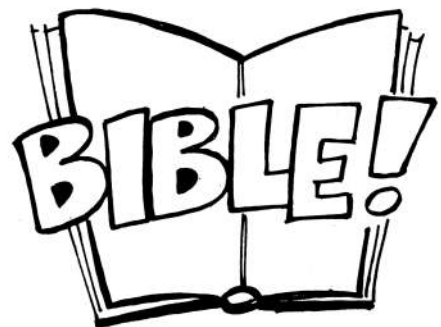


4. Make sure each of your children has an age-appropriate Bible they can actually use. Even toddlers will be delighted with Bibles prepared just for them (we can recommend a few)!

Think about it: If my children learn all the other important things at their own grade level, why take boring shortcuts with the Bible?

5. Become Bible-literate yourself. As often as is possible, attend parish Bible studies or lectures. Borrow reading material from the Sunday School library.

Think about it: If I don't take Scripture as seriously as other things I value, how can I expect my children to?



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