



# 5 Tips To Get Your Kids Interested In The Bible

Struggling to get your kids to read the Bible? Here are five tips to help guide their spiritual growth in the Marker of Biblical Engagement!

## Preschool-Second Grade

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- **Read it yourself!** Modeling Scripture reading is especially important as you parent your kids! Instead of finding a quiet corner in the morning, read your Bible in front of them, beside them, or out loud with them!
- **Read it like a story**. The Bible IS a story—the greatest story ever told! Resist the temptation to read quickly or in a monotone voice. Give the people voices, use tempo and volume, and stop and ask questions along the way, just as you would when reading a children's book.
- **Draw it**. Or sculpt it, or paint it, or build it out of legos! After you read the Bible, challenge your kids to visually represent what they just read with art supplies. You might even buy canvases and make art for your home!
- **Let them listen**. Sometimes reading feels like work to a kid. Instead of telling them what to read, either use a Bible app to read it to them or allow them to sit or lay down and listen.
- **Bring it to life**. Our tech-savvy kids love to use mobile devices to make videos, and what better subject matter than a Bible story? Give them your phone and encourage them to write a rap, craft a stop motion, get some friends and act it out, or draw on a whiteboard. They could even start their own YouTube channel! For younger kids, use their toys to act out a story, or play in a sandbox or bathtub to bring stories into their "original" settings.

# Studying Scripture With Your Kids: 5 Tips

## Third-Fifth Grade

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- **Mark it up.** Show your kids how to really study the Bible. Give them highlighters and a paper Bible or a printout of what you want them to read, and tell them to highlight the verbs in one color, names of God in another, connect things that relate or highlight certain repeating words or themes.
- **Ask the right questions.** Studying Scripture is really all about asking the right questions about a passage. Ask your kids these questions as you study together:
  - What is happening right before this? What happens right after it?
  - What words or phrases are repeating?
  - What seems strange or out of place?
  - What is God saying, or what does this passage say about God?
  - If you were to write a statement about God based on this passage, what would you write? God is.
  - What can you learn from this passage? What will you do about that?
- **Make it a word find.** Before you start reading with your kids, choose a word that you know appears multiple times in the passage. Tell your kids to listen for that word, and keep a tally of the number of times they hear it.
- **Use resources and show your kids how to use them too!** There are some incredible books to help kids study God's Word (The Radical Book for Kids by Champ Thornton), as well as online video resources like The Bible Project videos.
- **Hear their voices.** Study the Bible with your kids. Right alongside them. Listen to their insights, and acknowledge that the same Holy Spirit that lives in you, lives in them. This means they can have knowledge far beyond their years and insight that will challenge your faith. Rather than feeling like you always have to teach or interpret for them, allow them to tell you their thoughts, and then gently guide them to be sure they are discovering truth. You have a sacred calling to parent and to walk alongside, and this is the perfect area to do both!

# Why Should I Read The Bible With My Kids?

While it's tempting to use excuses to pass over Bible reading with our kids, the payoff is too great to miss.

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**We learn the WHY:** Spend time around any small child and you will hear them ask "Why?" a million times. It's as if we are programmed to ask why! We are designed to wonder about the world, and God's Word gives us the why. It tells us the truth about how things were created and who created them. It gives us evidence for the bad in the world and the good in the world and God's plan in the midst of that. Reading the Bible with kids allows parents to give the answers to why with confidence and truth.

**Which focuses us on HIM All of those 'why' answers will focus on God and His character.**

As parents raising kids into adults, the more truths we can teach them about who God is, the more they can make sense of the world around them. List out every single thing you know about God as you read the Bible. Start a running list in your home, and add to it as you read.

**That tells me WHO I am:** When kids know who God is, it tells them who they are. If they carry the very image of a God who is loving, then they can commit to love. If they know that God is all about grace, they will reflect grace to those around them. If the focus of your parenting is on who God is, you begin to help your kids shape their identity and respond to who He has created them to be. While we want our kids to behave, we truly want them to behave because they know WHO they are and WHOSE they are, as children of God in a crooked generation.

**So I can say what I BELIEVE:** Their identity will shape their beliefs. When we point our kids to knowing God's Word, shaping their theology, which gives them confidence in God and tells them who they are, it will form their thought life and beliefs about the world. Ultimately all of these lenses laid on top of each other will create their worldview, and when you lay the foundation of Scripture, your job as a parent actually becomes much easier!

**LIVE it out in this world:** Kids will live out what they believe. If they feel confident in the why and they know the truth of Scripture, and they have a full picture of the God who created them and loves them, and they feel secure in their own identity as children of God, with their worldview intact they will go out and live it in the world. Your job as a parent becomes more about reminding them of the truths they know than about modifying behavior.