



# Fostering Your Child's Spiritual Growth

## Bible Skills

**Bible Overview:** Now remember, there is A LOT to learn about the Bible, but you shouldn't feel overwhelmed about it. God is always going to help you to understand the Bible no matter how much or how little you know about it. He meets you where you are at, one of the reasons it is called the "Living Word".

When you read the Bible with your kids, teach them about it and how to navigate it. For example:

### Turn to the contents page in your Bible:

- Notice that the books are divided into the Old and New Testaments.
- What are some of the stories we find in the Old Testament? (eg. Noah's Flood, Abraham, Joseph etc.) New Testament? (eg. Gospels – stories about Jesus' life, letters, Heaven)
- **The Old and New Testaments are made up of Books.**  
39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament=66 books in all!  
Do you know how I remember that?  $3 \times 9 = 27$

**Chapter & Verse:** Have the children practice finding different passages in the Bible. Reassure them it's not easy at first and takes time and practice. All you have to do is look up the book you're looking for in the content's page and then flip to the page that it says. After that, you look for the big number (the first number in the reference) and then you look for the little number (which is the second number in the reference).

## Kids Bible Game

Look up these passages and find the animal that the verse is talking about. Use playdough to make the animals.

- Deuteronomy 22:6-7
- Proverbs 30:18-19
- Psalm 33:17
- Deuteronomy 25:4
- Job 12:7-8
- Job 39:20
- Proverbs 26:17
- Matthew 10:31

## Bible Knowledge

**How old is the Bible?** (3500 years old)

**Can you guess how many books there are in the Bible?** (66)

**How many different people helped write it?** (40. In fact the people God used to write His Word were kings, tax collectors, a doctor, fishermen, musicians, teachers and more. He used many different kinds of people to write the Bible. What is so amazing is that ALL of these people agreed on what was written. Prophets from the Old Testament predicted things that people in the New Testament wrote had happened in their time. Only through God could that have been done.)

## Strategies to Increase Bible Knowledge

Racing to find Bible passages with a sibling.

Animal Sword Drill (racing to look up passages)

Have kids look up verses or stories you are reading for your devotions.



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### How to Apply Bible Learning

You can use the topics we have outlined for the kids and apply one of the areas to help the child explore the topic. Use as many or as few as time allows. Remember, the idea behind family devotions is to “talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” (Deut 6:7)

A) Read the Story.

Example: Use the Bible to tell the story you are studying. Ask the children questions. Make sure they understand what is going on.

B) Do an activity based on the story. This could be drawing a picture or writing a story in a journal.

C) Young children cannot read or write yet. Try some of these ideas:

- Story of Noah's ark: Have the kids build an “ark” out of pillows and blankets on the bed and in your ark tell the story.
- Tower of Babel: Build a tower out of rocks or stones as high as you can and then knock them down when you get to that part of the story. (Blocks if you have any.)
- In David and Goliath, you could have your child be David and you could be Goliath. Have the kid throw something soft like socks.

D) Practice a life application concept that relates to the story.

*Whenever I see a rainbow, I remember that God promised that He would never flood the earth again, like he did with Noah. God always keeps His Promises. So when I see a rainbow, I tell my children the Noah story again. Now when a rainbow comes, they say, “God keeps His promises!”*

E) **Use examples from your own lives to help children make sense of the Bible and what it means to follow Jesus. If this is new to you, it may take some practice. Remember we are all on a journey!**



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### Bible Dedication & Declaration

Give a Bible to each parent:

- Fill in the dedication page with name and date.
- Write a personal note and/or special Bible verse

#### Example of a Dedication:

Dear (Name)

You are such a blessing to our family and this world. God has given you so many special gifts and we see those in you already. Our prayer is that by drawing close to God, through the Scriptures, you will become the young (man or woman) God longs for you to be. We know that if you invest time with God through His Word, that you will be changed. We have confidence in this because the Bible has a way of transforming us, accomplishing in us what God desires. (See Isaiah 55:11)

Our prayer is that you would become a person in whom the Word of God dwells richly. God promised that He has a plan for you and that if you follow Him you will have a hope and a future (See Jeremiah 29:11). We love you and know that through God you can and will become all He intends for you to be.

Love,  
Mom and Dad

#### Example of a Declaration – Presentation of Bible:

##### Parents Declaration

\_\_\_\_\_, you are my child and I am very proud of you

You are a wonderful creation of God, and you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

God has a special plan for your life, a plan of hope and a future.

May this book be a light to your feet

May it affect all your thoughts and desires



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May it teach you, and correct you, and train you, to become the very best person that God longs for you to be

We love you and present to you your very own Bible.

### **Kids Declaration**

I receive this Bible

As God's word and instruction to me

I will do my best to know and understand it

And through this Bible, I will get to know God.

May it shape my character, my personality, direct my decisions, shepherd my heart, and lead my life

I will care for it and treasure it as my own.

Thank you for this Bible.