

BIBLE TIME TOP TIPS

Here are some general tips to help families with children of all ages and stages to enjoy God's word, for times all together or encouraging children to read the Bible on their own

Pray

That your children would come to know and love Jesus and that you would play your part in that.

Patiently Encourage and be Encouraged

'Have patience!' - easy to say, I know! Be encouraged to spend time enjoying God's word yourself to help you to encourage your children that spending time around God's word is a joy.

As we are encouraged in God's word, we will encourage our children to do the same:

'It was through seeing her [mum] alone with the Lord every morning that I began to prioritise the same sort of time for myself and understand the importance of it'

Acknowledge with them that we too are sometimes apathetic about reading the Bible and praying and we need help to do so. Pray with them that you would love God's word together.

Start Small

Your 2 year old is not going to sit down for an hour long Bible study! Start with 5 minutes, it will soon end up being 10, then 15. A helpful guideline is that children cannot concentrate on the same thing for any more minutes than their age in years. Being aware of this means you can choose something that is appropriate and know to change the activity rather than give up.

Make it a routine

We all know routine is helpful for children, and for us! Make your Bible times the same time each time and stick to it. Pretty soon it will become a habit. Planning it for around breakfast or dinner is a great idea, you are already sat in the same place anyway. Children are never too young to learn about Jesus so make it a routine as young as possible, there's no need to wait!

Aim for faithfulness, not perfection

Sometimes, our children will not engage, sometimes will be more chaotic than others. It will rarely be perfect, if ever! So aim to faithfully continue encouraging your children to love God's word. Often the hardest thing is getting going - do something as a routine to help your little ones to stop and engage. It could be as simple as saying thank you for your food. Or use the TCB values actions that they do in Creche and Junior Church: Pray, Bible, Love, Go. These are not just values for the gathering.

Ask for help

Talk to other families and ask what they do, what has worked and what hasn't. Ask to join them for one of their Bible times, to watch how they do it. They won't be experts, but they may have done it a few more times than you and you can learn from each other.

Look at your options

There are resources which set everything out for you, there are resources that you can easily tweak to suit your needs. There are loads of ideas and suggested resources on our website. Find ones that you think will suit and take a bit of time to prepare how you will use it: when will be a good time; what activities and questions you can ask to help explore it and keep exploring it throughout your days.