

Practical help in  
reading the Bible  
and  
praying together



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# My child, the Bible and me



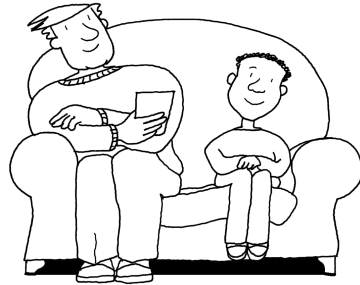
I love my child, I love God, I'm busy, school reading books need to be looked at, bedtime is a rush, I'm tired, my child is tired....and the Bible? Where does that fit in?

We take our relationship with God seriously; we want our children to follow in our steps. But sometimes finding time with God to explore the Bible together as a family is just one demand too many! We know it's important but how to make it happen in a way that is lively and engaging but not too pressured?

Here are ten suggestions to help you and your child get to know God better through the Bible.

- God wants to know and love your child, just as he wants to know and love you. And if God wants that even more than you do, why not **ask him every day to help you**? Sounds so simple but it must be true!
- God didn't put us on a desert island; he put us in a church community. So **ask someone in your church to pray for you to make regular time to be with your child and God together**. Your church leaders might see this as a regular prayer priority when the whole church meets! What a difference that would make!
- Your child copies you in the way you eat, walk, clean your teeth...and relate to God. So if Bible reading, enthusing about God and talking with him is part of your routine, your child will grow up thinking that that is

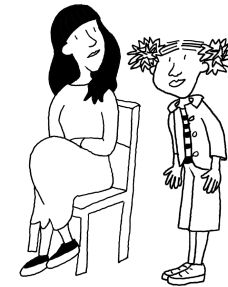
what people do. **Ask yourself what example of God-relating you are giving your child**. This may be something that you want to talk about with your partner.



- Start young. **Tell Bible stories and sing Bible songs**, as well as *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The wheels on the bus*. Play Bible story tapes and Bible verses set to music to fill their minds with the true things about God.
- **Read Bible story books** – and there are hundreds available. A few will become dog-eared favourites. Enjoy the stories yourself and ask questions about them so that you can discover the character of God together. Encourage your child to ask questions. Talk together about the story.
- **Read the Bible itself together**. Young children need help in understanding. But there are many child-friendly versions of the Bible around. Visit your local Christian book shop, ask your church leader for advice or use the internet to find out what is available.
- **Use a Bible reading guide targeted at the age-group of your child**. There are many available and they combine information, fun activities, prayer ideas and questions to help you dig a bit deeper. Do it with younger children; let older children do

it themselves, but give them encouragement. Talk about what they are reading and learning. Enjoy discovery together.

- **Take your own Bible to church and use it**. This shows you want to continue the conversation through God's word that you have been having with God either side of a church service. Your children may take their Bibles to church too!



- **Use a Bible memory verse scheme or family activity organiser** as a family, so everyone has fun together and talks together about what God has said and is still saying through the Bible.
- Ask God to let you be open to hear him speak to you through your child, as together you read the Bible. **Your child is able to spiritually nurture you too! Wow!**

Just take this to heart: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. Memorise his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home, or walking along the road or going to bed at night or getting up in the morning (Deuteronomy 6:5-7, CEV).