



minno
LIFE GUIDES

The Bible for Kids

Written by

Melanie Rainer (MATS)

with **Jessica Wolstenholm** (M ED)



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Minno
818 18th Ave South
10th Floor
Nashville, TN 37203

gominno.com

Written by Melanie Rainer, MATS

Editorial Director: Jessica Wolstenholm, M Ed.
Design and Layout: Emily Keafer Lambright

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Letter from the Editor

If you're reading this, it means you have a child (or children) in your life that you care deeply about. So deeply, in fact, that you want them to grow to know and love the Bible, God's Word. Maybe you came to this resource because you feel overwhelmed by the Bible yourself, let alone the idea of teaching it to a child. Or perhaps you regularly engage God's Word but have no idea how to share its vast and transformative contents with kids.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, caregiver, teacher, or children's ministry leader, the responsibility of sharing God's story with kids is a sacred one. The amazing thing about God's Word is that it's alive and active (Hebrews 4:12). As long as you engage with it, the Bible will do a work—in their hearts and yours.

We pray this guide helps you and the children in your life grow as you journey together. Take it one step at a time and trust God to meet you along the way.

Be sure to stay connected to gominno.com for more Bible reading resources for your family.

Walking with you through God's Word,



Jessica Wolstenholm, M ED
Director of Content and Faith Formation
gominno.com/parents

A Note to Parents/Caregivers

The Bible! God's Word. The Holy Scriptures. The Bible is the most read, most sold, most important book ever written. But it's also long and can be intimidating (especially for kids).

The Bible is a gift to us from God. It is His Word to us and for us. It is deeper than the ocean and wider than the sky. We can study it our whole lives and never fully comprehend how brilliant, beautiful, and beneficial it is.

Psalm 119:105 (NLT) says, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." God promises that His Word will guide us (Psalm 119:105), teach us (2 Timothy 3:16-17), nourish us (Matthew 4:4), sanctify us (John 17:17), and that it will stand forever (Isaiah 40:8).

Exploring the Bible is a lifelong journey, a road trip that will never end. There are thousands of stops you could make and side trails you can explore, *but when you are first starting out on a road trip, what's the most important thing to have?* A map. Think of this life guide as a map, an overview of the key places you'll go and routes you'll take as you start this journey with your family.

How to Use this Guide

Most grownups haven't attended seminary or have experience teaching the Bible. Yet we're tasked with teaching children God's great story (Deuteronomy 6) and how to apply it to their lives (Proverbs 22:6).

The beauty of God's Word is that it can connect us, challenge us, grow us, and inspire us right alongside the children we love. You don't have to have it all figured out before you begin this journey. As you read and learn together, you'll be amazed at how God illuminates His truth in their hearts and yours.

This guide is a roadmap for the journey you are on together. Here are a few tips for how to make the most of the information and inspiration in this guide:

Step 1: Read through the guide. Invite your spouse or other family members that share a desire to teach your kids the Bible to read it as well.

Step 2: Pray about how God is leading your family to engage His Word in this season of life.

Step 3: Put it into practice.

- Study Bible basics together in order to understand the foundation of God's story.
- Share interesting facts about the Bible with your kids as conversation starters.
- Set aside time to study a verse or Bible story together.
- Ask questions and use your imaginations as you read scripture together.
- Encourage older kids to begin practicing Bible study on their own.

There are many Bible facts and ideas in this guide but it merely scratches the surface of all the Bible is and can mean in your lives. May this be the beginning of a life-long exploration through God's Word for you and the kids you love.

Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.

~Charles Spurgeon

Contents

This Minno Life Guide is your **map for the journey** of teaching your kids about the Bible.

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PART 1

BIBLE BASICS

Ready to start the most incredible journey you will ever take? Let's go!

What Is the Bible?

Let's start our journey with a Bible roadmap that includes the basic six investigative questions (the ones you learn to ask in elementary school). This will help guide all of your conversations about Scripture.

Who Wrote the Bible?

The Bible itself tells us that "all Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16), which means that God wrote the Bible. But God spoke through human writers. That's why the 66 books of the Bible have about 40 human authors, but one divine Author—God!

What is the Bible?

The Bible is the Word of God. It is the story of God's relationship with His people. It tells the story of the beginning of the world to eternity, from the Garden of Eden to the life we can look forward to in the Kingdom of God, where Jesus will be King forever. It teaches us who God is and who we are, and it shows us how to live. It is more than an instruction book or a history book or a list of rules; it is a way in which God shares His story and His love for us.

It may be hard for kids to understand what the Bible is, where it came from, and how it can help us, so let's start with this very simple introduction:

The Bible is a book made up of 66 smaller books, and it tells the whole story of God and His people—even you!

When was the Bible written?

The Bible was written over the course of more than a thousand years by around 40 different human authors. Moses wrote the first 5 books while he lived (around 1500 BC), and the last book of the Bible, Revelation, was written by the apostle John around 95 AD.



Bible Timeline

~1445 BC

Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible

About one thousand years of the Old Testament writings

~1000 BC

Time of the first 3 kings of Israel (Saul, David, and Solomon). Books like 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, etc. were written about this time. The Psalms were written

~450 BC

Malachi lived and prophesied, and wrote what would become the last **canonical** book of the Old Testament

~50s-90s AD

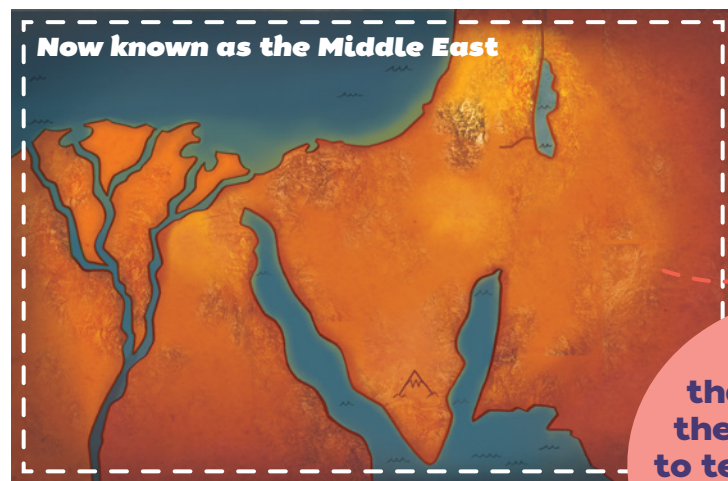
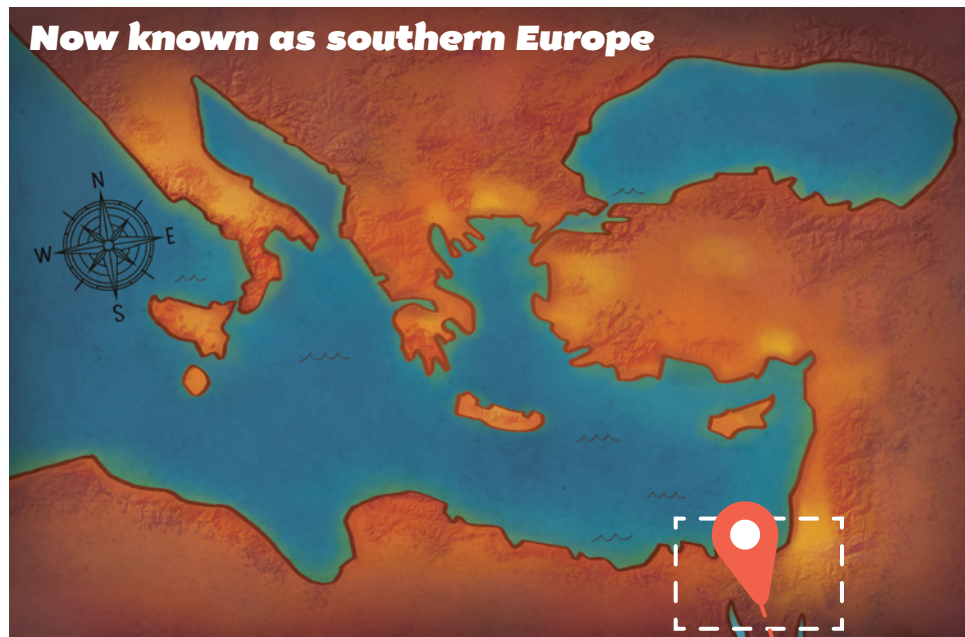
Gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John about the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus

~50-67 AD

Paul wrote his letters before he died in ~64-67AD

~95 AD

John wrote Revelation (the last book in the Bible) from the island of Patmos, where he was exiled



**Everything
that was written in
the past was written
to teach us, so that we
could have hope.**
~Romans 15:4a
ICB

Where was the Bible written?

The Bible was written by its human authors in what was known as the ancient Near East, and is now known as the Middle East and parts of southern Europe, like Greece and Italy.

Why was the Bible written?

The Bible was written for us to get to know God and how much He loves us. It also helps us to understand how to live and shows us how to best love God and our neighbors. The Bible is both a map and a compass, giving us directions while always pointing us to Jesus. Theologian D.L. Moody said, "The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation."

How was the Bible written?

Human authors wrote the Bible with **divine inspiration** from God. We don't know exactly how it worked, but we know that the Bible tells us that it is the Word of God, and every word of it is true (Proverbs 30:5).

Canonical

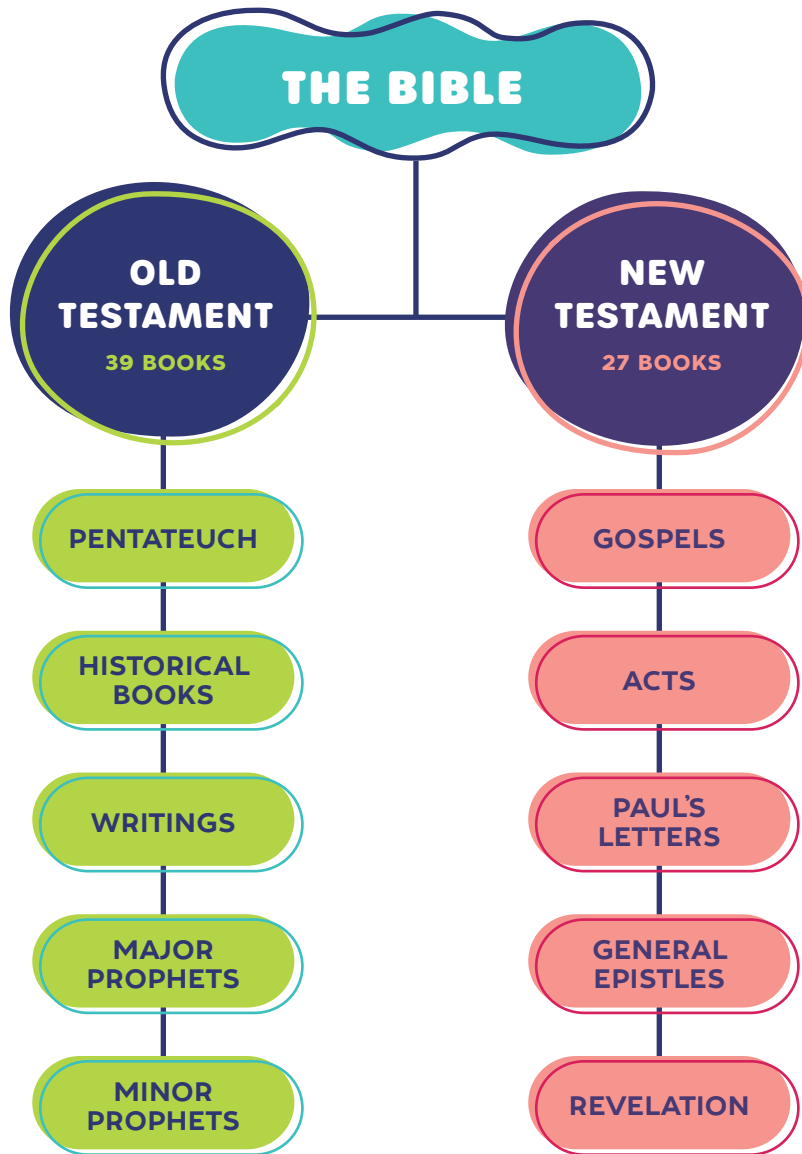
The word canonical means "accepted as a genuine sacred text."

Divine Inspiration

The word divine means "of or like God." Divine inspiration means that the authors of the Bible were led or inspired by God to write it.

How does the Bible work?

The Bible is one book divided into many sections to help us understand it better. Here is a helpful diagram. We'll break each section down for you below.



The Testaments

The Bible has two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament or "Old Covenant" includes 39 books that tell the origin stories of God's people. It focuses on the Israelites and their time under the Law that God gave His people through Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Old Testament teaches us about sin and the problem it created: keeping us separated from our holy God.

The Bible for Little Ones

Your little ones (ages 0-4) may not be ready for all of the Bible facts found in this guide but they can begin to explore the Bible with your help! Look for ways to develop Bible literacy even now by reading Bible-based board books together. We share a few of our favorites later in this guide. Share simple Bible verses aloud and use Bible language with little ones (such as "Old and New Testament"). When you speak God's Word, seeds of His truth are planted in their hearts!

The New Testament or "New Covenant" includes 27 books that tell the stories of Jesus and His followers who spread the good news of the **gospel** across the world. The New Testament shows us that Jesus paid the price for our sin, and when we trust in Him, we are no longer separated from God.

➤ Here is a quick overview of the sections of the **Old Testament**:

Pentateuch

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

The Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Bible, were written by Moses. They teach us about the creation of the universe, the fall (Adam and Eve's original sin and the spread of that sin to all future people), God's covenant with Abraham, the Israelites and their exodus from Egypt, and the law God gave to Moses.

Historical Books

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

The next 12 books of the Old Testament are called the Historical Books. They start with Joshua and the Israelites heading into the Promised Land, then go through about 800 years of Israel's history! These books discuss prophets, kings, wars, victories, the building of the temple, the exile and the return to Israel, and more.

Writings or Wisdom Literature

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

The Writings are 5 books of poetry in the Old Testament. The Psalms offer beautiful prayers alongside honest **lament**, while Proverbs shares wisdom for our everyday lives. Job and Ecclesiastes ask questions about life and the hard things we sometimes face, and Song of Solomon explores love. These books are very different from the rest of the Bible, but they are such an important part of God's big story!

Major Prophets

Lamentations, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

The 5 books of the Major Prophets feature the stories and messages of the prophets before and during Israel's exile. We call them Major, not because they're more important, but simply because they are longer than the Minor prophets.

Minor Prophets

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

There are 12 books of the Minor Prophets, which are similar to the Major Prophets, but shorter in length. Hosea through Zephaniah were written before the exile and Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were written after the **exile**.

The Gospel

The word Gospel means "good news." When the writers of the Bible talk about "the gospel," they mean the good news about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Gospel also refers to the first four books of the New Testament that tell the story of Jesus, God's Son. Jesus came so we can see God and be with God forever. That's the good news. That's the gospel!

Lament

Lament is a "passionate expression of sadness." David often shared his honest feelings through lament in the Psalms.

Exile

Exile means people were forced to leave their own country and live somewhere else.

Here is a quick overview of the sections of the **New Testament**:

Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

The 4 Gospels tell the stories of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the "synoptic gospels" because they are similar in the stories they tell, their structure, and their style of writing. John's gospel contains many of the same stories but the way he wrote them and his focus on Jesus being God make his gospel unique.

Acts

Acts stands alone as the history of the early Christian church and is often called the Acts of the Apostles. Written by Luke, it follows the ministries of Peter and Paul.

Paul's Letters

Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

The Apostle Paul wrote 13 letters that are part of the New Testament. Paul's letters form the basis of much of Christian **theology**.

General Epistles

Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude

The General Epistles are the letters in the New Testament written by apostles other than Paul. They include a letter written by an unknown author (Hebrews), and letters from Peter, John, James, and Jude.

Revelation

The book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible, written by the apostle John while he was in exile. Revelation is **apocalyptic literature**—a story with lots of symbols and prophetic visions that reveal what is hidden or what is to come. It is full of references to the Old Testament, which encouraged the early church (and us today!) to remember that Jesus will reign forever.

Theology

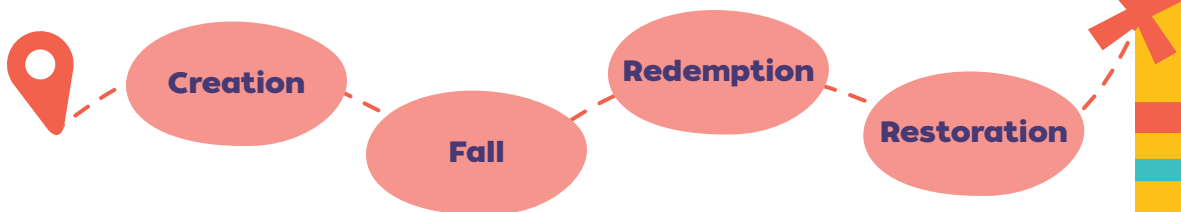
Theology is the study of who God is and what it means to follow Him.

Apocalyptic literature

Apocalyptic literature is a style of writing that reveals things that are hidden or will happen in the future.

The **Big Story** of the Bible

The Bible tells the story of God and His people. When you first start learning about the Bible, you might look at specific people, places, or events in the text but not yet understand how they all fit together. A really helpful tool for learning about the whole Bible is to walk through the big narrative—the overarching story—the Bible tells us about God.



This four-part overarching Bible narrative helps us see how God works all things together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). He walked with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and everything was good. There was peace, beauty, and flourishing. God dwelled with His people.



Fall

Genesis 3 tells us about the fall: when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin separated God and His people, and they could no longer dwell together. Sin didn't just cause brokenness in our relationship with God, it caused brokenness in all of creation. Sickness, death, fighting, natural disasters, and sadness are all consequences of sin that started back in the garden.



Redemption

Romans 6:23 tells us that the payment for sin is death. In the Old Testament, God's people tried to follow the Law and made animal sacrifices to pay for their sin. But then God promised a Messiah, a Savior who would take the consequence for all sin. That Savior is Jesus! The next section of the Bible teaches how Jesus paid the price for our sin when He died on the cross. Redemption means "to buy back," and Jesus saved us through His death and resurrection, when He paid for our lives with His death (1 Peter 1:18-21).



Restoration

The Bible also teaches us that redemption is not the end of the story of God's people! God promises to restore all creation and make all things new (Revelation 21). When Jesus returns, He will reign over God's people forever, in a perfect new heaven and new earth. It will be better than anything we can imagine! In the meantime, He asks us to live a new kind of life (2 Corinthians 5:17) and share His love and the hope of Jesus with others (Mark 16:15).



Bible Basics: Key Dates + Events in the History of the Bible

The Bible as we know it today looks different from the original words written down on pieces of parchment! So how did we get from 40 different authors writing over 1500 years to the Bible app on our phones? Here are just a few important dates and fun facts from the history of the Bible:

~95 AD

John writes Revelation, the last of the original manuscripts that will become the books of the Bible.

~400

Jerome translates the Bible into Latin (from Hebrew and Greek). This is called the Vulgate.

~1380

John Wycliffe translates the Vulgate Bible into English.

1455

Guttenberg prints the Bible on his printing press, a new invention that changed the entire world.

1611

The first copy of the King James Bible is printed in English.

~1880

Samuel Ajayi Crowther translates the Bible into Yoruba in Nigeria.

~1946-1957

The Dead Sea Scrolls are found in caves in and around Israel. The scrolls date back to the first century BC and contain parts of almost every book of the Old Testament!

1978

The New International Version of the Bible is released by the International Bible Society.

2008

YouVersion, the first Bible app, is founded by Life.Church

PART 2

WHY DO WE READ THE BIBLE?

We read the Bible because it is God's gift to us! It is how we can know and experience God.

Psalm 119:130 (NLT) says,
***“The teaching of your word gives light,
so even the simple can understand.”***

This means that through Scripture, everything needed to know and trust God is available to everyone! You don't have to be a college professor, or a pastor, or even a grownup to understand the Bible. The old and the young, the pastor or the people in the pew . . . the Bible is for everyone!

The Bible has a lot to tell us about why we should spend time reading it. Here are some of the reasons that it is important to read the Bible . . .

The Bible is **God's Word**

Psalm 33:4 NLT

For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does.

Isaiah 55:11 NLT

It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish what I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV

. . . when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

For the word of God is alive and active.

1 Peter 1:25 NLT

The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever.

The Bible **Teaches Us**

Joshua 1:8 NIV

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

Psalm 119:105 NLT

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:130 NLT

The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

2 Timothy 3:16 NLT

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

The Bible **Helps Us**

Psalm 19:7 NIV

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Jeremiah 15:16 NLT

When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name.

Matthew 4:4 NIV

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

John 17:17 NIV

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Romans 15:4 NIV

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

The Bible Shows Us Jesus

John 1:14 NIV

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 5:39 NLT

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!

2 Timothy 3:15 NLT

You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes from trusting in Christ Jesus.

The Bible Shows Us God's Love

John 4:9-10 NLT

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Psalms 36:7 NIV

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

1 John 3:1 NIV

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

PART 3

HOW DO WE READ THE BIBLE?

Now that you have a grasp of what the Bible is and why we should read it, it's time to start . . . well . . . reading it!

But where do you begin? It can definitely be intimidating, especially if kids aren't yet reading or are young readers, so let's look at an ages-and-stages list of ways to engage with Scripture, then we'll dive into ways older kids can read and study the Bible.

Bible Reading by Age

Babies + Toddlers

Research¹ shows that reading to infants and babies has incredible outcomes in the areas of language development, social-emotional skills, and more. So why not start reading to your littlest ones with fun Bible books? These can be storybook Bibles or board books that introduce simple Bible stories and vocabulary. Here are some of our favorites:

- [The Minno Laugh and Grow Bible for Little Ones](#)
- [What's in the Bible? Clive and Ian board books](#)
- [Baby Believer Primer Books](#) from Catechesis Books

Preschoolers

Preschoolers are ready to learn more about Bible stories, vocabulary, and faith concepts. They still need learning to center around concrete, rather than abstract, ideas. This is a great age to introduce Bible characters and their stories as well as simple social/emotional values such as kindness and sharing. Here are some of our favorite books and Bibles for preschoolers:

- [The Minno Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids](#)
- [The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible](#) by Jared Kennedy
- [God Gave Us . . .](#) series by Lisa Tawn Bergren

Kindergarten + Early Readers (K-2nd)

When kids are old enough to start reading, you can begin to explore a wide range of books and Bibles together! At this age, kids are beginning to connect what they learn to the world around them, bringing opportunities to point to deeper Biblical truths about how to live God's way. Plan time to read together as a family so grownups can help kids understand more complicated topics (and the Bible is FULL of complicated topics!). Here are some of our favorite books for early elementary kids:

- [The Minno Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids](#)
- [Tales that Tell the Truth](#) books from the Good Book Company
- [Bible Infographics for Kids](#)

Older Elementary (Grades 3-5)

Older elementary kids are likely ready for their own full-text Bibles! There are some wonderful resources available for reading the Bible and Bible stories on their own or with you. This is also a great time for kids to begin a regular practice of Bible reading and devotions, which will help them connect God's Word to their everyday lives. Here are some of our favorite books:

- [The Minno Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids](#)
- [The Action Bible](#)
- [NIV Kids Visual Study Bible](#)
- [Indescribable](#) by Louie Giglio

Planting Seeds

At each stage, kids can build an awareness of God and faith. Every interaction with the Bible is a seed planted in their heart. These age by age seeds include:

Age 0-3

- Simple Bible storytelling
- Singing Bible and worship songs
- Sharing Bible-based visuals

Age 4-7

- More detailed (age-appropriate) Bible storytelling
- Play-based engagement with Bible stories
- Simple scripture memorization

Age 8-10

- Sharing the full Bible/Gospel narrative
- Engaging in conversations around God, Jesus, and the Bible
- Encouraging Bible study

Reading the Bible: Where to Start

Around New Year's Day every year, thousands of people decide to read through the Bible in a year . . . and the vast majority of them are unsuccessful! You've likely heard jokes about "getting stuck in Leviticus." And while reading through the whole Bible is an amazing goal (and something we should all do), it's probably not going to be the best way for a kid to take their first trip through Scripture.

So where to start? Genesis? Matthew? Just open a random page and start reading?

Actually, we're going to recommend something else: start with prayer and patience. The right expectations for reading the Bible will inspire curiosity and study. Scripture invites us into a living story—our story.

In *Eat This Book*², the pastor Eugene Peterson wrote this about Scripture:

The Holy Scriptures are story-shaped. Reality is story-shaped. The world is story-shaped. Our lives are story-shaped. 'I had always,' wrote G.K. Chesterton in accounting for his Christian belief, 'felt life first as a story, and if there is a story, there is a story-teller.' We enter this story, following the story-making, storytelling Jesus, and spend the rest of our lives exploring the amazing and exquisite details, the words and sentences that go into the making of the story of our creation, salvation, and life of blessing. It is a story chock full of invisibles and intricate with connections. Imagination is required.

And so when we approach the Bible with our kids, our goal should be to invite them into the story that Scripture tells and the shape it gives our lives. **We go to the Bible to know God, to ask big questions, and to seek His answers to those questions. We go to the Bible to meet Jesus. We go to the Bible to be changed by the Holy Spirit.**

So start with prayer. Pray for your kids, and pray with them. Here is a little prayer you can say with your kids before you read the Bible together.

A Liturgy for Bible Reading

Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of Your Word. Thank You for giving us this gift that guides our feet and lights our path. Please be with us now as we read together. Use Your Word to shape us, change us, and draw us closer to You. We love You, God. Amen.

You may be thinking, "Ok but really where do we start?" The book of Matthew is a fantastic place to start with your kids. It's full of stories that introduce your kids to Jesus. Or read through the Psalms together, one each evening (but set aside a few days for Psalm 119!). Try reading the book of Ruth, or Esther—short narratives that are kid-friendly and point to God's redemptive plan for the world. Or read the one-two punch of Luke and Acts, which show us the life of Jesus and how the Apostles spread the gospel after Jesus' resurrection.

Read together. Read whenever your kids want to read. And let your kids see you read your Bible on your own. Kids imitate and absorb your

actions. They are watching and learning right alongside you. Reading Scripture can become an invaluable time of bonding and growing in faith as a family. What a gift!

Reading the Bible: What To Look For

For older kids (readers and up), it's time to take it a step further and teach your kids not only how to **read** the Bible, but also how to **study** it. We've come up with a simple framework for you and your kids to practice reading Scripture together. This framework is based on inductive Bible study, which is comprised of three elements: observation, interpretation, and application. Inductive Bible study helps us to look for the original context of the passage but also to mine it for the truths it offers us today. We've also drawn from Christological (Christ-centered) interpretation techniques, which ask us to look for Jesus in every story. We've created a rhyme for your kids to learn and practice as they read Scripture:

When you read the Bible, look for these three things:

- **Clues**
- **Good News**
- **Cues**

Step 1: Look for Clues

Ask: *What is happening here? Look for clues to the original context and ask the investigative questions "who what when where why." Who are the main human characters? What are they doing or what is happening? When was this happening in history, and when does it fit into the whole overarching story of Scripture? Where was it happening? Why do you think the people or God acted the way they did?*

Put It Into Practice: Use the Internet to show your kids where on a map things were happening, or look up cultural items like what clothes people would have worn or what instruments they would have played. Use resources such as the [Museum of the Bible](#) website to inspire your kids' imaginations about life in Biblical times! You may want to use a study Bible or other reference guide to help answer the investigative questions.

Step 2: Look for the Good News

Ask: *How does this story show us our need for Jesus? How does it show us who God is and what He has done for us? Can you find the Good News in this passage?*

Put It Into Practice: This can be hard! You may need to ask a pastor or teacher, or do a little research on your own in a study Bible or a trusted commentary if you need help figuring it out. Remember: **God is the hero of every story in the Bible and every story shows us something about who He is and what He's done!**

Step 3: Look for Your Cues

Ask: What does this passage say about how we should live? What cues does it give us about what life looks like as a follower of Jesus?

Put It Into Practice: Talk about how this verse can inspire you to live a life of faith.. End your time praying that God would show you what He wants you to know through the passage.

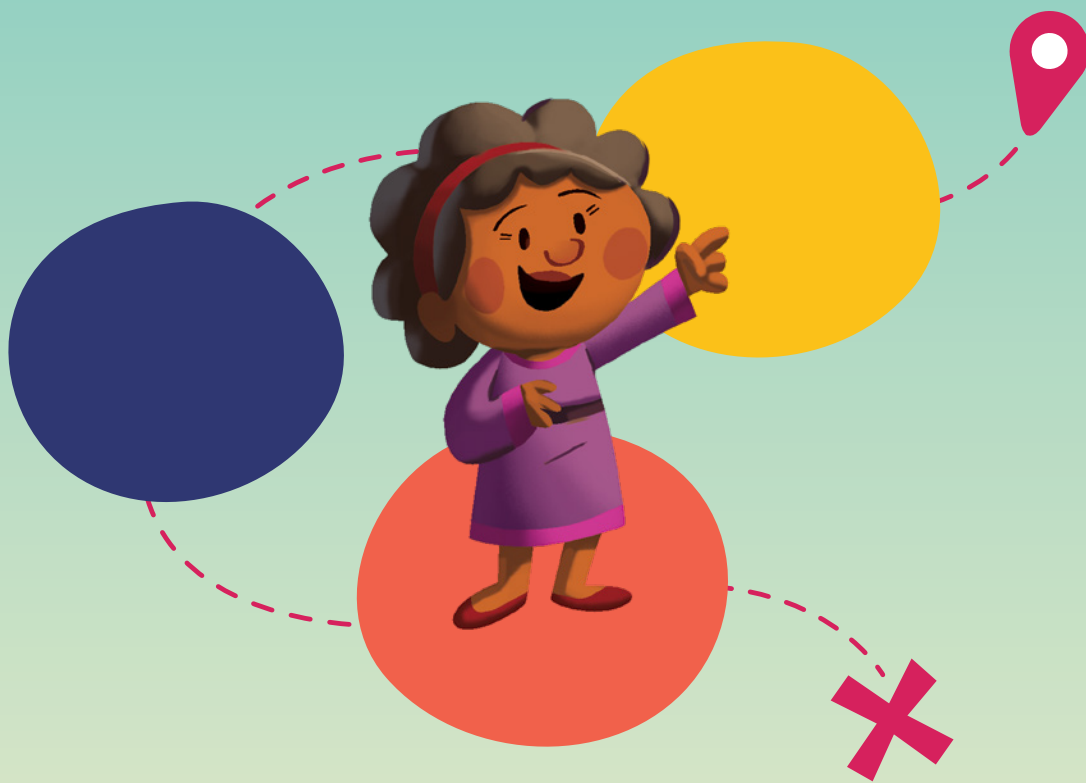
- ▶ Look for the Clues—Good News—Cues bookmark in the back of this Life Guide to cut out and use in your Bible to help you remember these easy Bible study steps.



**God
is the hero
of every story in
the Bible and every
story shows us
something about
who He is and
what He's
done!**

PART 4

NEXT STEPS



So, What Now?

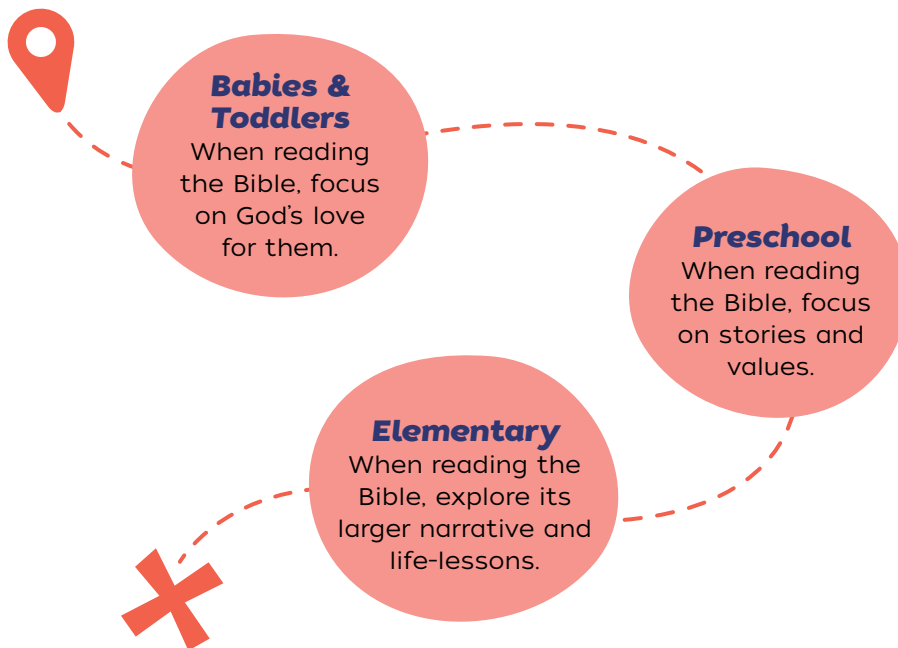
When we read the Bible, God will meet us there. As big and long and intimidating as Scripture may seem, it is God's Word to us, as if He were writing us a letter. Saint Augustine called Scripture "our letters from home." Scripture invites us into God's story, which is our story. It is the grand narrative of creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. We were separated from God by our sin but He had a plan to redeem and restore all things.

Eugene Peterson said it so beautifully in *Eat This Book*²:

*Look at the world with childlike wonder, ready to be startled into surprised delight by the profuse abundance of truth and beauty and goodness that is spilling out of the skies at every moment. Cultivate a **hermeneutic** of adoration—see how large, how splendid, how magnificent life is. And then practice this hermeneutic of adoration in the reading of Holy Scripture. Plan on spending the rest of [your] lives exploring and enjoying the world both vast and intricate that is revealed by this text.*

Your child's wonder, delight, and imagination can be set ablaze by Scripture. The regular practice of reading, asking questions, researching answers, praying, and studying will be a lifelong gift for your family.

Every word of God proves true, and every word is good for us. There is no better adventure you can take as a family than the lifelong journey of reading the Bible!



FOOTNOTES

1 <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/the-benefits-of-reading-to-babies>

2 Peterson, Eugene. (2009). *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Eerdmans.

Hermeneutic

Hermeneutic means interpretation, specifically of the Bible or literary texts.

PART 5

FUN BIBLE READING RESOURCES

Includes

- Books of the Bible Unscramble
- Bible Scavenger Hunt
- Bible Reading Bookmark
- Bible Reading Worksheets
- Family Bible Reading Plan —
The Book of Matthew,
The Book of Psalms

Word Scramble

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Unscramble the letters to reveal the books of the Bible. Look in the Table of Contents of your Bible for help if you get stuck!

PENTATEUCH

EEGISNS
DXOUSE
VESUCLITI
NRUBMES
OUETRNOEYDM

HISTORICAL BOOKS

UOSHJA
JSGUDE
THRU
E2U1MA&SL
G1SK&IN2
LSCHOIEC&21RN
EAZR
IMEEHNAH
TREEHS

WRITINGS

BOJ
LAPMSS
REORPVS
CICASETELSES
SOGN OF NMLSOOO

MAJOR PROPHETS

AHAIIS
HMEIRAEJ
NETALSNMOIAT
KEELZEI
LDEIAN

MINOR PROPHETS

SOEAH
OLJE
OAMS
BDAIOAH
OJHNA
CAIHM
AUHNM
UKKAHABK
AZAHIHPNE
GGIAAH
CZIRAHEHA
CAIMLHA

GOSPELS + ACTS

TWTHEAM
MAKR
UEKL
NJHO
TSCA

PAUL'S LETTERS

SNMROA
1&SRIAOTCH2NNI
GLIANSATA
SNAESHEPI
PNPSIPIIALH
CSSAOLISON
1&ET2HSSASNOLINA
1&OMYTHI2T
IUTST
NMIHPEOL
HEWESRB
SJMAE
1&2PERTE
12&O3JNH
JDUE
NIRLEEVAOT



Bible Scavenger Hunt



Use your Bible to finish these verses. (If you don't have the Bible translation noted, use a website like Bible Gateway or The Bible App to look them up.)

Psalm 119:105 NLT

Your _____ is a _____ to _____ my _____, and a _____ on my _____.

Isaiah 40:8 NLT

The _____ withers and the _____ fade, but the word of our _____ stands _____.

Matthew 4:4 NIV

Jesus _____, "It is written: _____ shall not live on _____ alone, but on every _____ that comes from the _____ of God."

John 1:1 NIV

In the beginning was the _____, and the _____ was with God, and the _____ was God.

Ephesians 6:13-16 NIV

Therefore put on the full _____ of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your _____, and after you have done everything, to _____. Stand firm then, with the _____ of truth buckled around your _____, with the breastplate of _____ in place, and with your _____ fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of _____. In addition to all this, take up the shield of _____, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the _____ of salvation and the _____ of the Spirit, which is the _____ of God.



Bible Reading Bookmarks

When You Read The Bible

LOOK FOR Clues

What was happening in this story or verse? Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

LOOK FOR THE Good News

What does this story or verse tell me about Jesus and God's love for me?

LOOK FOR Cues

What does this passage say about how I should live today?



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What does this passage say about how I should live today?



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Bible Reading Worksheet

Date: _____

Verses: _____

Get Started:

What questions do you have about what you read?

Are there words you don't know? Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions here:

Step 1: Look for CLUES

WHO wrote or said the verse(s)?

WHAT was happening in the verse(s)?

WHEN was this happening or how does it fit into God's big story?

WHERE was it happening?

WHY do you think this is an important part of the Bible?

Step 2: Look for the GOOD NEWS

How does this passage show our need for Jesus or teach us something about Him?

How does it show us who God is and what He has done for us?

Step 3: Look for your CUES

What does this passage say about how we should live?

What cues does it give us about what life looks like as a follower of Jesus?

REFLECT + PRAY

Write or draw some thoughts about the passage. Take time to pray and thank God for His Word and ask Him to help you understand it and hide it in your heart.

Family Bible Reading Plan:

MATTHEW

Read the book of Matthew together in one month! Learn all about the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus by reading Matthew together.

- Day 1: Matthew 1
- Day 2: Matthew 2
- Day 3: Matthew 3
- Day 4: Matthew 4
- Day 5: Matthew 5
- Day 6: Matthew 6
- Day 7: Matthew 7
- Day 8: Matthew 8
- Day 9: Matthew 9
- Day 10: Matthew 10
- Day 11: Matthew 11
- Day 12: Matthew 12
- Day 13: Matthew 13
- Day 14: Matthew 14
- Day 15: Matthew 15
- Day 16: Matthew 16
- Day 17: Matthew 17
- Day 18: Matthew 18
- Day 19: Matthew 19
- Day 20: Matthew 20
- Day 21: Matthew 21
- Day 22: Matthew 22
- Day 23: Matthew 23
- Day 24: Matthew 24
- Day 25: Matthew 25
- Day 26: Matthew 26:1-30
- Day 27: Matthew 26:31-75
- Day 28: Matthew 27:1-31
- Day 29: Matthew 27:32-66
- Day 30: Matthew 28

Family Bible Reading Plan:

PSALM 119

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm and it is all about God's Word! Spend a week reading this beautiful Psalm together as a way to learn to love the Bible.

- Day 1: Psalm 119:1-24
- Day 2: Psalm 119:25-48
- Day 3: Psalm 119:49-72
- Day 4: Psalm 119:73-104
- Day 5: Psalm 119:105-128
- Day 6: Psalm 119:129-152
- Day 7: Psalm 119:153-176