

Teaching Grandchildren to Read The Bible



RESOURCES FOR GRANDPARENTS

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Christian Grandparenting Network
March 2022

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RESOURCES FOR GRANDPARENTS

One of the most referred to Scripture passages on the topic of family discipleship is Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Its words are spoken over parents during baby dedication services, a source of inspiration on social media graphics, and the keystone of many parenting seminars.

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down,
and when you rise.”*
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

But are you aware that these words also apply to grandparents? Let’s back up a moment to see this well-known passage of Scripture in context.

*“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—
that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you,
that you may do them in the land to which you are going over,
to possess it, that you may fear the Lord your God,
you and your son and your son's son....”*
Deuteronomy 6:1-2

Do you see it? Moses is addressing the entire nation of Israel with the words of God, and he says, “you and your son and your son’s son” – grandparent, parent, grandchild.

Grandparent, while the world around us is trying desperately to tell us that our work is finished, God’s Word clearly says otherwise. We have a critical role in the lives of our grandchildren, and it is centered around passing them a heritage of faith in Jesus Christ.

READING THE BIBLE

There are many discipleship practices we can employ as we endeavor to pass our faith in Christ to the next generations. Bible reading is one, for there is no other book like it.

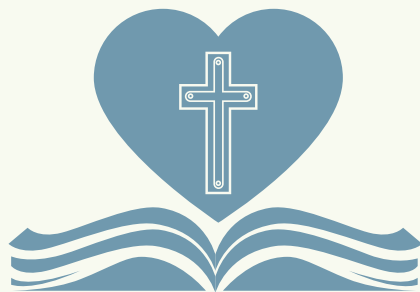
In its pages, God is revealed helping our grandchildren grow in knowledge of him. When our grandchildren read the Bible, space is created for them to encounter God and experience life transformation. The Word of God also provides our grandchildren with a measuring stick for how to live.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

We want to help our grandchildren learn to read the Bible, but most of us don't know where to begin. Some of us even find the thought of the task a bit overwhelming. As we've already mentioned, the Bible is a book like no other. It is big and powerful and complex. Truth be told, it is enough to scare off many adults. How can we possibly help our grandchildren develop the daily habit of reading and enjoying it?

Let me begin by saying there are no guarantees or easy formulas. God created each of us uniquely. Our grandchildren's learning styles and preferences are all different. As well, reading the Bible for growth and transformation is Holy Spirit work, and the Holy Spirit's working does not fit into a well-defined, predictable box.

That being said, following are some helpful ideas for teaching your grandchild how to read the Bible.



LISTEN TO THE BIBLE TOGETHER

During the time of the New Testament Epistles, copies of these books would have been quite scarce. When believers gathered together for church, the word of God was, therefore, read to them. This was also Jesus' experience as a child in the synagogue.

Hearing the Bible can be a helpful way to introduce large portions of the text to younger children. Gather your grandchildren around and read a favorite passage of the Bible to them or let someone else read to you. Many Bible apps and websites now have a read aloud function.



PERSONALIZE IT

1. Give your grandchild a double-spaced printout of a Bible passage. (If your grandchild can write, you might choose to have them write out the passage instead.)
2. Have your grandchild go through the passage, crossing out all the pronouns (words like "you," "me," and "whoever").
3. In their place, instruct your grandchild to write their own name.

Example:

James

~~I~~ will delight in your statutes; ~~I~~ will not forget your word.

James

Psalm 119:16

PAY ATTENTION TO THE WORDS

Start by giving your grandchild a double-spaced printout of a Bible passage. Then challenge them to do one or more of the following:

1. Highlight repeated words or phrases they find in the passage.
2. Circle words that jump out at them.
3. Number items in a series.
4. Look up definitions or synonyms for words they do not know.
5. If it fits with the passage, encourage them to make lists.

When they have finished digging into the text, be sure you spend some time together talking through some meaty follow-up questions.

Sample Follow-up Questions:

- What did you notice?
- How do those definitions/synonyms help you better understand the passage?
- What do you think this passage is saying?
- What does this passage teach us about God?
- Do you have any questions?

USE BIBLE READING PLANS

Bible reading will be more effective if you have direction. Rather than skipping around willy nilly, use a Bible reading plan or camp out in a single book or passage.

A multitude of Bible plans for kids and teens can be found by using your favorite search engine. Try "Bible reading plan for kids" or "Bible reading plan for teens."

GET CREATIVE

Think about your grandchild's interests. Then try to integrate these interests with Bible reading.

- Let them draw pictures of what they are reading.
- Read the passage aloud and have your grandchildren act out what they hear.
- Encourage word studies and further research on things that pique their interest.
- Locate scripture songs of reading passages or let your grandchildren write their own.
- Provide a journal where they can record their thoughts, reflections, and questions as they read.



POST READING

1. Ask questions.
 - What do you think?
 - What are you learning?
 - What different does it make?
 - What does this passage teach us about God?
2. Ask your grandchild to rewrite the passage in their own words.
(Or retell it to you using their own words.)
3. Ask if they have any questions. Then be sure to answer those questions or help them find the answers if you are not sure yourself.

MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT CHRISTIAN GRANDPARENTING NETWORK:

[31 Scriptures to Pray](#) Prayer Card

[Teaching Grandchildren to Pray](#) Downloadable Booklet

[30-day Prayer Challenge for Grandparents](#) Downloadable Booklet

[Grandparents at Prayer \(G@P\)](#)

[Grandparent Prayers](#)

[GrandCamps](#)

Additional Resources:

Weekly blog posts, seminars, retreats, conferences, and more

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