

Resources

Spiritual Growth and Biblical Literacy:

Pilgrim Theology by Michael Horton

Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind by Tremper Longman

The Big Story: How the Bible Makes Sense of Life by Justin Buzzard

Knowing God by JI Packer

Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both our Hearts and Our Minds by Jen Wilkin

A Praying Life by Paul Miller

Face to Face: Praying the Scriptures for Spiritual Growth Volumes I and II by Kenneth Boa

Simple Prayers: A Daybook of Conversations with God by Kenneth and Karen Boa

Bibleproject.com is an excellent resource that helps people experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus in a way that is approachable, engaging, and transformative. I highly recommend the videos for older elementary children and adults alike.

Children and Family Resources:

Leading Little Ones to God by Marian Schoolland

The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever New by Marty Machowski

The Life and Faith Field Guide For Parents: Help Your Kids Learn Practical Skills, Develop Essential Faith Habits and Embrace a Biblical Worldview by Joe Carter

Long Story Short: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God by Marty Machowski

Old Story New: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God by Marty Machowski

Training Hearts, Teaching Minds: Family Devotions Based on the Shorter Catechism

Comforting Hearts, Teaching Minds: Family Devotions Based on the Heidelberg Catechism

How to study the Bible:

1. Choose a book of the Bible to read

If studying scripture is new to you start with a short book like I, II and III John or James

2. **Get a copy of your selected book of the Bible that has room for taking notes.** You can create one by copying one chapter at a time from BibleGateway.com into a document. Set the margins to wide and the spacing to 1.5 so you have room to write. Or, you can purchase ESV scripture journals if you want something that is ready-made, usable and attractive. There is one for each book of the bible (\$4.95 on Amazon) and each have the text on one side and a blank page for your notes on the other.

3. Adapt a Bible reading plan to break the text into readable increments for yourself

Example: <http://static.esvmedia.org/assets/pdfs/rp.esv.study.bible.pdf>

4. Get a bird's-eye view.

Using a study bible (I recommend the ESV study bible), answer the following questions about the book you have chosen:

- Who wrote the book?
- To whom was it written?
- When was it written?
- In what literary style was it written?
- What are the central themes of the book?
- In the margin of the copy of the text:
 - Write (or make a drawing of) the main idea of the passage (The Bible Project website would be a help here!).
 - Write a 1–2 sentence summary of what you read.
 - Find one attribute of God that the passage is teaching.
 - Write two things you observe in the margin.
 - Write two questions you have about what you have read.

5. Go deeper. Explore the following questions:

- How does this passage fit into the book as a whole? How does it flow from the previous section of the text?
- How does this passage speak to its original audience?
- How does it speak to us today?
 - Is there a sin to confess?
 - Is there cause for thanksgiving or praise to God?
 - Is there a promise or truth to trust in?
 - Is there an attitude to change or a motive to examine?
 - Is there a command to obey or an example to imitate?
 - Is there an error to confront or avoid? (Note that you have a rich opportunity to practice and model vulnerability with your teen in these questions.)

6. Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you apply what you've learned.

*Adapted from "How to Teach Your Teen to Study the Bible, " by Jen Wilkin, 2019, TheGospelCoalition.org