

CONNECTION JOURNALS

Connection Journals are available now at the Welcome Center! As you begin to utilize this tool to dive deeper into God's word, let's talk about how you can implement this daily practice with your family!

Prayer

- ◆ Before reading pray for wisdom, guidance, and understanding.

Observe

- ◆ Read the passage 3 times.
- ◆ Look for History: People, Places, and Practices. Think about what these things meant to the original readers!
- ◆ Look for Grammar: Important Phrases, Compare/Contrast, Anything that Repeats. What is the significance of these details?

Name the truth

- ◆ What was God trying to teach the original reader?
- ◆ What is God showing me through this passage?

Do Something

- ◆ How can I do what God taught me in this passage?

Kids at any age can learn how to study the Bible! A few different methods or studying Scripture will be taught in the front pages of the journal, but let me share a tried and true method that kids can use now and continue to use as they grow - this is the POND method!

Studying the Bible is different than reading! When we read the Bible we get the "zoomed out" version. But when you study you "zoom in" (You can help kids understand this by using your phone camera or a magnifying glass to see more details once you get closer!)

We can use the POND method to zoom into the Scripture and learn new things about God's word!

Along with your journal, you'll get a list of Bible verses and which days to read them! Here are some tips for teaching the POND Bible Study method at home to your kids!

- Do one step at a time. Focus on one of the steps for the whole week or month.
- Bible study is all about asking questions! Encourage them to ask questions and help them find the answers! A few ways to find answers to their questions are...
 - Look in the Bible!
 - Ask a Pastor or church leader!
 - Use online resources (check out Bibleproject.com or the YouVersion Bible app for Kids!)

Check the next page for more information on how to implement this practice daily. For now here is some age-specific advice for studying the Bible with your kids!

0-3 years old: Read the Bible verses out loud at a regular time each day. Maybe during dinner, before nap time, or each time you get in the car. Utilize your favorite Bible study method to determine the main **Truth** of passage and say it whenever you can - repeat God's truth in your young child's heart and mind all day!

4-7 years old: Set aside a time to read the Bible verses together. Kids at this age can have their own journal where they can draw or write prayers, and important truths from the passage. Go slow and make sure they understand the meaning. Focus on the **Prayer** and **Name the Truth** steps of the POND method.

8-12 years old: Try setting aside time to all quietly sit and study the passage in the same room. Take 5 minutes after dinner to pick up your journals and then talk about what you learned. Start with the **Prayer** and **Name the Truth** steps, and as they get the hang of it add more! This is an easy opportunity to teach your kids to study God's word and to have deep conversations with your kids at every age!

CONNECTION JOURNALS

Connection Journals are available each week at the Welcome Center! As you begin to utilize this tool to dive deeper into God's word, let's talk about how you can implement this daily practice with your family!

- Did you know each week your kids come home with a made-for-them Bible reading plan? Try having your kids use that verse in their connections journals so that each day's verse is applicable to what THEY are learning each week at church.
- Is one verse a day too much? Try one verse a week or even one verse a month! Choose just one verse from your or your child's weekly reading plan and focus on that! The AMAZING thing about God's word is that we can read the same verse multiple times and learn something every time!
- A great place to start is with the month's memory verse! Helping kids understand what the verse really means will help them commit God's word to memory!



Kid's Bible Reading plan... and it's only ONE verse a day!

FAQS

Q. How do I get my kid's engaged in the Bible?

A. It depends on the age of the kids but here are some suggestions... For younger kids try keeping the story or verse the same for at least a week but present it in different ways... sing it, say it, and read it from a picture book. Put something in their hands or do it while they are doing something else like eating a snack, or during bath time. For older kids, try giving them ownership. Have them look up the verse in their own Bible, read the passage, or ask the questions to the family - if they are leading they are engaged!

Q. My kids are too young to remember this... why should I do it?

A. Spending time in the Bible with kids is less about them remembering every detail and more about building the habit and trust in the Lord through the time you spend with Him. Spending time reading the Bible is the number one proven habit that provides a lasting faith for kids as they grow. You are building foundations that will stay strong for years to come - so don't give up!

Q. My kids aren't interested in Reading the Bible. What should I do?

A. It can be difficult to continue a practice that your kids have shown active or passive disinterest in. The reality is there are many things that we know are good for kids that they do not want to do (i.e., eat their vegetables or limit their screen time). In a perfect world, family Bible reading would be easy - but the world is far from perfect. Here are a few suggestions for kids who are not interested in the Bible.

- **Make your personal time with God visible to your Kids.** Read and pray at the kitchen table or in the family room.
- **Invite kids to ask as many questions as they want.** Disinterest may stem from feeling like they don't know enough or that it is too hard. Remind them that you have lots of questions too!
- **Start small and stay consistent.** Pick something small to commit to and don't give up! God will bless the time you spend teaching and discipling your child.