



WHY SHOULD I READ MY BIBLE EVERY DAY?

When Bible time is one of the many things we need to fit into our day, we can start to feel like it's *just* something we need to fit in. It's easy to think that it's just as important—or unimportant—as anything else we need to do.

But Bible time is different. It's essential. Here's why it's important to read the Bible every day.

Because the Bible is the Word of God.

We know the Bible is God's true Word because it tells us so: "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16). Plus, Jesus Himself treats the Old Testament as the Word of God, and He prays to God, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). If Jesus Himself believes that Scripture is God's true Word, we can too.

Because God's Word tells us about ourselves.

Romans 3:20–21 tells us, "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the Law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law." We need the Law to humble us and put us in our proper place before God. But we need the Gospel even more, because the Gospel tells us how God forgives our sins and gives us everlasting life.

Because God's Word is certain in an uncertain world.

God tells us in Malachi 3:6, "I the LORD do not change." And if God doesn't change, then neither do His promises to us. Here on earth, our lives can be wrenched apart by illness or death. Technological changes, political unrest, financial crises, and so much more can cause us to feel unsettled. When we feel overwhelmed, when we stand in the center of swirling change and unrest, God's Word is our anchor. No matter what happens during our lives here on earth, our salvation is secure.

Because God's Word gives life.

God promises in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." The Bible isn't a static book like anything else on the shelf. The Holy Spirit works in and through the words of Scripture to create and sustain faith.

The Bible has a purpose. That purpose is to bring us to faith and everlasting life, and to sustain that faith. God's Word is active and working in you. So read the Bible. Bask in God's grace. And know that the Holy Spirit is working in you, guarding you and keeping you close to your Savior.

three easy mays TO MAKE SURE YOU READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY

Fitting in time to read the Bible can be hard, but doing so consistently can be even harder! Here are three simple things to help you get in the habit of being in God's Word daily.



MAKE BIBLE TIME PART OF YOUR ROUTINE

Try scheduling a daily Bible-time reminder in your phone or writing it in your planner (in ink!). If you journal, read a Scripture passage beforehand and add a paragraph to meditate on the passage. If you read before

bed, reserve the last fifteen minutes for a devotion. If you have a long commute to work or time between classes, listen to Scripture on an app on your way.



SET GOALS FOR YOURSELF

If you're not sure where to start with setting a Bible-reading goal, here are some ideas.

Read through a specific book of the Bible. Choose a book and set a goal completion date. For instance, plan to read through the Book of John in a month.

Read through the entire Bible. Start a plan to read through the entire Bible in one or two years.

Spend a certain amount of time each day reading Scripture. Reserve fifteen minutes or so each day.
Set a reminder for yourself, limit distractions, and do the best you can with the time you have.

Complete a study you have purchased or downloaded. Rather than focusing on an amount of time per day, focus on depth. Follow a study that has preset readings and questions.



FIND A READING BUDDY

When we read God's Word with other people, we have opportunities to learn from each other, support each other, and remind each other of God's grace. It can also keep us accountable—when we know another person is expecting us to be there for Bible study, we are going to show up.

Church is a great place to start to find a reading buddy. Maybe join or start a small group that meets once a week or so. If a group setting isn't for you, maybe ask your spouse, a roommate, or a friend to read with you. If you have children, you can make Bible time part of their bedtime routine—even if you're reading Bible story books for kids, you're still getting time in the Word!

Once you get into a daily habit of reading the Bible, remember that it's okay to adjust your routine. If one thing doesn't work, try something else. Given some time, you'll find what works for you. As you spend more time in Scripture, may "the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16)!



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE AT YOUR OWN PACE

Download a free reading plan to guide you and keep you accountable for spending regular time in God's Word. Five plans are available:

ONE-YEAR

TWO-YEAR

BIBLE NARRATIVES

CHRONOLOGICAL

DAILY LECTIONARY

Download your reading plan at cph.org/lutheranlife.

PATH TO KNOW.

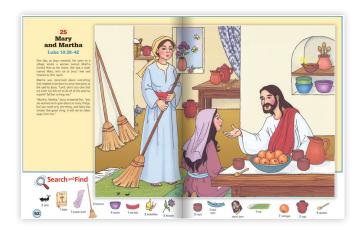


ING THE BIBLE



Early Childhood Bibles AGES 3-5

Let Your Child Tell *You* the Bible Story



Bible Stories

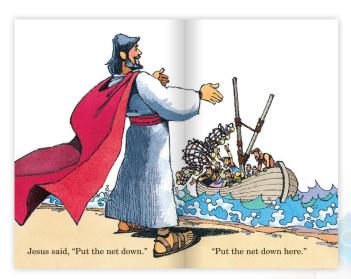
Search and Find Bible Stories

Children uncover new sight words and Bible studies as they search more than forty lively scenes. The whole family can get involved with Family Faith Talk suggestions.

223173

\$10.99

Bible Stories in 25 Words or Fewer





The Hear Me Read Bible

Each Bible story uses just 25 words, which are repeated to help your child develop a sight vocabulary, recognize words, and grow in Bible knowledge.

562472

\$15.99

TIPS FOR READING THE BIBLE WITH CHILDREN

Children's literacy begins early in life with an immersion in language, and biblical literacy begins in the same way. As you read Bible stories to a child, your dedicated time says, "I value you and want to spend time with you." Your voice transmits meaning. Your eyes express feeling. And while you are reading God's Word, the Holy Spirit is at work to nurture faith—yours and the faith of the child you love.

READ TO ME

(AGES 2-6)

- Likes to look at books with Jesus and Bible characters
- Loves to sit on a lap and hear stories
- Memorizes words
- Recognizes the Bible as "God's Book"
- Retells Bible stories with some accuracy
- Can focus on one thing for three to six minutes

Reading Strategies

When you think of this kind of reading, imagine a big old chair with a child on an adult's lap. As you read, your voice plays an important part in transmitting the meaning of the text. It can be loud or soft, fast or slow, high or low, but it must not be overdone or singsong. The eyes contribute too. They can be wide with surprise. They can be narrow with fear. Readers, like pictures, communicate the hidden meaning of unknown words through expression or explanation.

When you finish, close with awe and wonder at who God is and what He has said. Ask questions to review the text. Share your faith. Close with prayer.

READ WITH ME

(AGES 5-8)

- Recognizes the Bible as a special book that tells about Jesus
- Visualizes Jesus as a person
- Enjoys the repetition of songs, prayers, and Bible words
- Understands that the OT comes before Jesus and the NT talks about Jesus
- Can focus on one thing for five to eight minutes
- Prays for the needs of others

Reading Strategies

It is so exciting when children begin to recognize words and then string them together in sentences. Once this happens, involve them in reading the Bible stories. While reading, children recognize sight words and use what they know about phonics to "download" the letters of unfamiliar words into words that make sense to them. When they encounter a problematic word, they look for picture clues and search their experiences for a word that makes sense. Encourage attempts to read new words and supply help when asked. It is also important to share the reading duties.

When you finish, compliment your child's effort and talk about a favorite part or character. Share how the story is meaningful to you. Take time to pray with and for your child.

HEAR ME READ

(AGES 7-8)

- Can understand that God gives us everything
- Can understand that Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the cross for everyone
- Shows trust in God
- Can focus on one thing for five to ten minutes
- Prays for others
- Begins to understand his or her personal history and biblical chronology

Reading Strategies

Gradually, your child will read Bible stories without much help from you. What a milestone!

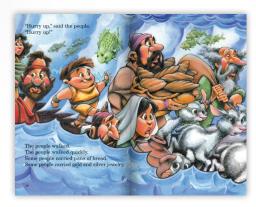
At this stage, you are the listener, giving full attention to your reader. You provide help with words when asked. You explain difficult concepts. You make connections between God's Word and your family or events of the day. You share your faith and, when finished, pray with and for your child.

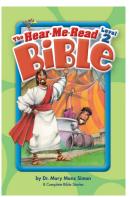
This article is adapted from *The Story Bible*, pages 10–12 © 2011 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Bibles for Elementary-Age Kids

AGES 6-8

Celebrate as Your Child Says, "Hear Me Read!"





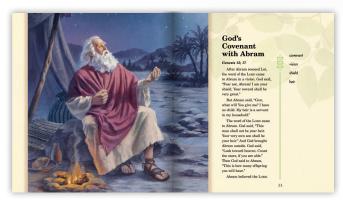
The Hear Me Read Bible: Level 2

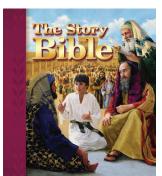
This book features eight 32page action-oriented Bible stories that encourage children to practice sight words and decode new vocabulary.

562543

\$15.99

Open Up a Treasure. Open Up God's Word.



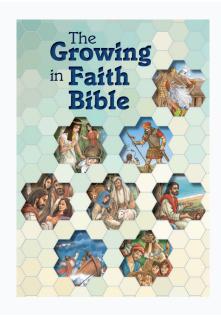


The Story Bible

High-quality, realistic art helps readers see that the Bible stories are, in fact, real. Instead of being paraphrases, each story is drawn directly from the Bible and adjusted only for student readability.

012049

\$29.99



A Bible for Early Readers

The Growing in Faith Bible

Colorful artwork is interspersed throughout the full ESV biblical text, along with a host of features specially written for this age group:

- 125 highlighted Bible narratives
- Bible words to learn
- Memory verses
- · Character sketches
- · Christ Connections

012145

\$29.99



HOW TO TEACH KIDS HARD BIBLE WORDS



When we read with children, we know how to correct their mistakes, but sometimes we don't know how to help them pronounce, understand, and retain new words. Here are some tips for parents, grandparents, and anyone else who works with children on how to teach hard Bible words.

Look for Context Clues

Help your child read the sentence that contains the unfamiliar word, and ask them to tell you what the rest of the sentence is talking about. If the page has a picture, ask the child to look at it and tell you what he or she sees. Using surrounding words or picture as clues can help your child figure out the tone or idea of the sentence. He or she can then apply this to the unfamiliar word to begin understanding what the word means.

Look for Familiar Parts of the Word

Have your child sound out the word one letter at a time. Then have your child combine the sounds of the first two letters, then the first three letters, and so on until he or she can pronounce the complete word correctly. Keep in mind that this strategy may not be best for words that have irregular pronunciations (sight words).

Think of Synonyms

For some complex words, try defining the word using a synonym your child already knows. For example, if your child doesn't understand the word *abide*, try replacing it with *live*. In the sentence "Jesus abides with us," you could say, "Jesus lives with us." Once your child understands this concept, you can put *abide* back in the sentence.

Use Flash Cards

Flash cards are great for sight words—the words whose pronunciation must be memorized. Flash cards also work well once your child understands what a word means and is working on memorizing it.

While the front of the flash card can just have the word, the back can have the definition, a sample sentence using the word, and maybe a picture to help your child remember the meaning of the word. You can use flash cards before or after reading the passage, either to teach a word beforehand or to reinforce it afterward.

Check for Understanding

Children often need to be exposed to something multiple times before they fully grasp it, so it's important to review passages you have gone over before to make sure your child fully understands them. You can check for understanding by asking questions like, "What happened in this part?" or, "What did such-and-such character do after this happened?"

Learning how to read is hard work, but you can help children excel during the process. We hope these tips are helpful as you teach the children in your life tough new Bible words!

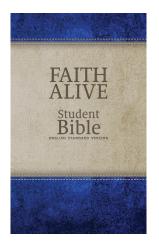
Download 25 Free Bible Word Cards

Use these flash cards with the children in your life to help them learn hard Bible words.

cph.org/lutheranlife

Bibles for Youth and Adults

Give Students a Gift Written Just for Them



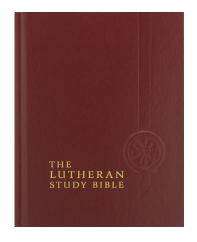
Faith Alive Bible (DuoTone Blue/Tan)

This gift edition of the *Faith Alive Student Bible* is full of study resources that connect preteens with God's Word, like facts, introductions, timelines, and maps.

013001

\$34.99

Every Lutheran Needs a Copy of This Bible



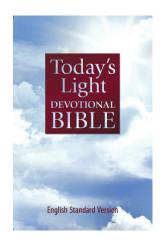
The Lutheran Study Bible (Hardback)

You'll find uniquely Lutheran notes and prayers for every part of the Bible, articles about special topics, maps, charts, and insights from key Church Fathers.

012030

\$54.99

Who Knew Reading the Bible Could Be So Easy?



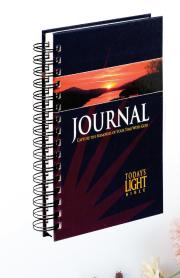
Today's Light Devotional Bible

This special edition of God's Word divides each book of the Bible into easy-to-read sections that begin and end with devotional commentary. Three Bible reading plans are included.

012104

\$32.99

Capture the Memories of Your Time with God



Today's Light Journal

During your reading plan, document your discoveries in this journal. Each lined page includes a devotional thought to help you get started.

011941

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journaling bibles



A Creative Bible for All

The Enduring Word Bible

This Bible features preprinted illustrations in the margins for you to color and meditate on. Two-inch wide-ruled margins give you space to add your own doodles, notes, or prayers.

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Room for Everything You Can't Squeeze into the Margins of *TLSB*

The Lutheran Study Bible—Journal Edition

This special edition gives you all the same rich content and features of *TLSB*, plus thicker paper, gold-gilded edges, a ribbon marker, and a unique lay-flat design. Two-inch wide-ruled margins give you space for drawings and longer handwritten notes.

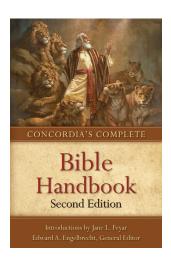
012133

\$59.99



Bible Study Helps

Discover the Five Ws of the Bible



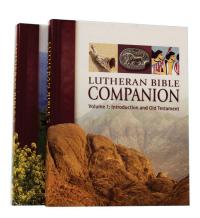
Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook, Second Edition

Get an in-depth look at the who, what, when, where, and why of biblical times. You'll learn who wrote each book of the Bible, how certain Old Testament passages point to Jesus, what money could buy in biblical times, and more.

630900

\$25.49

Read the Bible for All Its Worth



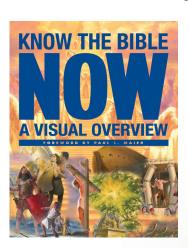
Lutheran Bible Companion Set

This two-volume handbook explores the cultural and historical contexts of Scripture and the Apocrypha. You'll explore theological topics in each book of the Bible, read reflections from Luther and Gerhard, and learn about life in biblical times.

012112

\$79.98

God's Story from a Bird's-Eye View



Know the Bible Now

This highly visual overview book puts you on the fast track for better understanding Scripture's narrative. The book highlights 120 Bible stories and includes infographic summaries and realistic art.

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\$19.99

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