

PASSING ON A

Love

OF THE BIBLE



TO OUR KIDS

As Christ-followers, we know how **important** and **life-giving** the Bible is to us. As parents we would love to see our kids looking to the Bible as a **source of truth, instruction, encouragement and inspiration** on their faith journey.

How do we pass on a love for the Bible to our kids? Here are a few thoughts to get you started:



MODEL IT

When it comes to kids and faith, more is caught than taught – your kids need to see you making the Bible an important part of your everyday life. You need to set up consistent, visible habits of reading the Bible on your own. Let your kids see you doing it. Also, try to develop the habit of referring to the Bible in everyday life – when you see a rainbow, or face a challenge, or have a choice to make – let your kids see you turn to the Bible for answers.



MAKE MOMENTS

★ **Keep it simple and short**, but set routines and habits into your family life that regularly bring you together to read the Bible - maybe around the breakfast table, or just before bed.

Here are the Bibles that have proven to be great hits in our Common Ground families:

1. For younger kids get hold of the **Kids Bible app at bible.com**.
2. When they are about 4 years old, read them **'The Jesus Storybook Bible'**.

3. When they reach 6 or 7 years old, read the **'The Gospel Story Bible'**. (It's a great idea to alternate between these three for the next few years).
4. At around the age of 9 or 10, start to coach your kids to have their own **'chair time'** where they read the Bible for themselves.

★ **Memorizing the Bible** Memorizing the Bible is also a wonderful habit to build into your family life; just take it slow and memorize one verse over a week or three. Also make sure it is a verse that is practical or meaningful to them.

★ **Try to make the Bible fun**, and bring it to life! Every now and again, when you feel up to it, lead the kids in acting out a Bible story!

★ **Leverage key moments** in the year to read specific parts of the Bible - such as the build up to Easter or Christmas, or special days like Ascension Day.



ESTABLISH MILESTONES

Make a big deal of buying your children their first Bible, maybe establish it as a sort of 'rites of passage' in your family. At 9-10 years, buy them an easy to read version of the Bible. When they turn 13 a teenage study Bible is a great tool, and then a study when they turn 18. But most of all –read and love the Bible yourself, and let them catch your love for God's Word.