

[7 Steps to Starting a Family Bible Reading Routine](#)

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My favorite activity of the day is — surprise — reading to my kids before their bedtime. We tackle a short lesson from a Bible devotional book, then do some additional reading before the girls go to bed.

It's frequently the best 10 to 15 minutes of my day, and they almost always look forward to it. In fact, they usually track me down with books in hand instead of me rounding them up!

Do your kids enjoy reading Scripture with you before bedtime? How can you make Bible reading a cherished part of your children's day? These seven steps may help.

1. Be consistent.

In my household, we occasionally miss a Bible reading time. That's OK. But even when we go out of town, we bring our Bible and devotional book with us. Make reading Scripture together a habit as important as having breakfast.

Because it is.

2. Be realistic.

Our typical Bible time takes five to 10 minutes. My kids are 9 and 10. Studying Scripture for a half-hour before bed would be like herding cats. If your children are younger than mine, you might only spend three or four minutes reading a story from a children's Bible. Make this a positive experience for all.

3. Be routine.

We always read a Bible lesson from one of the [Sticky Situations](#) books after the girls brush their teeth and just before bedtime. We never read at another time of day. Kids thrive on routines.

4. Be routine within your routine.

My girls like our routine to be the same each night. First one of them prays for Grandma, the [Compassion](#) child we sponsor or someone else. (They take turns praying every other night. If your kids are younger, you could pray.) Then we read the lesson. (Once a week during the Awana year we instead review the girls' current verses.) When they're older, this may change. But right now they find security in this routine.

5. Create a cozy atmosphere.

When we read together, my girls like to sit next to me with my arm around them. Sometimes one of them will lie on the floor or sit a couple of feet away. That's fine. They seem to enjoy the intimacy of being close to me as I read.

6. Ask questions.

Lessons in the devotional books we read pose questions that get kids applying the Bible to their lives. The questions have helped my girls grow in God's wisdom and wise decision making by getting them to wrestle with these situations from a "WWJD" perspective.

7. Finish with fun.

After spending a few minutes in a devotional, we read a few pages from a children's novel. My kids relish mysteries. Mysteries spur interaction. ("What do you think that clue means?" "Who do you think did it?") Your kids may prefer a different genre.

Do you read Scripture with your kids? How often? What works for you?

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