

BIBLE STUDY
METHODS
FOR KIDS

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Bible Study Methods for Kids

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NOTES FOR PARENTS

Jesus compared His Word to a “... treasure hidden in a field...” (Matthew 13:44). Is the Bible a treasure for your children? Do they love the stories and spending time reading the Bible? This book provides 20 Bible study methods for children to grow their love of the Bible and Jesus.

These Bible study methods are designed to range from very simple to more challenging, depending on your child’s ability. Every child is different, so try each method at least once (several times is even better) to find the method(s) that appeal most to them. Each method has clear steps and an example to illustrate a completed study.

Help your child choose the best Bible study method when appropriate. Questions are designed to be broad

*See Appendix A for a
list of Bible stories and
Appendix B for
character qualities your
child can study*

enough that they can be answered from most portions of the Bible you choose to read that day; but there may be exceptions, in which case, simply skip the question or choose a different method. Some methods tend to work better by reading a larger section of Scripture (i.e., a chapter), and others work well with only one or even a handful of verses.

Help your kids choose what to read from the Bible. Don't let your children get bogged down with difficult sections of the Bible, but guide them to read stories of the Bible, the gospels, the book of James, or parts of Proverbs—whatever seems age-appropriate for them. Appendix A includes a list of Bible stories your child can follow in their personal devotions and appendix B is a resource if you want them to study a specific character quality.

There are several things you can do to help make your child's personal devotion experience an exciting and beautiful experience.

Model a personal devotion life and love for the Bible. The old saying, “actions speak louder than words” applies to this area as well. Seeing you spending time in the Bible and prioritizing your own personal devotions can make a big impression on your child. My own childhood memories of waking up to see the light coming from under my aunt and uncle's door when we were visiting them on vacation, knowing they were spending time with Jesus, ultimately inspired me to follow their example and begin having my own personal devotions every morning. As Ellen White wrote, “In order to interest our children in the Bible, we ourselves must be interested in it. To awaken in them a love for its study, we must love it. Our instruction to them will have only the weight of influence given it by our own example and spirit” (*Education*, p. 187).

Try different methods to see which ones your child most enjoys and benefits from

Study with younger children. We are counseled: “Search the Scriptures yourselves; assist your children in the study of the sacred word. Do not send the children away by themselves to study the Bible, but read it with them; teach them in a simple manner as far as you know, and be diligent students that you may guide them wisely. Follow Christ’s injunction, ‘Search the Scriptures,’ then will you gain spiritual strength yourselves, and be able rightly to instruct your children.” (*The Bible Echo*, October 22, 1894)

Encourage your child to pray before they study the Bible. Each study encourages you to begin with prayer for the Holy Spirit to teach you. After all, “The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wrestling truths difficult of comprehension...We should make the psalmist’s petition our own: ‘Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law’ (Psalm 119:18)” (*Prayer*, p. 95).

Provide your child with items needed for writing. Give your child a notebook or journal to write out answers to the questions posed in each Bible Study Method. The act of writing helps a person slow down, it gives the Holy Spirit a chance to bring additional thoughts to mind, and provides a good way to look back over the study to draw lessons and applications for life. Encourage your children to try this, even if they don’t enjoy journaling as a rule. If they are too young to write their answers, have them verbally answer questions. Some methods provide a template to photocopy for your child’s use.

If your child is too young to write their answers, have them answer verbally

Encourage, don't force. It is important to model and encourage children to have personal devotions, but as older children transition to having personal devotions alone, be especially careful not to force their study, but always lovingly encourage them. Even Ellen White advised, “I don't command you to read the Bible—I never shall. I want you to read the Bible because you love it, not because you are driven to it, for then it will be an unpleasant task” (*Appeal to Youth*, p. 79).

DIAGRAM IT



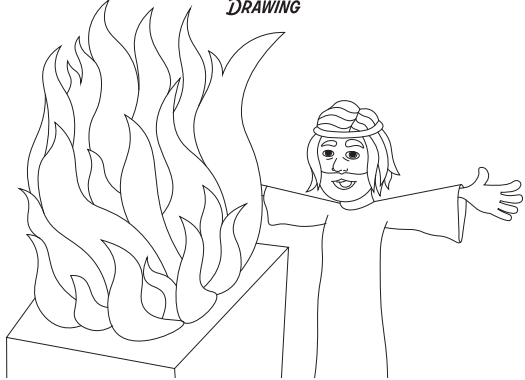
1. Start by praying and asking Jesus to be with you as you study.
2. Read a section from the Bible.
3. Draw the following diagram in a notebook or fill out a photocopy of the diagram as given in the pages that follow
 - Create a title for the section you read.
 - Draw a picture to illustrate any part of what you read.
 - List three lessons you can learn from your reading.
 - Complete two “I will...” sentences to put the lessons into action.

EXAMPLE:

1 Kings 18:20-40: Elijah's Mount Carmel Contest

TITLE
The Big Test

DRAWING



LESSONS / LEARNED

You might have to stand alone for God.
We have to choose who we are going to serve.
God answers prayer.

I WILL...

Follow God, even if I'm alone,
like Elijah.

I WILL...

Be brave and pray in front of
others like Elijah did.

TITLE

DRAWING

LESSONS / LEARNED

I WILL...

I WILL...



TWO SHEEP

1. Start by praying for Jesus to be with you as you study.
2. Read a story or verse and write the following in the two sheep (ask your mom or dad to photocopy them for you so you can use them many times):
 - In the first sheep, list two or three important lessons you can learn from what you read.
 - In the second sheep, write two or three ways you can apply the lessons to your own life.

EXAMPLE:

Mark 4:35-41: Jesus Calms the Storm







OBJECT LESSONS



“Children should be encouraged to search out in nature the objects that illustrate Bible teachings, and to trace in the Bible the similitudes drawn from nature. They should search out, both in nature and in Holy Writ, every object representing Christ, and those also that He employed in illustrating truth. Thus may they learn to see Him in tree and vine, in lily and rose, in sun and star. They may hear His voice in the song of birds, in the sighing of the trees, in the rolling thunder, and in the music of the sea. And every object in nature will repeat to them His precious lessons.”
(Child Guidance, p. 46)

1. Start by praying and asking Jesus to be with you as you study.
2. Choose one of the following ideas to study object lessons from the Bible:

	<i>OBJECT FROM THE BIBLE</i>	<i>OBJECT FROM NATURE</i>	<i>OBJECT JESUS USED</i>
Partial List of Examples	Light (John 8:12) Water (John 4:14) Bread (John 6:35) Rock (Psalm 31:3) Shepherd (Psalm 23:1) Lamb (John 1:29)	Rock Acorn Dirt Sunshine Dog Clouds	Lost coin (Luke 15:8-10) Yeast or leaven (Matthew 13:33) Hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44) Pearl (Matthew 13:45-46) Fish net (Matthew 13:47-50)
Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find an object in the Bible that is used to teach about God. 2. Read everything you can find about that object in the Bible. 3. Study more about that object from a book, observing it, or searching on the internet. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn more about the object by looking at it or by reading about it from a book or the internet. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read everything Jesus said about this object. 2. Read in a book or on the internet to learn more about the object.
Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did you learn about what God is like? 2. What can you learn about how God treats you or others? 3. What Bible verse can you find that illustrate something you learned? 4. What do you love about God, based on what you just learned? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What can the object teach you about life, Jesus, heaven, or a truth? 2. What Bible verse relates to one of the lessons you found? 3. What can you learn for your own life from studying this object? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What lessons can you learn after studying this object? 2. What do you love about God, based on what you just learned? 3. How can you apply these lessons to your own life?

EXAMPLE: OBJECT FROM THE BIBLE

A Door

Things I learned from the Bible and other places:

- Jesus is like a door that leads to salvation (John 10:7, 9)
- A door has three purposes:
 - Safety: from weather, bad people, theft
 - Barrier: to keep heat or cold out, or noise out
 - Gateway: to let people and things go in and out

What did you learn about what God is like? What can you learn about how God treats you or others?

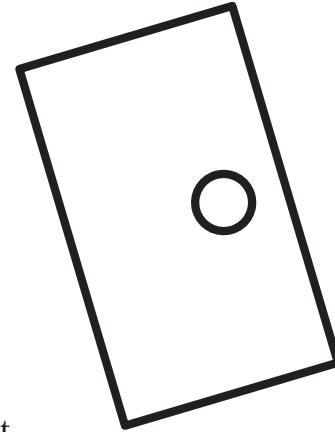
- God is there to protect me and keep bad things out
- Jesus only wants good things to come in the door of my life

What Bible verse can you find that illustrates something you learned?

- “Behold, I stand at the door and knock...” Revelation 3:20

What do you love about God, based on what you just learned?

- I love Jesus wants to protect me like a door protects our house
- I love that Jesus wants to come into the door of my heart



EXAMPLE: OBJECT FROM NATURE

Dandelion Seed

Things I learned from the Bible and other places:

- Dandelions can have 172 seeds per seed head
- One plant can produce 5,000 seeds in a single year

What can the object teach you about life, Jesus, heaven, or a truth?

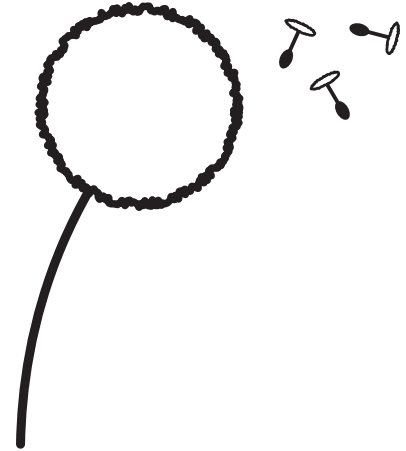
- We should bear fruit (seeds) as much as a dandelion
- Like the seeds float in the wind, we should go wherever God wants us to go

What Bible verse relates to one of the lessons you found?

- “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, so you will be my disciples” John 15:8.

What can you learn for your own life from studying this object?

- I want to bear fruit for Jesus today by being kind to my brother
- I will pray to Jesus to guide me today in what I choose to do



EXAMPLE: OBJECT JESUS USED

House built on a rock (Matthew 7:24-28)

Things I learned from the Bible and other places:

- A good foundation will make the house strong
- A good foundation for a person is to listen to and obey Jesus
- It keeps bad things like water, bugs, and mice out of the house

What lessons can you learn after studying this object?

- A strong house or person listens to Jesus and obeys when He tells me to do something or stop doing something
- The way to be safe during a storm is to have a good foundation

What do you love about God, based on what you just learned?

- He tells me how to be safe before a storm happens

How can you apply these lessons to your own life?

- I need to listen to and obey God when my conscience tells me to be share my toys

