

Using the Bible with Your Preschooler

Although preschoolers cannot read and understand everything in the Bible, they can begin learning some basic biblical truths and also become more aware of the importance of the Bible. Here are some tips for using the Bible with your preschooler.

- Consider the emphasis you put on the Bible at home. Do you read your Bible at a time when your child will see you? As he sees you reading the Bible, he will learn that the Bible is important to you. Keep your Bible in a place where your preschooler can see it, touch it, and look at it with you.
- Tell or read your child Bible stories. Open the Bible to a Scripture passage and tell the Bible story in your own words. Or read the complete Bible story and statements printed on the take home page. Whatever you do, always open the Bible and point out where the story is located.
- Locate the Bible verse printed on each week's take-home page. Highlight the verse in your child's Bible at home. Emphasize that the Bible contains things God wants people to know.
- Talk about what the Bible says in everyday conversation with your child. If your preschooler becomes frightened, say, "The Bible tells us that God will take care of us. (Numbers 14:9)." Or if your child mentions something about Jesus, you could comment: "We learn about Jesus in the Bible. It has many stories and verses that teach us how Jesus lived."
- Increase your child's awareness that the Bible helps us know how God wants us to live. When your preschooler helps by cleaning his room, say: "Thank you for helping. The Bible tells us to **help on another** Galatians 5:13)."
- Sing songs that reinforce Bible truths, such as "Jesus Loves Me" or "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Help your child remember Bible verses by singing them to familiar tunes. For example, sing the Bible verse **God will teach us how to live** (Micah 4:2) to the tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb": "God will teach us how to live, how to live, how to live; God will teach us how to live; When we read the Bible."

As you use the Bible with your preschooler, you are teaching him that the Bible is a special and important book. With your guidance, he will grow in his understanding that the Bible tells about God and Jesus and helps him know how to live.

Adapted from *Bible Teaching for 3s-Pre-K Leader Pack Winter 2004-2005* Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.