FOUNDATION

because steadfast families are built on the rock

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

-Matthew 7:24-25

> Family Bible reading and worship plan Month 6

I cannot count how many times have I gotten in a family Bible time slump because I need to "get everything ready" but kept pushing it off. My good intentions were repeatedly thrown off by the simple speed bump of creating a plan. Odds are, you've found yourself in a similar situation, so that's why I am sharing these Bible time plans with you. All the planning is already done, so all you have to do is get started!

If you follow along with us doing these monthly plans, we will go through the major stories of the Bible together. This plan is perfect for families with younger kids, or those who do not have much experience with the Bible. Parents and older children may want additional personal Bible study time to dig deeper into the text.

This plan moves SLOW and is kept SIMPLE. The goal is building a habit of getting in the word together, letting God's word seep into our lives, not trying to race through a lengthly plan or to-do list. This helps avoid overwhelm and makes it easy to jump back in the saddle when life inevitably gets you off track. It's also only planned for five days of the week. This way if you miss a day, you can easily catch up. If you need something for an additional day, try reading a Psalm, Proverb, or story from the life of Jesus.

When having your Bible time together as a family, resist the temptation to over-explain. Answer questions, yes! Give some info, sure! But don't turn it into a long (and boring!) lecture. Let your children dwell on the Word and use their own minds to dig in.

For adults and older children who want to dig deeper into the text, I highly recommend the free resource <u>biblehub.com</u> (find an in-depth tutorial <u>HERE</u>).

Here are how the plans are set up...

Each month has the following components:

- 1. *A children's Bible song.* While even the toddler enjoys singing along to hymns, classic children's Bible songs are also too fun to pass up.
- 2. A hymn. They've been around forever for a reason. They are easy to sing along with and pack a potent punch of truth. Singing hymns is one the easiest ways I've found to introduce some difficult theological topics.

Each week has the following components:

- 1. Bible story to be read from a picture Bible for the younger members of the family. Read the same story every day that week I promise they won't get sick of it! (You can also read the same story out of multiple children's Bibles if you have them) If you'd like, you can also use <u>Play Through the Bible</u>. The stories covered in this plan can be found in most children's Bibles, but <u>THIS ONE</u> is our favorite. The Beginners Bible also has a large selection of stories.
- 2. Bible passage to be read. A suggested daily breakdown is given, but feel free to adjust to your family. This way, if a day is skipped, you can easily reconfigure! Certain parts of stories have been edited out for appropriateness. I have added notes in these instances and it is up to a parent's discretion when to introduce these aspects to their children.

Your daily routine might look something like this:

- 1. Pray and/or say the Lord's Prayer
- 2. Read the story from the picture Bible (dismissing wiggly littlest ones if need be at this point)
- 3. Briefly review the previous reading
- 4. Read the passage
- 5. Ask your child what they remember from the passage or what stood out to them
- 6. Sing (by now the little ones will definitely be getting wiggly, or will have wandered off, so they can get up and dance!)

You can read more about crafting your own Bible time with kids <u>HERE</u>. If you have any questions, prayer requests, or I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to email me - <u>liz@steadfastfamily.com</u>

If you are a mom of littles I also want to invite you to join our encouraging facebook community HERE.

Now let's get started!

MONTH SIX

Hymn - My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less Bible Song - Father Abraham Had Many Sons

Week One

JOSHUA

Day One - Joshua 1:1-18 (note: can skip 12-15 to shorten the passage if needed)
Day Two - Joshua 2:1-13 (note: either be prepared to explain the meaning of the word
"prostitute" or replace it with the word "woman" for now)

Day Three - Joshua 2:14-24 Day Four - Joshua 3:1-17 Day Five - Joshua 4: 1-14

Week Two

JOSHUA CONTINUED

Day One - Joshua 5:13-6:11

Day Two - Joshua 6:12-25 (note: children's versions of this story like to focus on the fun "and the walls came tumbling down" - but the actual story is less fun children's song, and more sobering and sad reality of a holy and mighty God completely destroying a wicked city.)

Day Three - Joshua 10:1-15

(Note: Mention that the Israelites fought many more battles before they took the land, then they divided the land among the different tribes.)

Day Four - Joshua 23:1-16 Day Five - Joshua 24:1-18, 29

Week Three

JUDGES

Day One - Judges 2:10-23 (Note: Mention that there were a lot of judges, and now you are going to read the stories of some of them. You may want to pre-read for appropriateness for your specific children, some of the stories are rather intense!)

Day Two - Judges 6:1-20 Day Three - Judges 6:-20-40 Day Four - Judges 7:1-12 Day Five - Judges 7:13-25

Week Four

JUDGES

Day One - Judges 13:1-12 Day Two - Judges 13:13-25 Day Three - Judges 14:1-20 Day Four - Judges 15:1-20 Day Five - Judges 16:1-16

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

by Edward Mote

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the 'whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

A great site for more information on hymns is <u>hymnary.org</u>

FATHER ABRAHAM HAD MANY SONS

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
[Yell "right arm" and move right arm, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
[Yell "right arm, left arm" and move both, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
[Yell "right arm, left arm, right foot" and move all, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
[Yell "right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot" and move all, as if marching.]

Continue with "nod your head", "turn around", "jump up and down", ending with "sit down."