

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 12

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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 lengthy 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 biblehub.com (find an in-depth tutorial [HERE](#)).

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 [Play Through the Bible](#). The stories covered in this plan can be found in most children’s Bibles, but [THIS ONE](#) 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 [HERE](#). If you have any questions, prayer requests, or I can be of any assistance to you, please don’t hesitate to email me - liz@steadfastfamily.com

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 TWELVE

Hymn - Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Bible Song - Go Tell It On the Mountain

NOTE: This is the last month of plans in this series! There are still lots of great stories in the Old Testament though! Make it a goal to some day read through the full books with your kids.

Week One

DANIEL

Day One - Daniel 3:19-30

Day Two - Daniel 6:1-14

Day Three - Daniel 6:15-28

Day Four - Ezra 1:1-6, 3:1-3, 8-13

Day Five - Ezra 7:1-28 (The middle portion of Ezra deals with receiving opposition to building the temple, and overcoming it.)

Week Two

EZRA/NEHEMIAH

Day One - Ezra 9:1-15

Day Two - Nehemiah 1:1-11, 2:1-20

Day Three - Nehemiah 4:1-23

Day Four - Nehemiah 5:1-19

Day Five - Nehemiah 6:1-16, 8:1-12

Week Three

ESTHER

Day One - Esther 1

Day Two - Esther 2

Day Three - Esther 3

Day Four - Esther 4

Day Five - Esther 5

Week Four

ESTHER

Day One - Esther 6

Day Two - Esther 7

Day Three - Esther 8

Day Four - Esther 9:1-17

Day Five - Esther 9: 18-32, 10:1-3

JOYFUL JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

Henry Van Dyke

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

A great site for more information on hymns is hymnary.org

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Adapted by John Wesley Work II

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]