

How2: Read the Bible with Children & Young People



"There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another – showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word, we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us"

Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15ff (The Message)

"God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defence, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no-one is impervious to God's Word. We can't get away from it – no matter what."

Hebrews Ch 4 v12 (The Message)

Young People do not always express this kind of confidence in the Bible. "It's not relevant!" "It is very dull in places." "Young people don't read it any more." Remarks such as these are common amongst young people in Scotland today. The challenge we face is in how to bridge that gap of confidence between young people's lack of confidence and the self-confidence of the Bible itself.

Tips for Developing Confidence

- Communicate your passion...if we are passionate about reading the Bible and about the place of the Bible in our own lives, young people will pick up on that.
- Model good practice...we can only really expect young people to read the Bible if we are consistent about it ourselves and are demonstrating good practice in our own lives.
- Develop trust... we need to have confidence in God's word, that he will use his word to speak to the children. It sounds obvious, but the way we use Scripture often suggests that we have lost confidence in God's power to use his Word to change lives.
- Spend time...personal preparation is an important key. Don't assume you know the story. Read it afresh and let God speak to you through it before you try to communicate.
- Read together...the Bible will come to life for young people if you read a section together and allow it to speak. Listening to God offers some questions that you can use to lead young people into the Bible. This is also a good approach for getting into the Bible yourself.

Listening to God's Word

You can use these questions with any passage. Try them out with John 2:1-11

- teach with
read
How2:
pray for
build
- Talk to God before you begin; ask Him to help you understand the words you are about to read from the Bible.
 - Find the Bible passage and read it carefully.
 - Read the passage again so that you don't miss anything.

- Think of an original title for the verses you have just read.
- Is there something I can learn about what God or Jesus is like?
- Is there a good example I can follow in these verses?
- Is there something said in this passage which I should be doing?
- Is there something said in this passage which I should not be doing?
- Sit quietly, close your eyes and think again about what you have read.
- Talk to God about the things you have just thought about. Give thanks for something you have learned and ask God to help you put into practice the things that apply to you. Remember God forgives you and ask him to forgive you.

Help with Bible Reading

Order bible reading notes for children, young people and adults at www.scriptureunion.org.uk or phone 08450 706006.

You'll find bucketloads of other helpful resources there too.

"By your Words, I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path"
Psalm 119 v105 (The Message)

This article is based on seminar material developed by Kenny McKie, SU Regional Worker, and was first published in @SU, March 2005