

Reading the Bible in My Family

When I grew up the Bible was a book my parents kept in the closet. It was very pretty with gold letters and glossy pictures. We didn't read it because my parents had never been taught how to read it and it was something that only priests or ministers read.

Today we've come to realize how important it is for everyone to read the Bible. Children, young people, adults—everyone who wants to be in relationship with Jesus needs to meet him in the Bible!

Where and when do you read or learn about the Bible? Check off ✓ all the places below that fit.

- 1. I read the Bible each morning when I wake up.
- 2. We read and talk about the Bible at school.
- 3. In our home we like to read the Bible as part of the grace for our supper meal.
- 4. We have a copy of the Bible in our car or van to read whenever we get a chance.
- 5. I read the Bible whenever I am trying to figure out what to do with a problem in my life.
- 6. We read the Bible together every night before we go to sleep.
- 7. We have a Bible in our living room and every now and then we pick it up and read it.
- 8. I have my own Bible and I use post-it notes or bookmarks to keep track of what I've read.
- 9. I hear the Bible read at church every Sunday.
- 10. I go to Vacation Bible School in the summer to learn more about the Bible.



Jesus Reads the Bible

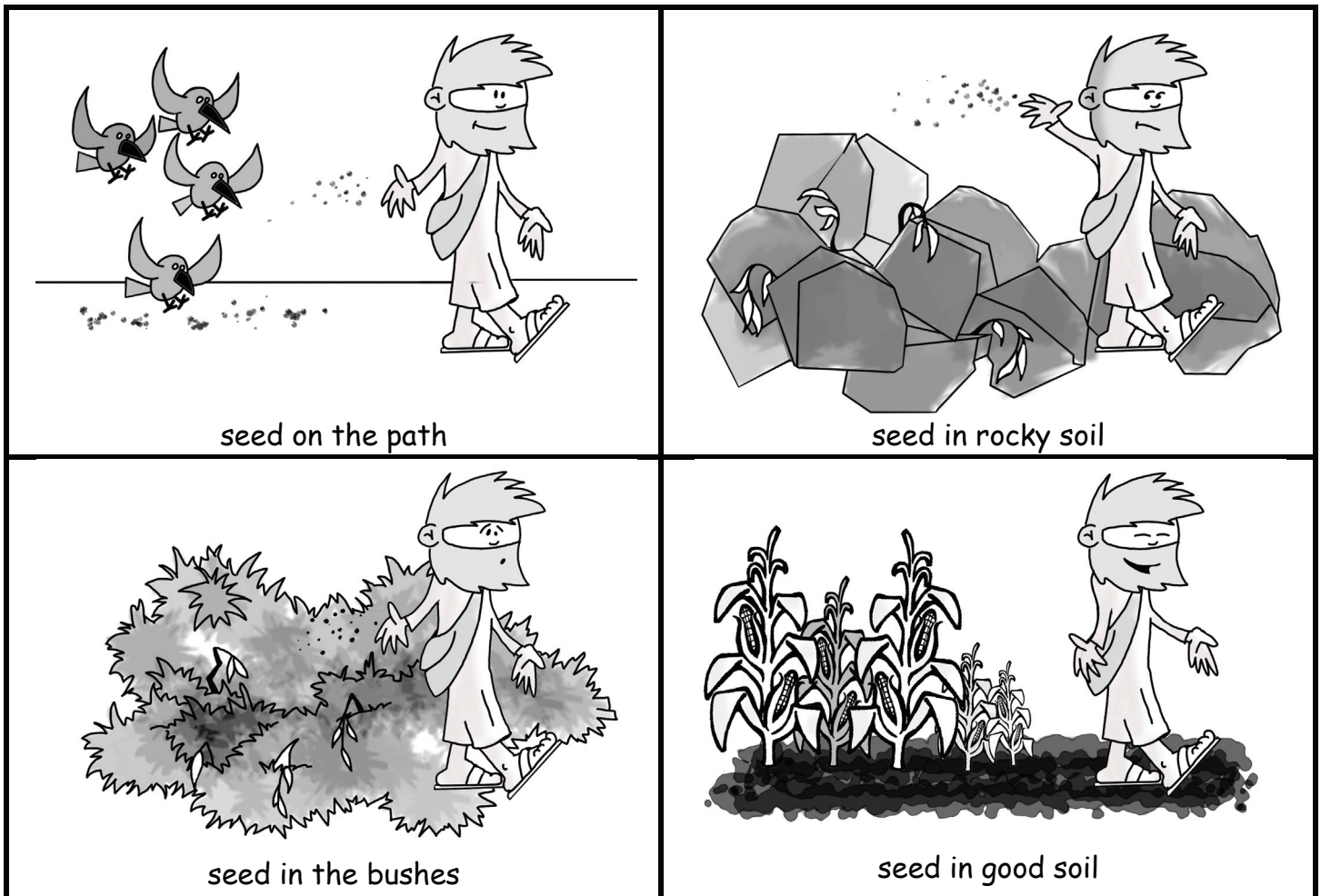
The Bible was an important part of Jesus' life. As a young Jewish boy Jesus would have attended classes to learn about the Bible. And it was part of his family's life.

The first time we hear about Jesus and the Bible is in the Gospel of Luke:

Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the Synagogue. He stood up to read the scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor." (Luke 4:16-18)

Do you remember Jesus' parable of the Sower? If you don't remember, open your Bible and read Luke 8:4-8. In that story Jesus is trying to help his listeners see and understand that we need to open our hearts and minds to hear God's word in our lives.

What kind of soil are you? Circle the picture below that best describes how God's word is growing in your heart.



Reading the Bible

Do you have friends or cousins that you like a lot? Do you think you know them well? How did you get to know them? Did you hang out with them a lot, listen to their stories, and pay attention to what they liked and disliked?

One of the important ways that we get to know about God is to read the Bible. Reading the Bible helps us to build our relationship with Jesus and learn how to best love God and our neighbors. Reading the Bible and living the Bible work together—it's not enough just to read about how to live, we must live that way too!

Pretend that you have just been hired by a top advertising firm to create an advertisement to promote the reading of the Bible to your friends and family. The one condition is that you must create an acronym (see the example below) using the word "Scripture" as your advertisement.

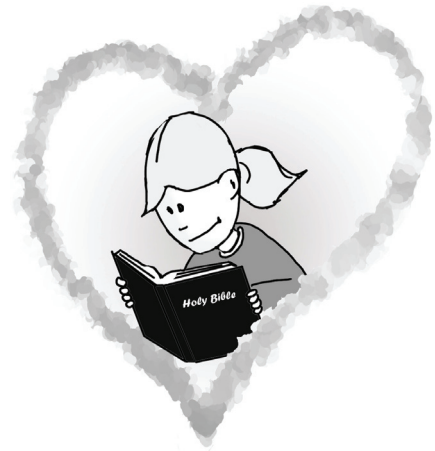
Here's an example of an advertising acronym for **LOVE**:

Life is empty without someone to share it with!

LOve is like oxygen, without it you can't survive!

Fore**V**er will God love us!

Everyone needs to feel loved and to give love



What words can you make from the letters in **SCRIPTURE** that would help convince your peers that reading the Bible is important?

S _____

C _____

R _____

I _____

P _____

T _____

U _____

R _____

E _____

Try It — Reading the Bible

The best way to begin reading the Bible, is to begin reading it! But where do you start? Grab your Bible, and try this Bible scavenger hunt! Find the Bible passage and answer the question.

Example: Gospel of Matthew (3:13): Where did John the Baptist baptize?
Answer: The River Jordan

1. Gospel of Luke (2:4): Where was Jesus born?

2. Gospel of John (2:9): What was one of Jesus' first miracles?

3. Gospel of John (11:3): Which friend of Jesus got sick and died?

4. Gospel of Mark (3:14): How many apostles did Jesus choose?

5. Gospel of Matthew (8:23): Jesus calms a what?

6. Gospel of Matthew (17:3): Who was Jesus talking to on the mountain when he was transfigured?

7. Gospel of Luke (9:10-17): How many people did Jesus feed?

8. Gospel of Luke (11:27-28): What is true happiness?

(Answers: 1) Luke 2:4 - Bethlehem, 2) John 2:9 - water to wine, 3) John 11:3 - Lazarus, 4) Mark 3:14 - 12,
5) Matthew 8:23 - a storm, 6) Mathew 17:3 - Moses and Elijah, 7) Luke 9:10-17 - 5000,
8) Luke 11:27-28 - those who hear the Word of God and obey it)

Try It — Reading Gospel Stories

Stories about Jesus' Life

- ⊙ Birth of Jesus Matthew 1:18 - 2:12
- ⊙ Baptism of Jesus Mark 1:9-11
- ⊙ Peter's Declaration about Jesus Luke 9:18-20
- ⊙ Transfiguration of Jesus Mark 9:2-13
- ⊙ Judas' Betrayal of Jesus Luke 22:1-53
- ⊙ The Last Supper Mark 14:12-26
- ⊙ Jesus Washes his Disciples' Feet John 13:1-17
- ⊙ The Crucifixion of Jesus Luke 23:26-49
- ⊙ The Resurrection of Jesus Matthew 28:1-10

Healings and Miracles of Jesus

- ⊙ Feeding Five Thousand Matthew 14:13-21
- ⊙ Walking on Water Matthew 14:22-33
- ⊙ Healing the Paralytic Mark 2:1-12
- ⊙ Healing blind Bartimaeus Mark 10:46-52
- ⊙ Raising the Widow's Son Luke 7:11-17
- ⊙ Healing an Epileptic Boy Luke 9:38-42
- ⊙ Turning Water into Wine John 2:1-11
- ⊙ Raising Lazarus John 11:1-44

Stories and Teachings of Jesus

- ⊙ The Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12
- ⊙ The Treasure and Pearl Matthew 13:44-46
- ⊙ Two or Three Gathered Matthew 18:20
- ⊙ The Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18:23-35
- ⊙ What You Do for the Least Important Matthew 25: 31-46
- ⊙ Jesus and Children Mark 10:13-16
- ⊙ The Greatest Commandment Luke 10:25-28
- ⊙ The Good Samaritan Luke 10:30-37
- ⊙ The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
- ⊙ The Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31
- ⊙ Persistent Widow Luke 18:2-8
- ⊙ Jesus, the Bread of Life John 6:25-59
- ⊙ The Good Shepherd John 10:1-18
- ⊙ Vine and Branches John 15:1-17