



Diane Stortz

Making His wonders known to the next generation

10 Simple Ways to Grow a Bible Reader

(Without Being a Bible Scholar Yourself!)

Copyright © 2016 Diane Stortz. DianeStortz.com

- 1 Foster a love of books and reading in your home.** Even babies enjoy looking at pictures and hearing books read aloud. Research shows that children who are read to regularly learn to associate reading with pleasure.
- 2 Let children see and hear the Bible frequently.** Pull up an audio Bible on YouVersion or BibleGateway.com and listen to a chapter while children play nearby. Let your children see you reading your Bible.
- 3 Build an at-home library of Christian children's books.** Find an age-appropriate Bible storybook. Add a devotional and a few seasonal or holiday books. Elementary kids may enjoy reference books, biographies, and comic-style Bible stories too. Check used bookstores for books other families have outgrown.
- 4 Make Bible time part of your regular routine,** whether at breakfast, bedtime, or special family time midweek or on weekends. Use a Bible translation children can understand, like the ICB or NIV. Let children participate by reading, praying, or singing.
- 5 Talk about God and His Word throughout your day.** Nature, family situations, and helping others provide plenty of opportunities. Be open to questions, and search out the answers together. A site like GotQuestions.org can help.
- 6 Mix it up.** Use a devotional guide, act out Bible stories, make up songs or poems, or draw or make crafts for variety and fun. Play children's music based on Scripture in the car.
- 7 When it's time for a full-text Bible, give children a Bible they can read and understand.** Look for an engaging cover, uncluttered page design, and special features like background information and short devotional thoughts.
- 8 Help children establish personal time with God** as they mature. Let them know this is what you do as well—they love to copy you!
- 9 Engage hearts as well as minds.** As we get to know God better, we love Him more. Let the Bible help children discover who God is, what He does, and how He cares for us.
- 10 Pray.** God's Word will always accomplish His purposes (Isaiah 55:10-11)!