

Family Scripture Activity

What you will need...

Bible, candle and matches, paper, pencils, basket or bowl, large sheet of drawing paper, white shelf paper or poster board, tape or marker, crayons and/or modeling clay.

Before you begin...

- On slips of paper write the following names. Mary, Adam, Samson, Herod, Eli, Esau, Elizabeth, David, Martha, Ruth, Rebecca, Cain, Paul, Sara, Jacob, Moses, Simeon, Ahab. Put these slips of paper into a basket or bowl.
- On a large sheet of paper or poster board make a list of the following names: Joseph, Eve, Delilah, Salome, Samuel, Jacob, Zachary, Jonathan, Mary, Naomi, Isaac, Abel, Barnabas, Abraham, Rachel, Aaron, Anna, Jezebel.

How long it will take...

Time: 30-60 minutes. With young children or for households on a tight time schedule the material could be used in more than one session.

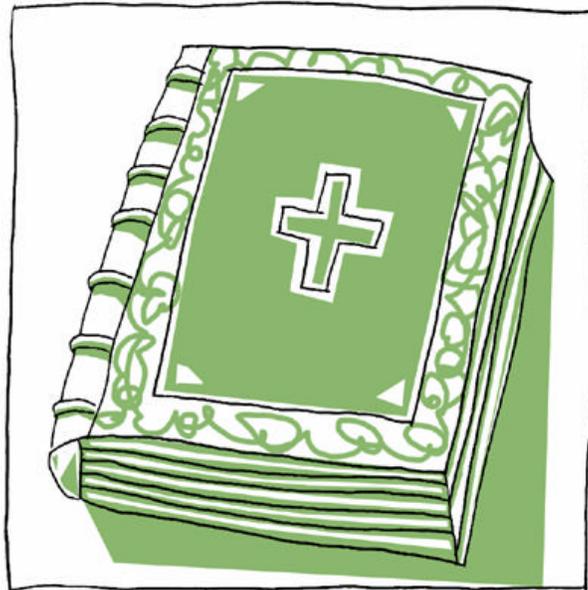
Activity Plan

1. Gather the family in one room. Have them sit so each is comfortable.
2. Explain that you are going to lead them through several activities and sharing. Ask the following questions to introduce the topic.
 - Who can tell us the name of a very old library that contains a number of books all in one volume? (*Answer: The Bible. Show a copy*)
 - Who can tell us about the two major sections of this library? (*Answer: The Old Testament contains the sacred stories of our ancestors who lived before Jesus came to earth; and the New Testament that contains the writings about Jesus and the early Christians.*)
 - Now for a harder question, who can tell us some of the kinds of books that are in this library? (*Answer: history/biography, law, prophecy, wisdom, poetry, drama, letters, parables/proverbs*)

3. Tell them that we will play a game to help us get started with this topic.
 - ⦿ Ask each person to draw a slip of paper (prepared ahead of time with name on it as described above) from the basket or bowl.
 - ⦿ Present the chart of names (prepared ahead of time with names as described above), placing it in view of all.
 - ⦿ Each in turn, tries to match the name drawn with a name on the chart. Use either a piece of tape to attach the slip or use a marker to write the name by the name it matches.
 - ⦿ As each person makes a match the person can tell why they matched the two. If they are not able, see if someone else can tell something. If no one knows the characters, lay the name aside and have the person draw another name from the basket or bowl.
 - ⦿ The game continues until all names are matched, all have had a turn or can be stopped at any point. (*Matched names are: Mary & Joseph; Adam & Eve; Samson & Delilah; Herod & Salome; Eli & Samuel; Esau & Jacob; Elizabeth & Zachary; David & Jonathan; Martha & Mary; Ruth & Naomi; Rebecca & Isaac; Cain & Abel; Paul & Barnabas; Sara & Abraham; Jacob & Rachel; Moses & Aaron; Simeon & Anna; Ahab & Jezebel.*)
4. After the game, ask participants to think about their favorite Bible character or story. They could identify one that was part of the game or another of their favorites. Invite all members to use either the clay or paper and crayons to model or draw about their favorite Bible character or story. As members work, invite them to share about what they are making. Ask about who the character is, why they chose that one, or, what the story is about that they are depicting.
 - ⦿ When most have finished their model or drawing, invite further discussion by asking the following or similar questions:
 - ⦿ If you could be one of the characters of the Bible which one would you choose to be? Why? Which character would you not like to be? Why?
 - ⦿ What story from the Bible inspires you?
 - ⦿ What story from the Bible challenges you?
 - ⦿ Did you hear about any characters or stories today that you had forgotten about or that you did not know about before? Which ones? What did you learn?
 - ⦿ What questions do you have about the Bible, its scriptures or characters? (Note these on a sheet of paper to use as possible areas for further exploration later.)
5. Review the three home activity sheets on Scripture with the group. Explore the possibilities of doing one of the activities as a family or of developing another activity to continue the learning from this session. Invite members to discuss how Scripture could be more a part of their lives and of the life of the family or household.
6. In one of the books in the Bible, St. Paul wrote about the importance of the Bible to the early Christians. He called it the sacred Scriptures. Today we will use this passage from St. Paul's second letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 3: 12-17) for prayer and reflection. I will guide you through the prayer and reflection.
7. Invite someone to light the candle.
8. Invite someone to read 2 Timothy 3:12-17.
9. Pause for a moment of quiet.

10. Say something like: "I invite you to say aloud a word or phrase from this passage that struck you."
11. When it seems like all have spoken, invite someone to read the passage a second time.
12. After the reading, pause for a moment of quiet. Then say something like, "Please feel free to share what you think God might be saying to you or us in this passage; or, how you are challenged or affirmed by this passage."
13. When it seems like all have finished sharing, pray the following or a spontaneous prayer.

God of goodness and love, we believe that you speak to us through the words of sacred scripture. Help us to be open to your Word. Let your Word fill our minds and hearts and guide us in all that we say and do. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son who came as the Word made flesh to dwell among us and who sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always. Amen





Family Scripture Activity

- 1 Agree to spend time together reflecting on Scripture. The agreement should include the following elements:
 - How often to meet: weekly, twice a month, once a month, or perhaps just during a season such as Advent, Lent, Easter.
 - What time to meet: name the day as well as beginning and ending time. Allow at least 20 minutes but could be longer depending on ages of family members.
 - What you will use for reflection: the Sunday Scripture Readings, suggested topical passages or other seasonal Scripture, such as Advent, Lent or Easter readings.
 - Determine who the leader will be: who will take responsibility for reminding and gathering members, and leading the process.
- 2 Set aside twenty minutes a week to share a Scripture story. It could be told or read. Use your family Bible. Invite the children to illustrate the story and post it in a prominent place for the week. Act out the story, creating costumes and props from household items.
- 3 A family member lights the candle recalling its symbolism of the presence of Jesus, Light of the World, in our midst, and then everyone prays together:

As we light this candle let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you came among us to show us how to live. Your words and deeds are recorded in the Scriptures and have been passed on to us through the ages by people of faith who have gone before us and by the traditions that we practice. We believe that you are with us now. Help us to be open to your Word today so that we may hear the message that you intend for us. May we be both affirmed and challenged by your Word. Amen.
- 4 A family member reads the Scripture passage chosen for this time. Ask members to repeat words or phrases that struck them as they listened.
- 5 A family member reads the passage a second time. Ask members to reflect silently on what they heard for a few minutes.
- 6 A family member reads the passage a third time. Ask members to take a few minutes of quiet (suggest they focus on burning candle) and think about what God might be saying to them in this passage. Is God affirming them in some way? Is God giving them a challenge? After a few minutes, invite members to share their reflections.

7 Ask if there is any action which individuals or the family could do during the coming week to put into practice the message of God that was shared today.

8 When all have had time to share, invite members to a concluding prayer. Use a familiar prayer such as the Our Father; invite members to make spontaneous petitions that reflect their thoughts from sharing; or use a simple spontaneous blessing or prayer of thanksgiving:

Lord, God, we thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit to lead and guide us according to your Word. Be with us as we strive to put into practice the example you gave us by your life.

Topical Scripture Readings

Affliction

Romans 8:18-25, 35-39; Sirach 2:1-18; John 14:1-3; Matthew 11:28-30; Philippians 4:12-13; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.

Charity/Love

John 13:1-15, 15:9-13; Romans 12:9-21, 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 1 Peter 4:8-10; 1 John 3:11-20; 1 John 4:7-12, 18-21.

Children

Proverbs 23:22-25; Sirach 3:1-8, 12-16; 7:27-28; Luke 2:2-52, Luke 9:37-43, 18:15-17; Mark 10:13-16; 1 John 3:1-3.

Death

1 Corinthians 15:19-22; John 11:1-44; Romans 5:12-15; Colossians 3:1-4.

Family

Colossians 3:18-21; Mark 3:33-35; Acts 2:42-47; Joel 2:15-16; Deuteronomy 31:12-13; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

Forgiveness

Ezekiel 36:25-36; Matthew 18:15-18, 21-35; Luke 15:11-32.

Friendship

Sirach 6:5-17, 9:10-16, 13:1-13; Luke 10:25-37, 11:5-13; John 15:14-17, 20:11-18.

Life

Isaiah 65:17-25; Genesis 1:1-2:4; John 15:4-7; Romans 6:3-11, Romans 20-23; Matthew 7:13-14; 1 John 5:9-13.

Marriage

Genesis 2:18-24; Deuteronomy 24:5; Isaiah 62:3-5; Matthew 19:3-11; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Ephesians 5:22-33.

Parents

John 19:26-27; Ephesians 6:4; Sirach 30:1-13; 1 John 5:1-2; Isaiah 66:7-13.

Peace

Ezekiel 34:25-31; Isaiah 2:2-5; John 20:19-26; Luke 24:36-43; Philippians 4:4-7; 2 Timothy 2:20-26.

Thankfulness

Exodus 18:8-12; Psalm 111; John 11:41-42; Ephesians 1:3-6; Philippians 1:3-6.