

Study 1

[Ideas to help you uncover the treasures!]

1. **Get Study Bibles for everyone.** Bibles with concordances, dictionaries, study notes at the bottom of pages, etc. I still use my NIV Study Bible I got as Camper of the Week in high school. I can't give it up - so many great memories and everything marked as I remember it! Ron uses a KJV Spirit Filled Bible along with his Ipad. (Personally, I think his Spirit-Filled Bible is a bit snobby as though the rest of our Bibles aren't Spirit-filled?????) Anyways, it has a great Greek word dictionary throughout where it tells the original meaning of words in the text. This has been cool in our conversations, so I am past it now. At the beginning of last school year (ages 9 and 10) we got the kids their very first Study Bibles - ESV Student versions. And we also use The Message by Eugene Peterson in many of our discussions. When they were little, they each had a Beginner's Bible that had great pictures! But once they start reading, I think you buy them a "legit" study Bible to start the journey! I wish we would have bought theirs sooner. Our prayer is this: by the time our kids leave our house, we want their Bibles marked up and beat up. So the sooner you start, the better!
2. **Keep your Bibles out and easy to get to - all of them.** At one time, we kept our Bibles on the kitchen table in a tray. Now we have a bookcase in our kitchen, because they started bugging me all on the table. If things aren't in front of me or in my path, they get forgotten! So, I needed the book that I consider the most important in our house to be front and center! Again, this book is our guide book for life. If we believe it, it says read it. So, it is a good idea for it to be in a place where we will see it and get to it easily.
3. **Read yours.** Your children's love for the Bible will come from your love at first. If you value it, they will value it. If you read it, they will want to know what is inside. Some of my greatest memories are the kids creeping in on Ron in the quiet of the morning and finding him at our kitchen table having a chat with Father with his Bible in front of him.

Many times they would crawl in his lap and just rest there as he continued reading. They used to play this game, and he would say to them before they could read - "I just found your name in here. Look, it's right there." And then he would read a verse and put their name in and throughout the verse. He would turn the page, get excited all over again, and read another verse - as many verses as they would let him before they were off his lap and running around. But it was so important - from the very beginning, they knew that this book whatever it was called was important to Mommy and Daddy, and it has their names all in it. How cool is that! I have a funny story for you the day they did begin reading and realized their name really wasn't in the Bible. But the point was made, and we still draw back to that.

Ron and I are a mess, and we are desperate for his rest. As we find the answers in his words, we teach our children to do the same. I like to call it - living in front of them. I believe this is best thing we can do!

And if the Bible means little to you or you don't know where to start, keep reading or email us! I have my own journey that I would love to share with you. There was a time in my life when I saw the Bible as a rule book not an invitation for life.

4. **Give them the framework for what is inside.** We have the Old and New Testament. There are several books in each and so on. Make the Table of Contents their friend. Show them all of the books written there and the numbers next to the books so that they can figure out where to go. Once they get to the book, talk about the chapter numbers (big ones) and the verse numbers (little ones) on every page. We also have learned some goofy "books of the Bible" songs that help us get to know the different names of the books and the order they are in. You are basically like the cruise director - not doing it for them but showing them how to get there!

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5. **Each time you guys sit down to have some quality conversation as a family, get all the Bibles out with pens/pencils/highlighters ready.** This will take time, maybe even half of the time you have, but it is worth it. As they get used to it, it will get faster. When you read a verse, everybody looks up the verse in their own Bibles. Don't find it for them. Again, show them the table of contents and help them learn how to find the verse on their own. This is going to seem like it takes a crazy amount of time, but you have got to teach them how to maneuver through the book without you. The more they look, the quicker it will go. During this stage there is a lot of repeating and a lot of patience required.

6. **When you find the verse, ask 2 questions - who are you God? What do you want me to do?** If you find anything in the verse/s that tells you something about God, we circle it. If there is anything that I am told to do, we underline it. So simple but this has been revolutionary for Ron and I in our own Bible study, and we believe it gives Maya, Ada and Carson some basic questions they can ask every time they open the Bible. They are always amazed at how many more circles there always are - I can't wait for Father to surprise you too! He always outgives us! Carson loves to grab my Bible sometimes and open it to any page. He is determined to find a page with no "circles or underlines." And he always finds a few but in the midst of that search, he is seeing jumping right out at him attributes of God circled here and there and the "underlines" leading him in the way he should go!

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[A Bookmark for your Bible!]

Study

When reading the Bible,
ask yourself 2 questions:

1. Who are you God?

Circle this info.

**2. What do you want
me to do?**

Underline this info.

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"But let him who glories glory in this,
That he understands and knows Me,
That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness,
judgment, and righteousness in the earth.
For in these I delight," says the Lord."
Jeremiah 9:24

