

Reading and Studying Scripture

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. *Psalm 119:105*

Teaching teens how to read and study the Bible is an invaluable gift. It's not simply reading words on a page but connecting with God and understanding His teachings. Encourage teens to approach the Bible with curiosity and open hearts. Remind them that it's okay to have questions and not understand everything immediately. The Bible is a rich, complex book that offers new insights every time it's read. Building the discipline to read God's Word and apply it to their lives will be transformative.

➤ conversation starter

What has been your experience when reading the Bible? Are there parts you find particularly interesting or challenging?

How do you feel about starting a regular Bible study? Is there a specific book or topic in the Bible you're curious about?

➤ navigating the conversation:

- **Start with Prayer:** Encourage starting each Bible study session with a prayer for understanding and guidance.
- **Choose a Suitable Translation:** Discuss finding a Bible translation that is easy to understand.
- **Set a Regular Time and Place:** Encourage establishing a routine for Bible study, finding a quiet place free from distractions (including phones).
- **Begin with Familiar Stories:** Suggest starting with familiar books or stories, like the Gospels, to build confidence and interest.
- **Use Study Aids:** Introduce study aids, such as commentaries, study Bibles, and Bible study apps, which can provide context and explanations.
- **Encourage Note-Taking:** Suggest taking notes or journaling thoughts and questions that arise during reading.
- **Discuss Application:** Talk about how the teachings can be applied to daily life and encourage reflection on what the passages mean personally.
- **Be Patient and Persistent:** Remind teens that understanding deepens over time, so they don't get discouraged by confusing passages.
- **Explore Different Study Methods:** Explore together and learn different study methods, like topical study, character study, or verse mapping to keep Bible study engaging. You can search online and learn all about these great methods.
- **Encourage Participation in Study Groups:** Suggest joining a Bible study group.
- **Model the Habit:** Share your own Bible study experiences and habits. Your own practice can be a powerful example.
- **Address Doubts and Questions:** Encourage them to ask questions and seek answers. Doubts and questions are a natural part of growing in our faith.

