

# LEARN GOD'S WAYS

"The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation."

— D.L. Moody

**W**hat do you enjoy so much that you will commit to studying it in order to *really* know it and experience it deeply? What makes you say, "This enriches my life so much that I want to become a master-level user. I want to experience this as completely as possible."

We will miss so much that can strengthen our love relationship with God if we are not devoted to

studying the Scriptures. **The Bible is where we can learn about life with God.** Life with God is how we are as fully alive as God intended us to be. In the Bible, we find the truth of who God is and what he loves — and the way we can live in close friendship with him.

God has preserved the Scriptures over thousands of years so we can know his character, and that he loves us. He did not preserve Scripture so that we could accumulate facts. **He did not give us the Bible so that we could merely be informed.** We are repeatedly told in Scripture that God wants us to know him — relationally, not just factually.

**Studying means that we notice and search out the different ways that God reveals himself to us.** Studying God's Word means that we notice the details of the stories, songs, poetry, letters, legal documents, and life principles that are included in the Bible. Studying means we notice who is writing, when in the scope of history they are writing, and why they recorded what they did. Studying means that we become familiar with the great recurring movements of God in different times in history: creation, sinfulness, redemption, and restoration. Studying means we acknowledge that every little word is important. **Studying means that we pause often to ask God what he wants to tell us personally in this moment in time.**

**Start the conversation with your child!**

God has given you and me the most amazing invitation in Proverbs 4:20-22! God says: My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them. ...



# LEARN GOD'S WAYS

## INVITATIONS TO ENGAGE

### EARLY CHILDHOOD (2-6 years old)

The Bible is one book that is made up of lots of books. The first part is called the Old Testament. (*Hold up one hand.*) And the second part is called the New Testament.

(*Put your other hand next to the first to form a "book."*) **Here's a poem we can say together: The Holy Bible is God's book. Let's open it and see.** (*Open your hands like you would open a book.*) Where He tells us of His love; He loves you, He loves me. (Point to the child and then to yourself.) Now let's thank God for the Bible and read a little bit together.

(\*Adapted from *Spiritual Disciplines for Children*, by Vernie Schorr Love.)

### ELEMENTARY AGE (5-10 years old)

The Bible is one book that contains 66 other books. Every book is divided into chapters and verses to make it easier to find what we are looking for.

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. Let's look there to find out how many verses there are. This chapter talks about the value of the Bible. **After you draw a Bible in your journal, we are going to search this long chapter and find other names for the Bible so you can put them on that page.**

Let's also look for the benefits of being familiar with the Bible and write them down, too. We will read just a few verses at a time and ask God to show us what he wants us to remember. (Spread this over several days.)

### PRETEEN/EARLY ADOLESCENT (10-14 years old)

There are different kinds of writing included in the Bible. There are stories, legal documents, songs, poems, and letters. It's important to know what kind of writing we are reading.

Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings about lots of topics. Let's sit a minute while you ask God to show you something as you read part of Proverbs 24. We want to pay attention and not lose track of what God tells us.

**So, let's label some pages in your journal so that you can write down the good advice you find in Proverbs.** You can have a page for wisdom about Relationships, a page about Money & Work, a page about Speaking & Listening, a page about God — and you might want to add some other categories that you find. What did God draw your attention to today?

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*Spiritual Disciplines for Children: A Guide to a Deeper Spiritual Life for You and Your Children,*  
by Vernie Schorr Love

*Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name,*  
by Sally Lloyd Jones