

## Session 2 | Show Notes

### Encouraging Faith Growth

I believe there is no growth within a personal relationship with God without a healthy Christian community and time spent in the Bible. Within the podcast, we focused on the importance of community and the benefits of getting your child connected into a healthy community. In these show notes, you will read about the importance of the Bible and how it helps your child grow in their faith.

Obviously, I will not be able to communicate the entirety of the Bible and its impact in one short post, so, for now, we are just going to view it within the context of growth and how it applies to that.

The Bible, as a physical book, is a pillar within the Christian faith. Believing that "All scripture is God-breathed" 2 Timothy 3:16. Impacts much of the way Christians relate to the Bible. It is not simply a book, but rather a living account of God.

The Bible as a whole is a collection of books put together over a period of time with several different literary devices and authors contributing to the Bible as a whole. There is everything from History to poetry.

Daunting, isn't it? I'll admit I still find the Bible to be a little overwhelming at times, which it can be. There is a lot of information covered in a fair number of pages. But, before we get overwhelmed together let's simplify the purpose of reading the Bible and connect with how it applies to your child's growth.

Think of it as a relationship or friendship. Any good relationship has consistent communication and time spent. If you never spend time with your friend or talk to them on the phone at what point does your relationship suffer or even end. This is why we read the Bible, to grow in relationship with Jesus.

For your child, the act of reading their Bible needs to be encouraged, remember encouragement goes a long way. It's not a question of how often they read but rather a question of the intent behind the reading. Sure, consistency is key to forming any new habit. Many people like to read in the morning or right before they go to bed. If your child is one of those individuals, then great! If they are someone who likes to read while they are eating breakfast or lunch, then awesome. It's not about when it's about why - an intentional relationship.

### 3 practical tips for reading the bible

#### 1) Start in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John

Trying to read the Bible all the way through, from cover to cover, without any context can be really difficult and disheartening to even the best of readers. So if you start in one of the Gospels (the names above.) these will give you a good understanding of Jesus, who he was, and how he lived his life all through eyewitness accounts.

#### 2) Apps can be Awesome

If you allow your child to use apps or if they have access to your phone some of the applications out there for bible reading allow you to choose themes or topical Bible studies that you and your child could go through together. I will point out some of my recommendations in the show notes.

#### 3) Find one that fits your child

There are a ton of Bibles to choose from and not all are as easy to grasp for children. Some have extras in them that can be really helpful in understanding the faith and the context around each chapter. I will

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recommend some of my favourites and give a breakdown to some of the extras that a Bible may or may not have. Generally speaking, New Living Translation NLT and New International Version NIV are two

**Apologetics Study Bible for Students and Youth.**

[https://www.amazon.ca/Apologetics-Study-Bible-Students-McDowell-ebook/dp/B00PJG3UMK/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1534519678&sr=8-6&keywords=apologetics+study+bible](https://www.amazon.ca/Apologetics-Study-Bible-Students-McDowell-ebook/dp/B00PJG3UMK/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1534519678&sr=8-6&keywords=apologetics+study+bible)

**Children's Adventure Bible.**

[https://www.amazon.ca/Adventure-Bible-Hardcover-Full-Color/dp/0310727472/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1534519823&sr=8-3&keywords=kids+bible](https://www.amazon.ca/Adventure-Bible-Hardcover-Full-Color/dp/0310727472/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1534519823&sr=8-3&keywords=kids+bible)

You can also pick up a bible at Covenant Bay Bible Camp anytime. Covenant Bay will have Bibles on hand to be handed out at anytime.

In reading the Bible we are connecting with God and his teachings, this is crucial to our spiritual growth and health. Supporting your child in this is foundational to the journey of their faith.

Thank you, for embarking with us on this journey, I hope you are gaining useful information into starting conversations and talking to your child about their faith.

Embark is here to support you! Please do not hesitate to send in questions in the comments section at <http://covenantbay.ca/embark/session-2> or to the contacts provided below.

Until next week, enjoy the journey of faith.

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