

God Gave Us the Bible to Help Us

Featured story from the *Catholic Children's Bible*; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
(for the full story, read 2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Parent Activity Guide for use with children in grades 1-5 and their families – March home lesson

Gather

Gather your family members around a central table or activity space. Make sure everyone can see *The Catholic Children's Bible* or another Bible of your choosing.

Quiet yourselves and take a moment to enter into God's presence. Choose someone to lead the opening prayer.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and then the reader should pray aloud the following:

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son, Jesus, to live among us and form a community of believers. Let your Holy Spirit open our hearts to hear what You want to say to us through the Bible passage today. Give us a mind like Jesus to understand your message to each of us. Amen.

Share in God's Word

Ask your child to read aloud the feature story from the children's Bible, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (found on page 1886 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* revised edition, copyright 2017). Provide support as needed.

The leader should explain the vocabulary from the passage:

- Scripture: the Bible
- Rebuking: pointing out what is wrong
- Qualified: has the knowledge and talent to do something
- Equipped: supplied with the things that are needed for a task

Check to see if your child has any other questions about the passage and address them as needed.

Understand it

Leader: Let's review the main ideas of this passage from 2 Timothy. This passage reminds us that the Bible helps us to live a good life pleasing to God.

Refer to your *Catholic Children's Bible* "Understand it!" section or read aloud the following:

As we read in this Scripture passage, God uses the Bible to speak to us with love. The Bible is God's book. He is the author. Through the Bible, God teaches us how to have a good life and how to live as he wants us to. If we follow the Bible's teachings, we will know real happiness. We will live forever with God in heaven.

You can see why the Bible is such an important book. We study the Bible and use it for prayer. We listen to the readings from it at every Mass. The more you read the Bible, the closer you will be to

God. The more you read it, the more you will know how God wants you to live. Thank God for the gift of his Word in the Bible.

Live it *

At Sunday Mass, pay close attention to the readings from the Bible. God is speaking to you through those readings! What message is he giving you? After Mass, talk about the readings with your family. Have each family member share one thing he or she learned from the readings.

Tell it

Using the pictures in the “Tell it!” section of the featured story spread, check your child(ren)’s comprehension by asking him/her to retell this reading in his/her own words.

Adaptation: If you do not have *The Catholic Children’s Bible*, ask your child to create a comic strip with three pictures to depict three main ideas from the passage and explain them to you.

Closing Prayer

Leader: We quiet ourselves now and ask God to be present with us as we pray. After hearing this Bible passage, who or what we should pray for today?

[Give everyone time to list anyone or any situation in need of prayers.]

Leader invites everyone to join in the Sign of the Cross, and then prays aloud the following prayer or adapts it to fit your family’s needs:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of our lives and the chance to share this prayer time together. We offer all of the prayer requests spoken here into Your care, trusting in Your great love for us and that You will take care of everything.

Thank you for the gift of the Bible and all the important lessons it has for us. Help us to grow to love the Bible more every day. Help us to be better about spending time reading your Words in the Scriptures. We ask your Holy Spirit to be present when we read the Bible and to help us see what is important in it.

In your most Holy Trinity we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

*** See optional additional activities on the next page.**

Additional Activities (Optional)

These interactive family activities could be used as an extra activity in the above family lesson or used at another time in the month to reinforce the main theme of the Biblical heart of Jesus for March.

The following activities have been adapted from <https://d6family.com/splink/>.

Obey the Instructions

Items Needed: slip of paper with the name of a destination written on it (oak tree in backyard, dryer in laundry room, trunk of car, etc.); Reward (yummy treat, small gift, whatever you like)

Hide a reward at a specific destination without the kids knowing it. Announce that there is a reward hidden for them but they must follow your instructions to get it. (All the kids can do this together or you can do it one at a time if you have a smaller family.) Verbally give clues (a little at a time – go ten steps and turn left; look until you find a yellow flower; go where there is something we use to cut the grass; etc.) or write them on slips of paper and give them at the appropriate time.

After the reward has been found and enjoyed, talk about it:

What might have happened if you had NOT followed the instructions? (We wouldn't have found the reward; We would have wandered around; etc.)

Why are instructions important? (They help us find the way; They help us know how things work; They guide us; etc.)

Where are God's instructions? (Bible)

Why is it good for us to obey God's instructions? (So we can know the right way to live; So we can know how to get along with others; So we can know how to love God; etc.)

Read Psalm 19:9-11.

What do these verses tell us about God's law/words? (They are true, fair, better than gold or honey, and there is a reward for keeping them)

God's instructions are found in the Bible and there is a great reward when we follow them!

True or False?

Read the following statements and ask the children to say if they believe it to be true or false.

- The biggest bird in the world is the ostrich (up to 9 ft. tall).
- Honeybees have hair on their eyes.
- A cheetah can reach a top speed approaching 70 mph.

- The average cow produces 40 glasses of milk each day.
- Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

All five statements are true. Were these statements true even if we didn't know or believe it? Yes, these statements are absolutely true. The Bible is true whether people believe it or not. We want to believe and obey God's Word as the truth it is.

Grow in the Word

Items Needed: Packet of seeds, Flowerpots or starter pots, Soil, Water

The Bible is God's truth and contains all we need to grow to be more like Jesus. It can help us learn how to get to heaven, to be a good friend, to forgive our enemies, and to grow in love and many other good qualities.

What things can keep God's Word from helping us? (We don't listen to it; we don't do what it says; we don't think about it; we are more concerned about other things; etc.)

Just as we plant a seed and must take care of it to help it grow, God's Word is like a seed that we must pay attention to. We must read the Bible, think about God's words, and obey what God tells us to do. God's Word will produce good things in us.

But if we ignore God's Word, we will not grow in our walk with Him. The same is true of plants, isn't it? If we don't take care of our plant, it will not grow. Instead, it will wither and die.

Plant some seeds (that can later be transplanted into your garden or yard) as a way to reinforce this discussion.

Can You Guess?

Items Needed: Bible, bag or box big enough to fit the Bible inside it

Play 20 questions to guess something that will help Mom or Dad.

Place a Bible inside a bag or box so kids can't see it. Hold up the bag and invite kids to ask 20 questions (that can be answered with a yes or no) to see if they can guess what is in the bag.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

How does God's Word help us? (It is good for rules to live by and teaching; It is good for correction and instruction; etc.)

Mom and Dad are very happy when you obey God's Word, the Bible. God is also pleased when we read His Word and obey Him!