

# Using the Bible as a Family

## Goals

- Regularly reading the Bible as a family and as individuals.
- For all members of the family to fall in love with the Bible.

## Barriers

- Catholics do not commonly read the Bible. 57% of U.S. Catholics say their frequency of reading the Bible outside religious services is “seldom/never.” Only 21% read the Bible at least weekly. (Pew Research, *U.S. Religious Landscape Survey*, <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>)
- Many Catholic parents are not well-educated about the Bible. They are sometimes also embarrassed about this, and may not want to admit it. They may also feel inadequate if their children ask them questions they can't answer.
- The Bible can be difficult to read and understand. It can be like reading Shakespeare.

## Objectives

Purchase engaging, age-appropriate Bible(s)

- Make specific recommendations (see separate handout).
- Facilitate purchasing (e.g. bulk orders).
- Have sample copies for review, and use them at the parish.

Teach parents basic biblical literacy

- Online video can be a great option here.
- Don't assume any knowledge, and teach the basics: the basic structure, how to find particular verses, who wrote the Bible, etc.

Encourage regular use of the Bible in the home

- Suggest using it for bedtimes stories.
- Suggest using it for prayer, particularly during liturgical seasons.
- Explain how to find Mass readings: child versions can be read before or afterward.
- Offer family Bible study options.
- Scripture-based children's songs can be a great way to learn about the Bible.

Excite parents about reading the Bible themselves

- Recommend ways to read the Bible (not all the way through). Suggest starting with the Gospels.
- Introduce them to *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*.
- Offer adult bible study group or book options.

[GrowingUpCatholic.com/bible](http://GrowingUpCatholic.com/bible)