



An Invitation to the Bible
Second graders are reading independently, so this is the perfect time to help them engage in the Book that will change their lives: the Bible. Most of us, as adults, struggle with reading the Bible on a consistent basis. Our lives and the time we spend in the Bible would probably be different if someone had helped us understand when we were younger that the Bible is personal, prepares us for life, and is true. (This didn't happen for many of us.) Therefore, this is the goal of the 2nd grade Family Experience.

Kickstarter 1: The Bible Is Personal

Often, we see the Bible as something we study at church and not necessarily something that we use personally. However, the Bible is a personal letter from God to us.

Read the story of The Parable of the Farmer in Luke 8:4-15:

A large crowd gathered together. People came to Jesus from town after town. As they did, he told a story. He said, 'A farmer went out to plant his seed. He scattered the seed on the ground. Some fell on a path. People walked on it, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky places. When it grew, the plants dried up because they had no water. Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up with it and crowded out the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It grew up and produced

a crop 100 times more than the farmer planted.'

When Jesus said this, he called out, 'Those who have ears should listen.' His disciples asked him what the story meant.

He said, 'You have been given the chance to understand the secrets of God's kingdom. But to outsiders I speak by using stories. In that way, "They see, but they will not know what they are seeing. They hear, but they will not understand what they are hearing."' [Isaiah 6:9]

Here is what the story means. The seed is God's message. People on the path are those who hear. But then the devil comes. He takes away the message from their hearts. He does it so they won't believe. Then they can't be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who hear the message and receive it with joy. But they have no roots. They believe for a while. But when they are put to the test, they fall away from the faith. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear the message. But as they go on their way, they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures. So they do not reach full growth.

But the seed on good soil stands for those with an honest and good heart. They hear the message. They keep it in their hearts. They remain faithful and produce a good crop.



Help your child understand these verses by asking:

Can you draw a picture in each of the four boxes that shows the different things that happen to the seeds in this story?

Can you circle the picture that shows the way God wants us to respond to the Bible?

How does God want us to respond to the Bible?

God wants us to read the Bible, put it in our hearts, and do what it says. In this way, the Bible is very personal. Every time we read it, God is trying to teach us something.

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Kickstarter 2: The Bible Prepares Us for Life

The Bible is so much more than knowledge and information. It can impact every area of our lives. In fact, it has information on how to handle money, interact with others, live a life of integrity, and other important areas. It prepares us to live this life.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17:

But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned. Don't give up what you are sure of. You know the people you learned it from. You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus.

God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.

Memorizing Bible verses is something that will equip us to live life God's way. These verses, in particular, are GREAT verses to memorize. Using a dry erase

marker, let your child write verses 16 and 17 (above in red) on a mirror (maybe a dresser mirror or bathroom mirror) so that they see it every day. Encourage them to read the verses every single time they look

in the mirror, until they have them memorized.

Kickstarter 3: The Bible Is True

By now, your child knows the difference between reality and fantasy, between what is true and what is just a story. The Bible isn't just a story, and it isn't just a fairy tale. It is the true account of how God saved the world through His Son Jesus.



John was one of Jesus' disciples. He spent time with Jesus, watched Him do miracles, heard Him teach, watched Him die on the cross, and saw Him come back to life. At the end of the book of John (John 21:24, 25), this is what he said:

This is the disciple who gives witness to these things. He also wrote them down. We know that his witness is true.

Jesus did many more things than just what was written down. What if every one of them had been written down? I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written from these stories!

Share with your child the ways you know the Bible to be true. Is there a story of when a verse in the Bible helped you make a decision and/or comforted you during a tough time? Telling this story to your child will help them see how true the Bible has been in your own life. If you can't think of one immediately, just let them know that you'll have to think about it and tell them later. (Set a specific time that will work for your family so that you won't forget to do it!)



Bible Presentation

Choose a Bible that your child can understand. There are many different translations, types, and styles of Bibles available. Choose one that your child can use for years to come. A resource page has been provided with some ideas. A Bible can be purchased at a local Christian bookstore, online, or at your local mega market. You may even choose to have your child's name engraved on the Bible.

Sample Letter to Your Child:

Dear _____,

As a 2nd grader, you have a great ability to read. With that, we want you to grow to love the greatest book of all time: the Bible. The people who love you most have taken the time to mark their favorite verses in this Bible. We hope it will be a guide for you as you seek to know God on your own.

Since you've become such a good reader, we desire for you to read the Bible, because it is personal, prepares you for life, and is true. Enjoy reading God's letter of love to you!

Love,

Mom and Dad

Date: _____

Bible Presentation Script

This year, you have become a really good reader. As a family, we've heard you read many books, and we believe the greatest book you will ever read is the Bible. We chose this Bible for you because we want you to begin spending your own time reading it every day--whether that be in the morning when you first wake up, when you get home from school in the afternoon, or before you go to bed at night.

Lots of people that you love have marked special verses in this Bible, so that as you read, you can discover everyone's favorite verses. We hope that this Bible becomes very special to you as you spend time reading it in order to know God more.

We've written a letter to you in the front of this Bible. Let me read it with you.

[Read letter.]

As a family, we've learned that the Bible is personal, that the Bible prepares us for life, and that the Bible is true. We hope you will always remember these three things as you grow up and learn more about a great God who loves you, by reading His words to you.

[Present Bible.]



2nd Grade Developmental Guide

The biggest developmental jump in the life of a 2nd grader is in the area of social development. Kids are beginning to develop significant friendships and recognize the needs and feelings of others. Another big milestone is in the area of reading. This year children will read more independently than they have in any of the previous years.

Here are some of the developmental changes they are experiencing right now.

Physical

- Can have vast differences in their size and physical abilities, as compared to other 2nd graders, which may affect self-concept
- May not want to rest when tired
- Should be riding a two-wheel bicycle
- Can do simple chores like making the bed, sweeping the floor, etc.
- Have well-developed hand-eye coordination

Emotional

- Are sensitive to adult evaluation
- Care very much about fairness
- Become more serious
- Begin to reason logically
- Want to assume more responsibility
- Have a rising level of confidence as a student

Relational

- Compare themselves to others, which can lead to self-criticism
- Place importance on having friendships
- Seek security in groups, clubs, etc.
- Begin to understand others' perspectives

Spiritual

- Still see things as right or wrong, black or white, with no middle ground
- Begin to recognize differences in others' beliefs (They may have questions regarding why other children believe differently than they do.)
- Can understand reasoning and make right decisions
- Have a tendency to worry more than they did in the past
- Have a lessening need for punishment, though discipline is constantly occurring
- Need encouragement from parents, particularly because self-comparison is high during this time