

克利夫蘭華人教會

Cleveland Chinese Christian Church

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Youth Pastor Letter

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Dear Church Family,

Christian parents want to help their children love the Bible. But most of us find this to be quite a challenge. How do we help our children get to know the most important book ever assembled and begin to develop habits of enjoying it daily? There is no simple formula for success, but here are a few tips:

1. Give Them a Bible They Enjoy - Have you ever given your children their own Bible? If they do not have one, invest in one. Purchase one that your children will enjoy picking up and looking at, one that communicates how special and valuable this book is. When it comes to what translation to purchase, we recommend the English Standard Version.
2. Give Them an Example to Follow – Buying a Bible for your child is not enough. They need to see us consistently, enthusiastically, and joyfully reading the Bible too. The example of parents reading the Bible will make a deep impression that will affect our children consciously and unconsciously every day.
3. Give Them a Compelling Motive - If we want our kids to read the Bible, we need to give them a reason. Just saying, “Just do it!” is not enough. Why read the Bible every day? Because, along with the faithful preaching of God’s word, regular Bible reading is the main way that God speaks to us today. The Bible is more than just words of wisdom to make our lives better, but the words of eternal life that can make us “wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).
4. Give Them a Clear, Manageable Plan - How do they go about daily reading the Bible? Where do they start? We need to give them a clear, manageable plan, or else they will just jump around the Bible with no sense of purpose or progress. This can lead them to eventually give up. There are many Bible reading plans out there. You can also find some at the Welcome Desk in our church lobby.
5. Give Them Encouragement to Keep Reading – We need to encourage our children to keep at it! Provide opportunities to share and discuss with them about what you are learning and ask questions to see what they are learning as well. Showing an ongoing interest, and communing in God’s word for even a few minutes from time to time, encourages our kids to keep reading.
6. Give Them Grace in Their Failures - Like you, your children are going to fail. They will forget to read and they will give you all sorts of excuses. Don’t give up. Give them grace! Keep pointing them to the grace of Christ and his gospel to cover their sins and to motivate their obedience.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or prayer requests, please contact me at jmlilley@clevelandccc.org.

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan Lilley