

## Getting Started: Tips for Parents

Learning the Bible can be a great adventure for your whole family! Special care with different age groups can be taken to ensure that each child or youth is able to engage with the Scriptures at an age-appropriate level. Here are our suggestions by age range:

**Infant/Toddler:** Simply tell your child about some of the Bible stories you know in simple language. Use the names of the characters often. Buy a Bible storybook in “boardbook” format so little hands can explore their very own Bible. Explain that the Bible is God’s Word for us.

**Preschool:** Read from a Bible storybook designed for children ages 3-5 years. You can also find favorite passages in your Bible and read them to your child. Also allow your child to handle your Bible and watch you reading your Bible.

**Elementary:** Progress to a Bible designed for young readers. There are many options on the market. Choose one with some interesting illustrations, “factoids”, and information sprinkled throughout the text. (Caution: extraneous text is written by various scholars and is not always theologically sound.) Create a scrapbook of Biblical characters. Find pictures and background information online.

**Middle School:** At Salem, 7th graders receive a new Study Bible at the beginning of Confirmation instruction. Go through the Bible together. Read the character profiles, the introductions to the books, and many other interesting tidbits. Invite your child to create a PowerPoint presentation on various topics or characters.

**High School:** Find a Bible trivia game or Bible Pictionary and play together. Look up any questions you don’t know. Invite your teen to re-tell the story in a dramatic fashion for a younger sibling. Do a search for the goriest stories in Scripture (there are a bunch!), then talk about the questions that arise. Discuss connections between scripture and modern stories and situations.

## Resources for Family Bible Reading and Play

**Infants & Toddlers:** The Baby Bible Storybook by Robin Currie; Baby’s First Bible ([www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org))

**Toddlers & Preschoolers:** A Child’s First Bible, Kenneth N. Taylor

**Preschoolers and Early Elementary:** The Beginner’s Bible: Timeless Bible Stories by Catherine DeVries ([www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org))

**Upper Elementary and Up:** Egermeier’s Bible Story Book by Elsie S. Egermeier and Arlene S. Hall ([www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org))

**Middle School and Up:** The Student Bible Dictionary by Karen Dockrey, Johnnie Godwin, Phyllis Godwin; The Bible Guide by Andrew Knowles;

**High School:** The Gospel According to the Simpsons by Mark I. Pinsky; Faith Journey Through Fantasy Lands; A Christian Dialogue with Harry Potter, Star Wars, and The Lord of the Rings by Russell W. Dalton

**Games:** Scattergories, Bible Edition; Bible Guesstures; Outburst, Bible Edition (*Games are available at various online retailers; just search for the name of the game to find a retailer.*)

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
4930 West Bellfort Ave.  
Houston, TX 77035-3202  
713/723-3509  
[www.salemhouston.org](http://www.salemhouston.org)  
Email: [mandy@salemhouston.org](mailto:mandy@salemhouston.org)



## Learning Old Testament Basics Together

# What Language Do You Speak?

The Holy Scriptures contain God's revelation of God's Word, conveyed to the people of every generation, declaring God's gifts of mercy and grace, forgiveness and hope, and reconciliation and peace. The Bible is the method by which God has spoken to God's people throughout the ages. The language of Scripture is the language of faith for God's people.

However, more and more people, even people of faith, do not have a basic knowledge of the fundamental stories, people, events and places that the Bible describes. This lack of fluency in Scripture, if not addressed, leads to Biblically illiterate adults who may or may not find value in sharing these stories with their children.

During the 2007-08 educational year at Salem, our children will be studying primarily the New Testament lessons that are read in worship each week during our Salem ALIVE! educational time. In order for children and youth to also gain knowledge of the Old Testament stories, upon which much of the New Testament rests, we are inviting families to join together in learning the basics of the Old Testament. Parents and children can learn together!

This brochure gives an overview of the people, stories, places and events in the Old Testament that are basic to the faith. You can use a variety of resources to learn more—Bible storybooks (great for young children), Bibles geared to the age level of your child, and study Bibles for more complete helps, maps, glossaries, and a host of other study aids.



## Basics—People

Can you—and your child(ren) - identify each of these Biblical people? If not, learn together!

Aaron • Abel • Abraham (Abram) • Adam • Bathsheba • Cain • Daniel • David • Deborah • Elijah • Elisha • Esau • Esther • Eve • Ezekiel • Gideon • Isaac • Isaiah • Ishmael • Jacob • Jeremiah • Job • Joseph • Joshua • Lot • Miriam • Moses • Noah • Rachel • Rebekah • Ruth • Samson • Samuel • Sarah (Sarai) • Solomon



Who am I?

## Basics—Places

Use a map in the back of a Bible to find some of these important places. You can also use a concordance or Bible dictionary to discover their importance in the Biblical story.

Canaan • Babylon • Garden of Eden • Egypt • Haran • Nineveh • Jericho • Ararat • Mount Sinai • Midian • Red Sea • Moab • Hebron

## Basics—Stories

The following passages are some of the most well-known Old Testament stories. If you—and/or your child(ren) - don't know these stories, work through them together. Pick one per week to really learn the story. If your child picks up the story faster, pick up your pace a bit. For longer stories, break them down into manageable sections. Have fun together!



Creation (two accounts), Gen. 1:1-2:4 and 2:4-25 • Introduction of Sin, Gen. 3:1-24 • Cain and Abel, Gen. 4:1-1 • Noah and the Flood, Gen. 6:9-9:17 •

The Call of Abraham, Gen. 12:1-9, • God's Covenant with Abraham, Gen. 15:1-21 • The Birth



of Isaac, Gen. 21:1-7 • Isaac & Rebekah, Gen. 24:1-67 • Jacob & Esau, Gen. 25:19-34, 27:1-28:5 • Jacob's Ladder, Gen. 28:10-22 • Jacob's Wives, Gen. 29:1-30:24 •

Joseph & His Brothers, Gen. 37:1-36 • Birth of Moses, Ex. 2:1-10 • Moses and the Burning Bush, Ex. 3:1-12 • Moses & Pharaoh, Plagues on Egypt, Ex. 6:1-13, 7:8-13:2 • Crossing the Red Sea, Ex.

14:1-30 • Manna in the Wilderness, Ex. 16:1-36 • 10 Commandments, Ex. 20:1-21 • The Golden Calf, Ex. 32:1-14 • God

Commissions Joshua, Joshua 1:1-9 • Israel Crosses Jordan into Canaan, Joshua 3:1-17 • The Walls of Jericho, Joshua 6:1-20 •

**Samson and Delilah**, Judges 13-16 • **Ruth's Story**, Ruth 1-4 • **The Calling of Samuel**, I Sam. 3:1-21 • **Saul Made**

**King**, I Sam. 10:17-26 • **David and Goliath**, I Samuel 17 • **Elijah Versus the Priests of Baal**, I Kings 18 • **The Miracles of Elisha**, 2 Kings 4-5 • **Ezekiel and the Dry**



**Bones**, Ezekiel 37 • **Daniel in the Lion's Den**, Daniel 6 • **Jonah and the Fish**, Jonah 1