



# parent tips





# Ways to Embed Scripture in Your Student's Life

God seems to speak the loudest to us through God's people and God's Word. But, how can we embed scripture into our student's lives? Here are a few tips that can give you intention and action steps to make God's Word a more prevalent part of your student's life.

## 1. Model the way.

The more scripture is a part of our daily walk, the more prevalent it will become in our family. It overflows from us. Paul says we reap what we sow, so sow scripture in your life and more scripture will flow out of you. Our students must see US value the Bible. How often do we reference the Bible? They will do as we do, not as we say.

## 2. Talk about what "I" am learning from scripture.

As we do this, we're giving our students a perception of us living through God's Word. That example will go before us and we show it. A few good questions to ask are:

*How often do I talk about what I learned from the church service or my small group?*

*How often do I talk about reading my bible?*

*How physically visible am I with my own devotionals?*

Then after you talk about what you are learning, ask them what they have been learning from their time with God, their small group, or the sermons at church.

## 3. Do not hit your child with scripture.

Pastor Broc Jahnke talks about the need to be both truth and grace when using scripture in a disciplining manner. He uses the example of a velvet brick. They are firm and strong on the inside, but soft and pleasant on the outside. It's tough, but find a balance of firm truth and grace in delivery.

A great quote I saw was, "Discipline is helping a child solve a problem. Punishment is making a child suffer for having a problem. Focus on solutions, not retribution."

## 4. Manage their developing opinions.

If we want our teens to honestly seek after God, we have to let them develop their own thinking. How do we balance that with helping them arrive at the right theology with God's Word? As parents we have the responsibility to give both truth and grace. How do we do this?

### i. Ask questions first before you give advice.

*"Where did you hear that?"*

*"How have you seen it through the lens of scripture?"*

*"What are you still wondering about that topic?"*

### ii. Make common ground in the conversation

*"When I was your age I thought about the same thing."*

*"I remember when I was learning about that and I asked my mentor/parent about it."*

- iii. Use a water filter as an example.

*Use a water filter as an example of as Christians we need to put all our thoughts and ideas through the filter of God's Word so that when it goes through God's filter we'll know the truth.*

## **5. Devotions at dinner.**

How to lead a quick devo at dinner once a week:

- i. Make it 15 minutes max in length.
- ii. Pick a handful of verses to read through (I suggest going through a Gospel book).
- iii. Then go around and ask, "what stands out to most to you?"
- iv. Next ask, "So, in light of this scripture what is something we can do better over the next week?"
- v. Finally, pray. And have different people pray out loud each week. Don't say "who wants to pray?" Instead, say directly to the person, "this week let's have \_\_\_\_\_ pray."

## **6. Have a family verse.**

A life verse is just an anthem from scripture that you can come back to over and over again to serve as an anchor for your family. This can be one a year or the same one every year. Or have a few verses that are your family's "life verse." I would say circle the verse around relationship or restoration. Here are just a few ideas:

- i. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- ii. 1 John 4:19 - We love because He first loved us.
- iii. Colossians 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

## **7. It takes a village.**

In his book, "The Power of Habits", Charles Duhigg talks about how change is more likely to happen in a group setting. This is why group therapy is so successful in dealing with addiction. We are more likely to change our habits when we are making the change alongside others. Leverage this truth by engaging small groups in Bible reading. Get your student plugged into a group! If you need help with this, we would love to help! Simply email [students@hopefellowship.net](mailto:students@hopefellowship.net) and we'll work with you and your student.