

## Some Guidelines for leading your family in a Bible lesson at home



*(This may be out of your comfort zone, but God gave us Himself and our family and this time. We're praying that God will do what He promises in Romans 8:28 and work in unexpected ways for our good!)*

Find a place in your home without too many distractions. Set time aside. Put phones off as you would in church. Commit to this time together.

Have Bibles ready and any other equipment that the lesson suggests.

Say a short prayer asking God to bless your time and open your hearts.

Have fun. Be positive. Your kids will get their attitude cues from you. The more fun you have, the more fun they'll have and the more open they'll be to the next Family Bible Church time! Share and encourage questions.

If your kids ask any questions that flummox you, don't try to fudge it. Commend them for the good question and tell them you're in this learning together and you'll get back to them on it – and then research or message your elder or Theo or I. Get the answer, and then be sure to get back to your child to discuss the answer. Encourage questions, wrestling and even some doubt – how can our faith become real without it??

Don't give in to the temptation to use this as a time to preach or lecture or drift onto 'family hot topics'. This should be an interactive time where the whole family can talk and discuss and feel safe in the opinions they share or the questions they ask. Listen more than you talk. One of the worst habits a parent can develop is to jump in to fix things. Listen and seek to understand and affirm. Be slow to offer advice, especially during a family Bible time.

Use a real Bible and get the family to interact with it. Practice looking up verses together – don't just do it for the children to be faster.

Adjust to the age of your kids. For older kids, read a bit more around the Bible verses provided.

Keep it short enough to be fun but don't rush past an opportunity to go 'deeper' with your child. God goes before us and works in mischievous ways. Keep your eyes open for him working for your good in all things (Romans 8:28). We look forward to hearing about it!