

Living Faith @



Dear Friends,

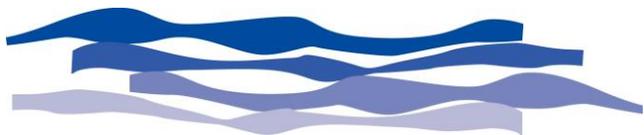
When I was little I visited my grandparents as much as I could. I was blessed to have both sets plus a great grandfather. I loved going to their houses and was thrilled when I could stay overnight. We always got to do something fun like a craft project or make a tasty treat like banana bread. Sometimes as we were working Grandma would tell the stories of when she was a girl. She often talked about when she went to “read for the minister”. What we now call Confirmation. She had many memories of those days. One of them was on the day she Affirmed her Christian Faith when she received a brand new Bible of her very own. There was not a day that went by that was not started without reading out of that same Bible.

Hearing and studying the Word is central to living a life of faith. It is easy to think that we will get around to study and reading. And that starts with placing in a child’s hands, the Holy Scripture. But it does not end there.....the stories need to be told and retold.

This month’s issue of Living Faith @ Home will encourage kids and their parents/grand-parents to use their Bibles and tell the stories of God’s faithful people.

Blessings,

Elayne Werges, Grandma, DM, MA,



Baptismal Promises

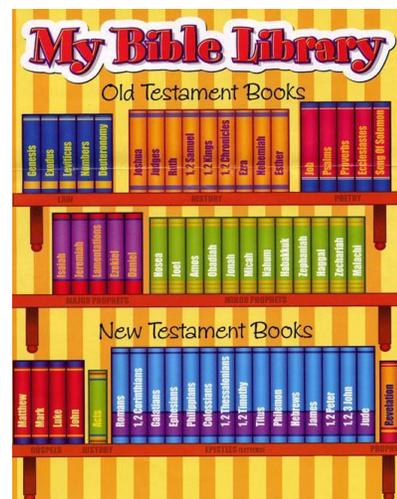
“Place in their hands the Holy Scripture...”



Presentation of Bibles

As, parents and sponsors we promise at Baptism to “place in their hands the Holy Scripture”. But it will take more than giving a Bible to activate faith.....the book must be opened, read, talked about, and experienced.

Many Congregations support parents with that promise with a special recognition during a worship services where youth and their families are invited to come forward and Bibles are presented to preschoolers, 3rd graders, and/or confirmation students. Each age level receives an age appropriate version that will be used in Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and at home. Along with the Bible presentation there is a family learning event and a gift is given in remembrance of the event. During the learning event, there are activities offered that will stress the importance of studying the Bible. In addition they are given fun and easy suggestions of how to incorporate reading and using the Bible at home and in their daily lives. One suggestion is to teach bigger kids who are readers the difference between the Old and New Testaments and the Books of the Bible. Have a contest to see who can find particular books first. Another idea is to use experiential learning. For example In the story of Noah, God gives directions to build an ark. Go outside with a BIG ball of yarn, and measure it out. You may have to do some math to determine what s cubit is. Helpful Hint: you may want to bring some stakes with you.



This information has been prepared for you by the
Northwestern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network
for use by families and local congregations. For more ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go to: http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp
If you have a comment or suggestion for future newsletters or are interested in joining the Home-Life Network please contact the synod office. Find us on Facebook!

The Dice Game

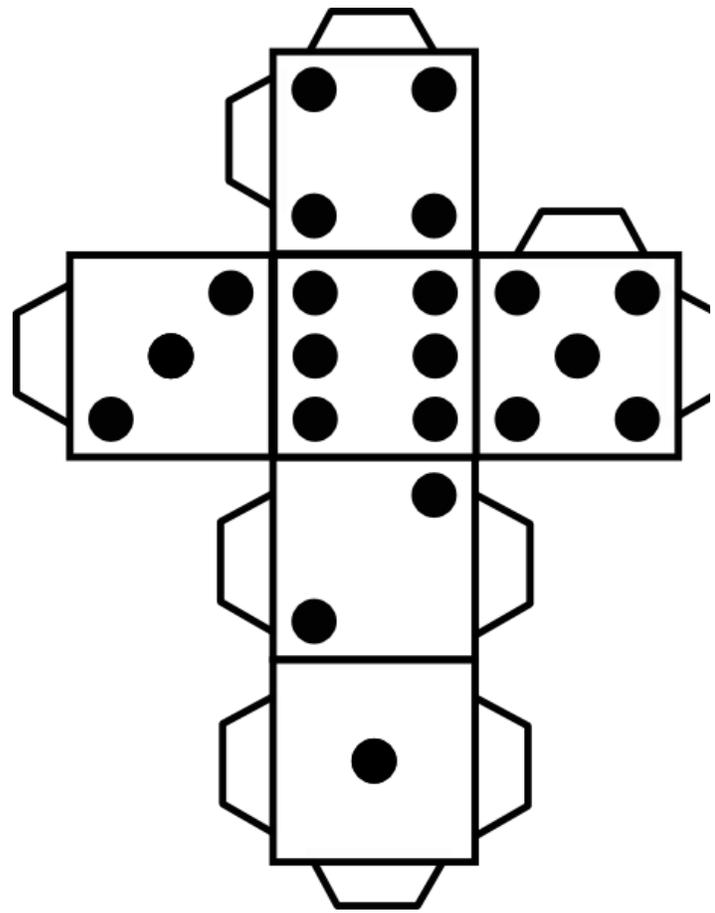
Need: 1 dice-you can make one with the template at the right.

Directions:

Roll one die. Answer and score according to the number you roll.

1. Name a man from the Bible
2. Name a woman from the Bible.
3. Name a place from the Bible.
4. Name an object from the Bible.
5. Name a book of the Bible
6. Say a Bible memory verse.

Play to a designated score or for a set amount of time. As you get better, require a little more information, such as who Ruth is or what book Adam is in. Vary the game. For example play with three tokens each; use the tokens to buy answers.



Have a BIBLE BATTLE



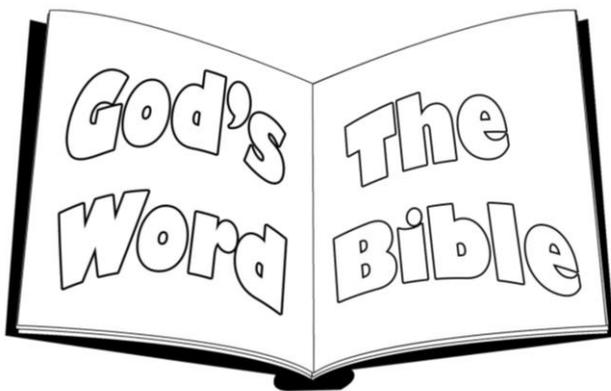
Idea: Have a family game night featuring Bible trivia. (This idea works well as a congregational family night too)

Things You Will Need:

- A Bible trivia Game or Book. (Look online to find many good Bible Jeopardy or Bingo or pictionary games. Or checkout your church library for games that are available for check out)
- A family friendly snack of your choice.

Directions:

Set up your game as directed. Gather your family, enjoy a snack together and play the game. Cheer for each other and celebrate as answers are given. Be sure to have a Bible handy to encourage each other to look up answers. Offer silly prizes for most outrageous answer, quickest guess, being Bible champions, or Best sport.



READ IT! DO IT!

Table Talk...



Conversation Starters to use when you gather for a meal, as you are driving in the car, or as you are preparing for bed.

- ✓ What were your highs and lows today/this week.
- ✓ What can we pray for today/this week
- ✓ Share one interesting fact you learned today/this week
- ✓ What is your favorite story from the Bible?