

## **Children and Teens: Tips for Getting Started at the Church in Your Home...**

The Worship, The Word & The Way equips home churches to fully support parents as the spiritual leaders of their families. Users navigate chronologically through the Bible stories, or adapt the order for thematic studies. Each lesson can be used in its entirety, or adapted by omitting certain elements. Included below are many approaches from various sources teaching the children and teens in your home church setting about who God is and what He has done.

- Review the introductory video and Tips for Getting Started at [www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry](http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry).
- Review the Scope & Sequence at for the overview of lessons for 156 Bible stories for various age groups, and for children with disabilities. If limited class time does not allow for a discussion, use the Scope & Sequence as your order for reading through the Bible together. An ideal long-term plan is to teach the 3-year cycle for all age groups, and continue to repeat that cycle so that by the time a child graduates from your school, he or she has mastered the stories of the Bible after learning them on so many age levels. This repetition also aids teachers in mastering the curriculum.
- Include representation of The Worship (worshiping God), The Word (reading the Bible story), and The Way (adapting the story to everyday life) at [www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/curriculum](http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/curriculum).
- If time is limited, you may choose to omit certain elements such as the Bible Timeline, map, crafts, snacks, or games. To bring God's Word into the home, offer the Daily Way or the W3 as a take home review. For templates, view [www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other](http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other).
- For a brief study, view The Apostles' Creed Study at [www.resourcewell.s3.amazonaws.com/children/otherresources/ApostlesCreedStudy.pdf](http://www.resourcewell.s3.amazonaws.com/children/otherresources/ApostlesCreedStudy.pdf).
- For brief presentational gatherings, browse Other Resources at [www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other](http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other) and click on Salvation Messages, Lenten Study, or Advent video.
- Teach the Bible Memory Verse song [www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/verses](http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/verses) for each unit. At the year's end, invite families to hear the children sing all ten songs.
- Be sure to download and if possible, print the Children's Guide for New Believers at [www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other](http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other). This booklet is helpful in leading a child to a personal relationship with Christ. It is an excellent gift for any child who receives Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Review the materials below with links to various resources.

# CHILDREN and TEENS in the Church in Your Home

At ResourceWell, "Church in Your Home", or "Home Church" refers to any group of believers who gather regularly in a non-traditional setting such as a home, a school, or even under a tree to worship God, hear His Word preached, and partake in the sacraments of the Church universal. It is a daunting discovery when we realize that, as the Church, our home church is responsible for supporting parents in discipling the next generation in our gathering as well as providing one another with the accountability and grace we need as the spiritual leaders of our children.

How can a home church provide this for families?

GOD'S DIRECTION	OUR RESPONSE
<p>Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)</p> <p>"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in Me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." (Matthew 18:6)</p>	<p>For children and teens: Provide a weekly place for the next generation to learn stories from the Bible and how to apply them.</p>
<p>"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)</p> <p>"Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do." (Philippians 3:17)</p> <p>"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)</p>	<p>For parents: Encourage parents to embrace the new mindset of being a disciple and making disciples. Their sons and daughters learn how to respond in life by watching how their parents respond in relationships, in conflict, in success, in failure, in disappointment, and in those moments when we give in to temptation.</p> <p>Discipling our sons and daughters is not as simple as developing godly habits such as praying, attending church, or doing acts of service. It is a daily walk where we are modeling the attitude of Christ and the daily navigation of His greatest commandments. (Luke 10:27)</p>

## GETTING STARTED

Your home church is unique, so in your quest to provide a weekly place for the next generation to learn Bible stories and how to apply them, it may take time to find the best fit. Check out the options below, or design your own plan. With prayerful consideration and some trial and error, you can develop a plan that fulfills our responsibilities to the next generation and our calling as disciples making disciples together.

SEPARATE STUDIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS	SAME STUDY FOR EVERYONE	SAME STUDY WITH BREAKOUT GROUPS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, ADULTS
<p>In addition to your home church gathering, you can encourage parents to take their children and teens weekly to a <b>traditional church</b> gathering that offers Sunday School classes or a local Bible Club (such as <b>Awana</b> at <a href="http://www.awana.org">www.awana.org</a>) to learn Bible stories, how to adapt them to their lives, memorize scripture, and worship with their peers. At your home church gathering, include the children and teens in the meal, worship time, and prayer. If your home church has an adult Bible study, that would be a good time for the children to enjoy supervised free time, since they have already learned the Bible story and life application at the larger gathering.</p>	<p>At your gathering, include the children and teens in the meal, worship time, and prayer. As a group, read and discuss the Bible story from <b>The Worship, The Word, &amp; The Way take-home devotionals: Daily Way and/or Ponder, Pray &amp; Play</b>. Then, to allow adults to have more mature conversations, the teens can organize a recreational time for the younger children. The take-home devotionals (Daily Way/Ponder, Play &amp; Pray) can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/curriculum">www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/curriculum</a>.</p>	<p>Lifeway offers three studies, each with separate workbooks for children, teens, and adults, so that every age may study the selected topic on their own level. The three Bible studies are <b>Explore the Bible</b> (book by book), <b>Bible Studies for Life</b> (navigating everyday issues), and <b>The Gospel Project</b> (understanding the whole story of scripture). This reasonably priced curriculum offers a variety of elements including a study plan for every age, interactive iOS and Android apps, media components, online helps, and Family Connection take-home tools. For more information, go to <a href="http://www.Lifeway.com/go">www.Lifeway.com/go</a>.</p>
<p>At your gathering, include teens and children in the meal, worship, Bible reading, and prayer. During the adult Bible study, have one adult teach the children and teens a Bible story using <b>The Worship, The Word &amp; The Way</b> curriculum available at <a href="http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry">www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry</a>. This free downloadable curriculum explores the stories throughout the Bible in a three-year cycle. Adaptable elements include Bible readings, discussions, crafts, games, sketches, and online videos of the sketches. We suggest having a few adults alternate as teachers, so everyone can take part in the adult fellowship.</p> <p>Adaptations for children with disabilities are also available. Send questions or requests for assistance in adapting curriculum to your specific needs to <a href="http://www.resourcewell.org/contact">www.resourcewell.org/contact</a></p>	<p>Download the free <b>Scope &amp; Sequence of The Worship, The Word &amp; The Way</b> from <a href="http://www.resourcewell.org">www.resourcewell.org</a>. Use this guide to select Bible stories (appropriate for all ages) for everyone in your distributed church to walk through the Bible together from Genesis to Revelation. For ideas on discussion topics and life applications, be sure to check out the teacher guides and take-home devotionals for each Bible story.</p>	<p>American Bible Society publishes 30-day studies for all ages as well as for families.</p> <p>In <b>Bible Trek: LUKE</b>, all ages go through the book of Luke together. You'll find daily devotionals for every age as well as a Family Discussion Guide at <a href="http://www.NowLuke.com">www.NowLuke.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Acts TRACKS</b>, a study of Acts, is available at <a href="http://www.nowisthetime.AmericanBible.org">www.nowisthetime.AmericanBible.org</a>.</p> <p>Both studies are available online as well as in magazine format at <a href="http://www.Bibles.com">www.Bibles.com</a>.</p> <p>For additional studies, visit <a href="http://www.americanbible.org">www.americanbible.org</a>.</p> <p>Include everyone in the meal, worship time, Bible reading, and prayer. After reading the passage from Acts together, adults, teens, and children can break out to study the meaning at their own level.</p>

SEPARATE STUDIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS	SAME STUDY FOR EVERYONE	SAME STUDY WITH BREAKOUT GROUPS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, ADULTS
<p>Include all ages in the meal, worship time, and prayer. While the adults participate in their devotional/ discussion, an adult or older teenager can read and visually illustrate a Bible story using the <b>KIDStory</b> storyboard and Bible curriculum. This curriculum includes a Bible story discussion using the Socratic teaching approach. It can be purchased at <a href="http://www.kidsaroundtheworld.com">www.kidsaroundtheworld.com</a>.</p>	<p>Adapt the <b>KIDStory</b> Bible curriculum for everyone in your distributed church to walk through the Bible together from Genesis to Revelation. Worship together and discuss the story's life applications over a meal. Allow time at the end for adults to have further discussion while the children and teens enjoy recreational play. This curriculum includes a Bible story discussion that uses the Socratic teaching approach. It can be purchased at <a href="http://www.kidsaroundtheworld.com">www.kidsaroundtheworld.com</a>.</p>	
<p>Include all ages in the meal, worship time, and prayer. If the adults are participating in The First Principles Series study (<a href="http://www.Bild.org">www.Bild.org</a>), one adult could lead the children in <b>The Apostles' Creed Study</b> available at <a href="http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other">www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/other</a> or the <b>Young Disciples Series</b>, which will also be available at <a href="http://www.resourcewell.org">www.resourcewell.org</a>.</p>		

## CHOOSING CURRICULUM

When selecting curriculum for adults, teens, or children, check to see whether the curriculum seems to be more God-centered or man-centered. For example, if the overview or table of contents focuses on who God is, what He has done, and how we can serve and love Him according to His Word, that will serve your church better than one that focuses on the human heroes of the faith and how to be more like them.

## MORE ABOUT TEENAGERS

Know your teens... the teenage years are not one-size fits all! Take the time to ensure that each teen in your gathering has the opportunity to grow, learn, and lead. Some teens learn best by teaching the younger children. Some need time with peers or time alone to discover ways to apply God's Word to their lives. Be flexible in adapting any of the options above. For more information on ways to serve the families in the church in your home, go to [www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry](http://www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry) or [www.resourcewell.org/churchinyourhome-ministry](http://www.resourcewell.org/churchinyourhome-ministry) or contact us at [www.resourcewell.org/contact](http://www.resourcewell.org/contact).