

# FAMILY READING PLAN



You're a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month,  
never dropping a leaf, always in blossom.

Psalm 1:3 (*The Message*)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville



CHILDREN  
& FAMILIES

## Welcome to the Family Plan for the Big Read

**Holy Scripture provides the knowledge of what is necessary for the glory of God and for human faith, life, and salvation. Jesus Christ reveals God and God’s will, made known through the witness of Scripture, and our salvation is provided through him. So it is imperative for followers of Jesus Christ to know the Bible so that we are informed, strengthened, and guided by it. The goal of the Big Read is to help us get into God’s Word daily.**

For parents and children of all ages, this daily reading plan helps you explore the big picture of the biblical story, helping us see God’s great love, faithfulness, and interactions with the people from the beginning of Genesis to the story of John on the island of Patmos in Revelation. We will be traveling through this story of our salvation very quickly!

We encourage you to find a way to use this reading plan in a way that works best for your family. We’ve provided simple prayers to share prior to reading. Consider reading the stories at bedtime as part of your nighttime ritual. Or maybe it works best to read and talk together at dinner or at the breakfast table.

Most of the stories are from the *Read and Learn Bible* from Scholastic. It is the Bible our church gives to our 3-year-olds, so your family may already have one. It has a wonderful canon, covering most of the big picture that we will be reading during the next 90 days. It has easy-to-read text with a Guided Reading Level of 3rd grade and easy-to-understand story lines, which helps showcase God’s big-picture plan.

### **“For Parents” Section**

This section contains background that can be helpful as you put the week’s Bible stories into context. It is woven with content adapted from the **Children’s Catechism** and the **Study Catechism (Confirmation version)** of the PC(USA), which is in bold. These catechisms offer the language of our faith, which can be helpful as you seek to openly discuss the Bible stories in a friendly and informal way. Tips are also provided for ways you and your children can make connections to your lives.

### **Time Lines and Maps**

Included in the envelope you will find a time line (five pages that can be taped together and displayed) and a set of four maps. Use these resources to set what you are reading in context of time and place. The time line displays periods in Bible history and shows the flow of God’s interaction with God’s people. The maps show geographically what was happening at different points in Hebrew and Christian History.

### **Calendar Checkbox**

We’ve provided the Family Reading Plan in calendar form so you and your child can keep track of what you are reading each day and feel the satisfaction of “checking the box.” The calendar is color-coded to match the periods of time on the time line included in this envelope.

### **Remember 1 Thing**

Each week’s plan has this boldly displayed. If your family participates in Bible Time for 1-2-3s, Bible Time for 4-5-6s, or the Sunday Breakfast Club for 7 years & older, the learning session will reinforce the week’s readings and the Remember 1 Thing.

## Options for Going Deeper

- ◆ **Prayers to share:** Before we read from the Bible, we pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to hear what God is saying to us, and to do what God is calling us to do as followers of Jesus Christ.

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy  
what you say to us today. Amen.

Eternal God,  
your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible  
and enlightens us to hear your Word fresh each day.  
Help us to rely always on your promises in Scripture.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.  
*Based on Belonging to God: A First Catechism, Q 37*

Holy and gracious God,  
may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,  
so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened,  
we may know the hope to which Christ has called us,  
the riches of his glorious inheritance among us,  
and the greatness of his power for those who believe.  
Amen.  
*Based on Eph. 1:17-19*

- ◆ **Family Activities:** You might pick one activity to do on Sunday afternoon as a way to connect what you read all week with what you heard during the sermon in worship and at the education hour that day. Using our bodies or thinking more deeply about the Scripture helps place the story firmly in our memory. Some activities are quiet and meditative; others allow motion, suggest working together collaboratively as a family, and provide ways to respond to the story. **Instructions and discussion tips are available on the church website.**
- ◆ **Use the Faith5 practice:** 1) Share. 2) Read. 3) Talk. 4) Pray. 5) Bless. Simple directions are on the bookmark enclosed in this envelope.