



FAMILY GUIDE to

**THE
BIBLE
IN A
YEAR
PODCAST**

The
#1 Podcast
with Fr. Mike Schmitz
and Jeff Cavins



ASCENSION
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FAMILY GUIDE to THE BIBLE IN A YEAR PODCAST

Introduction

Welcome to the *Family Guide to The Bible in a Year Podcast*!

Do you love *The Bible in a Year*™? Do you long to share the life-changing power of God's word with your family?

The Bible is central to our Catholic Faith. The wisdom and truth found in Sacred Scripture are life-changing for families, but it can be intimidating to figure out where to start when it comes to reading the Bible together. This short guide contains helpful ideas, tips, and resources for you to make *The Bible in a Year* a journey for your entire family.

NOTE: Since it is divinely inspired, the entire Bible is good for teaching and training children in the life of virtue (see 2 Timothy 3:16). At the same time, certain passages and sections of Scripture contain mature themes, such as violence and sexual content, for which your youngest children may not yet be ready. We recommend that you, as parents, listen to each episode of *The Bible in a Year* podcast before sharing it with your children.

This guide contains three sections:

- Section 1 offers a **key idea** on **how to share *The Bible in a Year* with your family** using Ascension's *Great Adventure Kids Catholic Bible Chronicles*.
- Section 2 includes **additional ideas** for reading the Bible as a family.
- Section 3 tackles answers to **frequently asked questions** on this topic and suggests **further resources** if your family loves doing *The Bible in a Year* together!

SECTION 1

If You Only Have Time for One Family Activity, Read *The Great Adventure Kids Catholic Bible Chronicles*



“This is the perfect way to share the genius *Great Adventure Catholic Bible* with my kids! This Bible version is phenomenal, especially if you listen to the podcast with Fr. Mike reading it aloud. *The Catholic Bible Chronicles* allows me to share what I am learning from Fr. Mike and Scripture in a child-friendly manner.

THANK YOU also for the beautiful illustrations. They are soft but realistic without being too juvenile looking.

You guys NAILED IT.”

—Angela

One of the easiest ways to bring your kids along on the *Bible in a Year* journey is by reading *The Great Adventure Kids Catholic Bible Chronicles* with them throughout the year. You can do this with children who are listening to the podcast, as well as with children who are too young for the podcast itself.

The Catholic Bible Chronicles contains seventy engaging stories, each with dynamic full-page, full-color illustrations. In this hardcover resource, children ages two to twelve will experience seventy key biblical events that tell the story of salvation history. These events follow *The Bible Timeline*® Learning System, just as *The Bible in a Year* podcast.

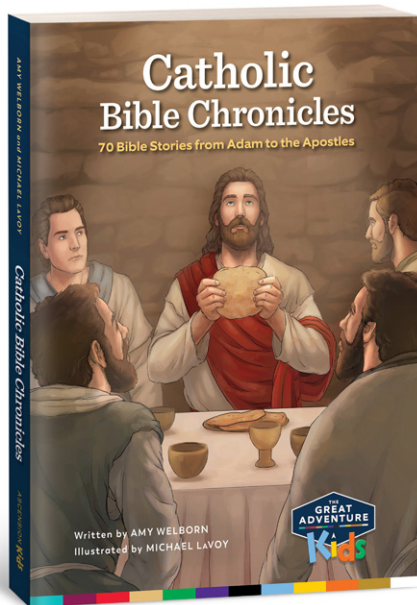
This guide contains a **schedule for reading the *Catholic Bible Chronicles*** to your children alongside *The Bible in a Year*! So order your copy of the *Chronicles* (please see the offer below for a fifteen percent discount) and enjoy journeying through Scripture as a family!

15% Off Your Purchase of
Great Adventure Kids Catholic Bible Chronicles

Go to ascensionpress.com and use code **GUIDE15** at checkout.

(One-time use only.)

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The Bible in a Year / Catholic Bible Chronicles Reading Plan

The following schedule matches the seventy stories in the *Catholic Bible Chronicles* with the *Bible in a Year* reading plan. Some time periods have more stories than others, so the number of stories varies week-by-week to line up with what you are listening to in the podcast. (Note: All gospel stories are saved for the final Messianic Checkpoint to allow children to experience them in chronological order after hearing all of the Old Testament stories.)

BIY Day	Story Name	Pages
Day 1	God creates the heavens and the earth, along with man	8–13
Day 2	A serpent tempts Adam and Eve and Adam and Eve are banned from the Garden	14–21
Day 3	Forty days of rain flood the earth	22–25
Day 5	Tower at Babel abandoned	26–29
Day 6	God calls Abram	32–35
Day 7	A mysterious priest blesses Abram	36–39
Day 8	God promises Abraham many descendants	40–43
Day 9	A wicked city is destroyed	44–47
Day 11	Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son	48–51
Day 14	Jacob steals his brother's blessing	52–55
Day 16	Jacob wrestles with God	56–59
Day 19	Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers	60–63

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BIY Day	Story Name	Pages
Day 26	Joseph saves his family and Egypt	64–67
Day 27	New Pharaoh enslaves the Israelites	70–73
Day 30	Moses asks Pharaoh to let his people go	74–77
Day 33	Egypt endures nine plagues	78–81
Day 34	Pharaoh finally frees the Israelites	82–85
Day 35	Moses parts the Red Sea	86–89
Day 36	God sustains Israelites with manna in the desert	90–93
Day 42	God reveals the Ten Commandments	94–97
Day 47	Israelites worship a golden calf	98–101
Day 51	A tabernacle is built for the Ark of the Covenant	102–105
Day 63	After spies scout Canaan, trust in God wavers	108–111
Day 66	Aaron revealed as next leader	112–115
Day 69	Moses strikes the rock; Israelites wander the desert	116–119
Day 77	Joshua appointed to lead Israelites into Promised Land	120–123
Day 81	The Israelites see Jericho's walls crumble	130–133
Day 82	Joshua parts the Jordan River	126–129
Day 83	Joshua leads renewal of the covenant	134–137
Day 87	Israelite tribes given shares of land in Canaan	138–141
Day 106	Samuel anoints Saul first king of Israel	142–145
Day 110	David defeats Goliath the giant	148–151
Day 125	King David brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem	152–155
Day 126	God makes a covenant with King David	156–159
Day 150	Solomon builds a splendid temple in Jerusalem	160–163
Day 162	Jeroboam leads revolt; kingdom splits in two	166–160
Day 168	Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal	170–173
Day 183	Northern kingdom falls to Assyria	176–179
Day 191	Babylon defeats Judah and destroys the Temple	180–183
Day 238	Daniel interprets the king's dreams	184–187

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BIY Day	Story Name	Pages
Day 269	Israelites return to Judah and rebuild the Temple	190–193
Day 271	Ezra leads the people back to the Lord	194–197
Day 276	Nehemiah and Ezra rebuild Jerusalem	202–205
Day 280	Queen Esther saves her people	198–201
Day 282	Antiochus seeks to destroy God's people	208–211
Day 285	Maccabees restore the Temple	212–215
Day 312	The angel Gabriel visits a virgin named Mary	218–221
Day 313	A Savior is born	222–225
Day 314	Jesus is baptized by John	226–229
Day 315	Jesus calls disciples to a new way of life	230–233
Day 316	Jesus turns water into wine	234–237
Day 317	Jesus names Peter to lead	238–241
Day 318	Jesus is transfigured on a mountaintop	242–245
Day 319	Jesus offers his Body and Blood	246–249
Day 320	Jesus is condemned to death	250–253
Day 320	Jesus is crucified	254–257
Day 321	Jesus rises from the dead	258–261
Day 322	Jesus appears to disciples; later ascends into heaven	262–265
Day 323	The Holy Spirit descends on Mary and the apostles	268–271
Day 327	Deacons help to spread the gospel	276–279
Day 328	Stephen dies for his faith	272–275
Day 330	Saul, former enemy of Christians, converts	280–283
Day 331	Cornelius and friends become first baptized Gentiles	284–287
Day 333	Peter is freed from prison by an angel	288–291
Day 342	Paul travels the world and survives a shipwreck	292–295
Day 336	The Church takes shape	296–299
Day 359	The apostle John shares a vision of hope	300–303
Day 362	The Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed	304–307
Day 365	Christians await Jesus' second coming	308–311

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SECTION 2

More Ideas for Reading Scripture as a Family

1. Listen as a family

Another way to bring your kids along on your *Bible in a Year* journey is to listen to the podcast as a family. We have heard many heartwarming stories about spouses and families listening to the podcast together each day. When they hear Fr. Mike's voice, some young children immediately come and sit down to listen. (As we have said, we recommend that parents listen to each episode of *The Bible in a Year* podcast *before* sharing with children since certain sections of the Bible contain mature themes.)

“My ten-year-old son is really engaged and loves it.” –Davila

“My three-year-old goes around the house saying ‘Hi, I’m Fr Mike, I’m praying for you.’” –Maureen

“Often, my fourteen-year-old is in the car with me and he is hearing the Bible, too. Sometimes, he even picks up his Bible to read ahead!” –Kathryn

2. Read *The Bible in a Year’s* daily psalm together

If listening to the entire podcast together each day doesn't work for your family, then read the psalm or selection from Proverbs in the *Bible in a Year* reading plan with your family at some point during the day. This is a great way to create a daily habit of reading Scripture with your children in just a few minutes, whether during breakfast, after dinner, or at bedtime.

3. Discuss what you hear and learn

If your children are journeying with you—whether through listening together, reading *Catholic Bible Chronicles*, or praying the psalm each day—consider starting a weekly family discussion.

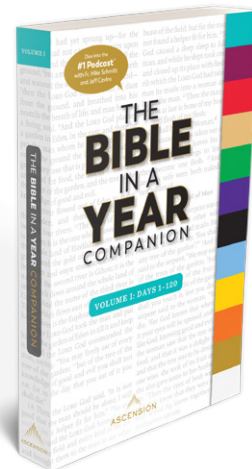
Using the following discussion questions, you can share what you have learned and were inspired by, as well as what you struggled with in that week's readings.

Discussion questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the Bible readings this week?
2. How do you think we could bring what we learned into our family life?
3. What did you have trouble understanding this week?
4. Did anything surprise you in what we read?
5. What did you learn about God this week?
6. What did you learn about yourself this week?

4. *The Bible in a Year Companion*

This new resource is a day-by-day guide to *The Bible in a Year* podcast. There are many components in the *Companion* to delve into with your family.



You can:

- Pray Fr. Mike's daily prayer together word-for-word
- Go over each day's Dive Deeper section to discuss the question, image, prayer prompt, or challenge
- Review the details of each time period
- Have a family “quiz” at the end of each time period to see who remembered the most important details

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SECTION 3

Frequently Asked Questions and Additional Resources

How do I get access to the podcast?

To receive the free *Bible in a Year* reading plan and find podcast platforms where you can listen, visit <https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>.

Where can I get a copy of *The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Chronicles* and *The Bible in a Year Companion*?

Visit ascensionpress.com/BibleChronicles and ascensionpress.com/Companion (to purchase copies within the United States). If you are an international customer, please visit ascensionpress.com/international.

Can this program be done by very young children?

Every child's needs are different, and you know your own kids best! We encourage you to use any recommendations and ideas contained in this guide as you see fit, keeping in mind the needs of your family. In general, *The Catholic Bible Chronicles* is a safe bet for any child who is old enough to listen to a story and look at pictures, and it is a great place for families to start encountering Scripture together. Regarding *The Bible in a Year* podcast, as we have noted, we recommend that parents listen to each episode before sharing it with young children to ensure that the content is appropriate for their ages.

What is *The Bible Timeline*?

The Bible Timeline Learning System, developed by Jeff Cavins, ties all of Scripture together by following God's "family plan" from Adam and Eve to Jesus and the Church. By dividing the Bible into color-coded time periods, *The Bible Timeline* helps you learn the key people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of salvation.

What if I have already listened to the entire *Bible in a Year* podcast?

You can never get too much exposure to God's Word! If you have already listened to the podcast, you are well-prepared to share it with your children. Going through the podcast a second time with your family will give you a chance to learn even more about salvation history and grow closer to God.

What about when my kids ask me questions that I don't know how to answer?

Not even Scripture scholars have an answer for every question about the Bible! So when your children ask a question you don't know how to answer, this is a great opportunity to show them that even adults don't have all of the answers—and that we can grow closer to God simply by asking questions. Then, reach out to a friend who is knowledgeable about the Bible, consult with a priest in your parish, check out *The Bible in a Year Companion* to see if the question is addressed, or open the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for insight on the issue. In addition, Jeff Cavins provides a series of question-and-answer sessions based on *The Bible in a Year* podcast that might be helpful—ascensionpress.com/askjeffcavins.

What if my kids aren't interested in the Bible?

Sometimes, the story of salvation doesn't seem as interesting as other stories or movies in kids' lives. You can start small, such as incorporating a daily psalm or selection from Proverbs from *The Bible in a Year* reading plan into mealtime prayer. Especially for older children, loving invitations go a long way!

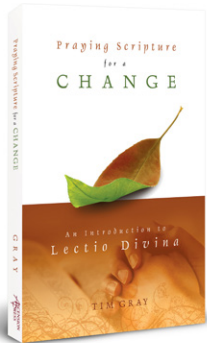
What if my spouse isn't interested in the Bible?

Try to find out why your spouse is not open to taking this journey with you. He or she might be intimidated or feel overwhelmed by the time *The Bible in a Year* would take out of already busy days or have an entirely different reason. A loving, open-ended invitation can go a long way—and might even change your spouse's mind. If not, keep on learning about God's love and sharing that love within your marriage.

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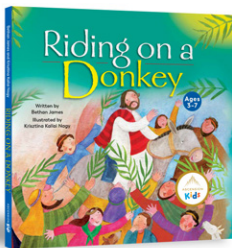
Additional Resources

To Help You and Your Family Learn the Bible More Deeply



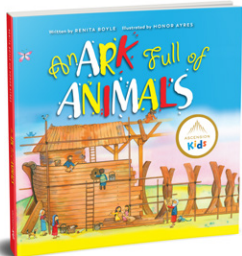
Praying Scripture for a Change: An Introduction to Lectio Divina

In this practical book for adults and teens, Dr. Tim Gray shows us how to transform *reading* Scripture into *praying with* Scripture. Learning the simple and practical steps of *lectio divina* will provide an effective way for you to deepen your prayer life through the power of God's Word.



Riding on a Donkey

This read-aloud book uses authentically Catholic storytelling to recount the vital truth of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Beautiful illustrations on every page engage kids in the story of Our Lord's profound love for them.



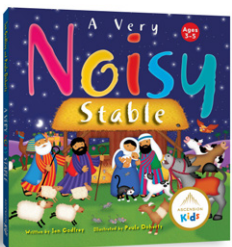
An Ark Full of Animals

This children's book presents the story of an ark, a boatload of animals, and a man called Noah who listened to God—in an authentically Catholic way. The engaging storytelling and beautiful illustrations on every page will captivate children and introduce them to Scripture.



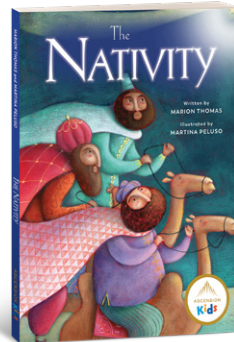
The Curious Story of Jonah

This retelling of the well-known Bible story of Jonah, Nineveh, and the very big fish will delight young Catholics with lively text and colorful illustrations.



A Very Noisy Stable

Featuring beautiful illustrations, this award-winning book narrates the story of the birth of Jesus for the very young. Young Catholics will delight in the story of some very noisy animals spending an evening in a very ordinary stable in a little place called Bethlehem, along with an extraordinary baby named Jesus.



The Nativity

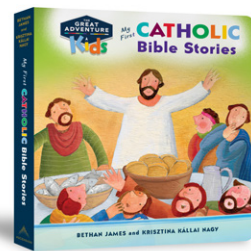
This hardcover children's book with colorful illustrations weaves together the stories about the birth of Jesus in an engaging way. From the Annunciation and Visitation all the way to the stable in Bethlehem and beyond, this book will create a space for children to encounter Jesus.



GPS: God's Plan in Scripture

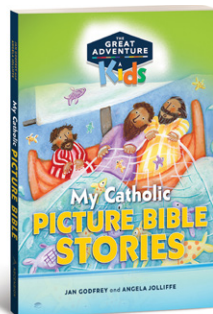
GPS is a twenty-four-lesson program designed to take children on an amazing journey through the story of salvation. Following the same *Bible Timeline*® Learning System used in *The*

Bible in Year, the GPS program brings that color-coding and chronological approach to children in grades K-6+ and is perfect for teachers, parents, grandparents, and homeschool groups. While *Chronicles* summarizes Bible stories for children, GPS introduces young Catholics directly to the text and helps them to read and understand it themselves.



My First Catholic Bible Stories

This award-winning board book for little Catholics one to three years old is authentically Catholic and filled with fifteen favorite Bible stories illustrated by vibrant, colorful pictures. With big hearts and wide eyes, little ones will see God's glorious plan of salvation history for the very first time.



My Catholic Picture Bible Stories

With colorful pictures and simple words, this hardcover book will help children aged four to seven explore more than fifty authentically Catholic Bible stories. Pages are color-coded to show how each story fits into *The Bible Timeline*.