

# American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 [www.americandecency.org](http://www.americandecency.org)  
Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts January 2018

## Ten Tips for Reading the Bible as a Family in 2018

By: Scott Brown



Let's read the Bible together as families in 2018! ...

### 1. Resolve this issue right away: Can your children handle it?

Can they? Yes! Don't be intimidated by the fact that your children are young. They may not get everything out of everything, but they will get something out of everything. You will find that they will understand more than you anticipate.

### 2. Prepare a heart of gladness

The entire Bible points to, "good tidings of great joy

which will be for all the people." ...The more you love the Word of God, the easier it will be for your children to hear you read it to them. It is contagious when you love the words and the stories of the Bible, believing that they are "pure," "perfect" and "holy." ...

### 3. Keep it simple

Don't think you need to explain everything. ... When you are finished reading the chapter or the section, pick out one verse or one idea and talk about it. Be content with the big picture. I often asked questions like, "What was your favorite part?" or "What wonderful things did you see in His law?" (Ps 119:18).

### 4. Pick a consistent place and time of the day to read

Consistency is key. Why? Two reasons. First, we need orderliness to succeed, as the Psalmist said, "So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) Second,

because everything in your life will wage war against whatever time you choose. ... Sometimes we found it helpful to read the Old Testament in the morning and the New Testament in the evening to break it up. ...

### 5. Be a good tour guide

Take your family by the hand and walk them through the corridors of saving grace. Marvel in the people, the places, the eras and the personalities God included in the history of saving grace. These are the markers on the highway of holiness (Isaiah 35:9). ...

### 6. Have everyone read

One of the things we did in our family was to have each person read five verses going around the circle. If we had children who could only read a few words, we had them read one, two or more words. If they were too young to read, we would read a few words and ask them to repeat them. It was one of our methods for teaching them to read.

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front sin so that children are freed from their rebellion. ...

## 9. Choose a method for reading the Bible in a year.

There are many methods to choose from. Choose one, and start January 1, 2018. Our family used John MacArthur's schedule. It usually took us between 20 minutes to an hour to read each day, depending on the age of our children, and how much discussion (or discipline problems) we had.

## 10. Catch up when you fall behind

...Yes, you will fall behind from time to time. Life happens! Our family used different methods at different times when we fell behind. Here are four ways the Brown family bounced back when we fell behind the schedule:

First, spread it out: Let's say you're 16 chapters behind. Add one extra chapter for the next 16 days and you'll be caught up in sixteen days.

Second, grind it out: Just grind it out and read those 16 make-up chapters over

a day or two. Take a couple of hours and read, read, read...

Third, listen up: Catch up by listening to an audio Bible while you are driving or working around the house.

Fourth, jump ahead: Simply jump ahead to the section allocated for the current day in the schedule. Chalk it up to, "It's not a perfect world, we are not a perfect family and sometimes we fall behind, BUT, we are not giving up!"

## So, here's the big question

Are your children ready for the trials ahead? Do they know the true Gospel? Do they have a big vision of God? Do they have a Biblical vision of His love, truth and mercy?

Reading the whole counsel of God is the best training for the future.

Don't let your children leave home without it.

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## 7. Sing about it

Sing a hymn that communicates the message of the book of the Bible you are reading. "Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him" Psalm 105:1-2. ...

## 8. Anticipate being slowed down by child discipline

From time to time, your reading may be slowed down by discipline problems. Children disobey or have bad attitudes. They may be mean to one another while you are reading. These things need to be dealt with on the spot. If possible, it is helpful if one parent leaves with the erring child to deal with problem, while the rest of the family continues reading. Don't let this discourage you. It is a normal part of life. Sin patterns providentially come to the surface on the road to holiness. I believe that these things happen in order for parents to con-



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