



CONFERENCE SUNDAY

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Practicing Scripture

"These words...must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children!" *Duet 6:6-7 (CEB)*

Our pockets carry the things that are most important to us, the things that we cannot do without. What we *carry* in our pockets is determined by what we *put into* them. When we put Scripture into our *mind* pockets, scripture will be there to pull out when we are awake at night or when we are afraid.¹ With Scripture in our minds, we become more like Jesus.

1. Singing scriptures helps us to remember them. Try this one from Matthew 19:14 (*Sing the Story #47*).

Let the children come to me.
Let the children come.
Never hinder them. Never stop them.
Let the children come.

Or this one from Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always
and again I say rejoice
(clap/clap...repeat)
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.
(clap/clap...repeat)

2. Memorize scriptures as a family.

Pick a verse for a week or a month and memorize the scripture together. You could make it into a fun competition.

3. Read Bible stories with your children and talk about them. Bedtime is an excellent time for this ritual.

¹Mary Klassen, "Biblical Story Telling, Biblical Spirituality class, March 3, 2011.

4. Tell Bible stories in your own words.

Help the children dress up and role play the stories so that the stories become part of them.

5. Illustrate a story or idea from scripture

with pencil drawings, crayons, play dough, fabric, or other creative art supplies.

6. Outdoor activities offer ways to walk with scripture.

Try a nature walk as a family, using verses from **Psalm 24**. Think about the earth and everything in it as God's creation while you "ooh" and "ah" over nature discoveries. Consider **Matthew 6:25-34** and remember God's care for us is even greater than for birds and flowers!²

7. Check out this website for more ideas on nurturing faith formation:

<http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/children.html>

Created by Sharon Witmer Yoder 2017; Updated 2020.

² April Yamasaki, *Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal* (Harrisonburg: Herald Press, 2013), 72.