



# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Second graders are reading independently, so this is the perfect time to help them engage in the book that will change their lives: the Bible. Even as adults we can struggle with reading the Bible on a consistent basis. Our lives and the time we spend in the Bible would probably be different if someone had helped us understand when we were younger that the Bible is personal, prepares us for life, and is true. This Milestone Experience includes a time for you to **ENGAGE** with your child in conversation and an opportunity to **AFFIRM** your child by presenting your son or daughter with a symbol, his or her own Bible which will have meaningful verses highlighted by family members, friends, and/or small group leaders.

## STEP 1: PREPARE

We want to equip you to maximize this Milestone Experience with your child. First read through the full Milestone Experience Guide so you know what to expect. Then, set aside two special times with your child. One will be for a time to **ENGAGE** with your child as you learn from the Bible together. The second time will be to **AFFIRM** your child by presenting him or her with the Bible you have purchased. Remember to have fun and take as much or little time as your second grader seems interested.

Before embarking on the Milestone Experience, do a little prep work for the culmination of this occasion. This will save you time and allow you to create a really special moment together as you present your symbol.

**A. CHOOSE A BIBLE:** Purchase a Bible that your child can understand. Children's storybook Bibles are wonderful. However, for this Milestone Experience please choose an actual Bible with chapters and verses. A Bible can be purchased at a local bookstore or online. There are many different translations, types, and styles of Bibles available such as New International Version, New International Readers Version, New Living Translation, Adventure Bible, International Children's Bible, or Life Application Bible. Choose one that your child can use for years to come and that suits his or her personality. You may even choose to have your child's name engraved on the Bible.

**B. HIGHLIGHT VERSES:** Next, ask family members, friends, and/or small group leaders to highlight their favorite passages for your child. If they would like, they could even write their names out to the side of the verse explaining why this verse is meaningful to them.

**C. WRITE A LETTER INSIDE THE BIBLE:** In the front of the Bible, we encourage you to write a letter to your child. We have included a sample below.

### SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR CHILD:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

*As a 2nd grader, you have a great ability to read. We want you to grow to love the greatest book of all time: the Bible. The people who love you most have taken the time to mark their favorite verses in this Bible. We hope it will be a guide for you as you seek to know God on your own.*

*Since you've become such a good reader, we desire for you to read the Bible because it is personal, prepares you for life, and is true. Enjoy reading God's letter of love to you!*

*Love,  
Mom and Dad*

Now that you are prepared, set aside a time to **ENGAGE** your child in conversation to help your son or daughter learn how the Bible is personal, prepares us for life and is true. It would be ideal to have this conversation outside of the home so you and your child feel like this is a special time between you. Perhaps take a trip to your favorite bookstore or coffee shop together. What matters most isn't the location but the quality time you will have engaging your child as you help your son or daughter to **EXPLORE THE BIBLE!**

After your time together, you will have the opportunity to **AFFIRM** your child by presenting the Bible you have chosen as a symbol of this Milestone Experience.

## STEP 2: ENGAGE

Items Needed:

1. A Bible
2. A dry erase marker and a small whiteboard (or chalk and a chalkboard)

### TALK ABOUT "THE BIBLE IS PERSONAL, PREPARES US FOR LIFE, AND IS TRUE"

**READ AND SHARE:** Often we see the Bible as something we study at church and not necessarily something that we use personally. However, the Bible is a personal letter from God to us. It can impact every area of our lives. In fact, it has information on how to handle money, interact with others, live a life of integrity, and other important areas. It is personal, prepares us for life, and is true!

#### READ TOGETHER 2 TIMOTHY 3:16:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

*God wants us to read the Bible, put it in our hearts, and do what it says. In this way, the Bible is very personal. Every time we read it, God is trying to teach us something. Share with your child the ways the Bible has prepared you in life. Is there a story of when a verse in the Bible helped you make a decision and/or comforted you during a tough time? Telling this story to your child will help your son or daughter see how personal and true the Bible has been in your own life.*

**CREATE:** Memorizing Bible verses is something that will equip us to live life God's way. The verse above, in particular, is a GREAT verse to memorize. Use a whiteboard or chalkboard to practice copying this verse. Erase one word at a time and have your child fill in the missing word. Then, erase two words...continue taking turns playing this game until you both have this verse memorized!

When you are home, let your child write 2 Timothy 3:16 on a bathroom or dresser mirror with a dry erase marker so that your second grader sees this verse every day.

*Encourage your son or daughter to read this verse every single time he or she looks in the mirror, until your child has the verse memorized.*

Other verses that are wonderful for your child to look up and memorize are:  
Psalm 46:1 // *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

Psalm 139:14 // *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 // *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

John 3:16 // *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 3:23 // *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

This is also a great time to have your child learn the order of the books of the Bible. Here is a fun song you can listen to that will have the whole family memorizing the books in no time!

*Books of the Bible Rap* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4KEWLNnmCQ>)

Another great resource is *The Bible App for Kids* which is a free app designed to help your student interact with Bible stories in a fun and creative way! (<https://www.bible.com/kids>)

**PRAY:** Pray together with your child and ask God to help your son or daughter know that the Bible is personal, prepares us for life, and is true!

## STEP 3: AFFIRM

Close this Milestone Experience by presenting your child with the Bible you have purchased with highlighted verses by family and friends. Below is an idea of how to present this Bible to your child.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE PRESENTATION SCRIPT

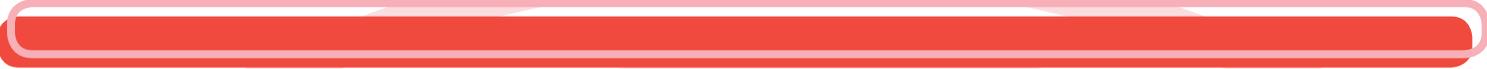
*"This year you have become a really good reader. As a family, we've heard you read many books, and we believe the greatest book you will ever read is the Bible. We chose this Bible for you because we want you to begin spending your own time reading it every day—whether that be in the morning when you first wake up, when you get home from school in the afternoon, or before you go to bed at night.*

*A lot of people who you love have marked special verses in this Bible, so that as you read, you can discover everyone's favorite verses. We hope that this Bible becomes very special to you as you spend time reading it in order to know God more. We've written a letter to you in the front of this Bible. Let me read it with you."*

[Read letter.]

*"As a family, we've learned that the Bible is personal, prepares us for life, and is true. We hope you will always remember these three things as you grow up and learn more about a great God who loves you, by reading His words to you."*

[Present Bible.]



*Parent hint: Continue encouraging your child to explore the Bible on a regular basis by creating a “family Bible time” as a part of your nightly routine. After dinner let each family member find his or her own Bible and a journal. Set a timer for reading for 5-10 minutes. Each family member can read the same chapter from the Bible or pick something different. Reading one Proverb every day is a great way to start! Have everyone highlight or underline verses that stick out to him or her.*

*Then encourage each person to take a few minutes to journal about what he or she read or illustrate the chapter by drawing or copying the verse word for word. After journaling allow everyone to have the opportunity to share what was interesting and why with the family. Finally, take time to circle up and pray out loud together. It is incredible and peaceful to pause every night (or most nights) to see each person in your family grow in his or her knowledge and love for Exploring the Bible!*

