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Truth

Cheat Sheet:

Walking Through a Passage of Scripture with Your Kiddo

(For the full post, with more explanation and an example, go to JenLassosTruth.com)

With a few simple strategies, you can lead your child through any Bible verse, passage, or story--and get something out of it *every time*.

What you need:

- A Bible (If your child is very young, you can use a good children's Bible or storybook Bible)
- A Bible dictionary, or have BibleStudyTools.com pulled up (No Google!)

1. Read the text all the way through, at least twice.

Don't skim, even if you've read it a million times! If your child can read (even slowly), let him do at least one reading. There's a difference between hearing and reading, so try to hit both buttons.

2. Ask really simple questions about what the text says.

Ask questions with obvious answers, like the 5Ws and an H: *who, what, when, where, why, and how*. By the time you've read the passage at least twice and answered these questions, you really know it.

3. Define terms, and reread

Now it's time to look at unfamiliar words in your Bible dictionary or BibleStudyTools.com. Once you know what all the words mean, go back and read the passage aloud again. Do you see it opening up?

4. Have Your Child Summarize

Now, have your child summarize it to you. Stick to what the text says--no embellishing or adding.

5. Discuss!

Open it up for discussion. If you hit a wall, here are some starters:

What's your reaction? Can you relate to anyone/anything? Does this remind you of anything else in Scripture? In your life? How do you think differently about it from when we read it the first time?

What can we take from this that can help us know God better? Ourselves better? How could this change something about the way we live? If you were going to make this into a short movie, how would you do it? Who would you cast? What would be a good theme song?

6. How Does This Change Us?

If you didn't already cover application in your discussion, do it now. If we stop short of letting Scripture change us, we miss the point. Application is where knowledge becomes wisdom.

7. Pray, and Wrap Up

That's it! You've walked through studying a passage of Scripture, even if you knew nothing going in!