



Faith@Home Resource Week 4: READ-Sharing Stories

*Worship *Serve *Play *Read *Love *Create *Pray *Talk *Sing *Eat

⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:44-47

The early church began as one people who did everything together. This summer Our Savior's Way and Open Arms are celebrating that core idea of "together" - how being together in Christ influences who we are as children of God, created for Christian community.

Start each week in worship together as a family - your family and friends. Our church family. This 'At Home or On the Go' Resource packet will give you some weekly theme ideas for you to continue the *TOGETHER* faith experience with family or friends. No matter where you are this summer. Use the "Together Tracker" to help you go for 3 weekly goals: To do the "One Big Thing" Suggestion, to Take Jesus with you and have fun with the Flat Jesus Challenge, and to do at least one more idea, activity or servant project on the theme. Use an idea from the packet or something of your own!

THE ONE BIG THING: *If you have time for only ONE way to follow up on the "READ-Sharing Stories" theme this week:*

- READ SOMETHING TOGETHER

Where will you take Jesus with you this week? Take a picture of 'Flat Jesus' and Tweet in to #flatjesusoswlc or post to our Facebook page @oswlc.org Take Him to the Library. Have Him reading the Bible with you. Or wherever you find yourself this week!

Home Scripture Reference for "READ": 2 Kings 22:1-10, 18-20 King Josiah finds the Scriptures

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. ² And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. ³ In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the LORD, saying, ⁴ "Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may count the money that has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people. ⁵ And let it be given into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD, and let them give it to the workmen who are at the house of the LORD, repairing the house ⁶ (that is, to the carpenters, and to the builders, and to the masons), and let them use it for buying timber and quarried stone to repair the house. ⁷ But no accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly." ⁸ And Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. ⁹ And Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD." ¹⁰ Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.....¹⁸ But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, ¹⁹ because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁰ Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place." And they brought back word to the king.

Key Point/Summary: *We need to be intentional about reading God's Word and applying it to our lives.*

Most kings of Judah and Israel had forgotten God and were evil rulers, including King Josiah's father and grandfather. But King Josiah tried to lead the people of Judah back to God. When he ordered the temple of the Lord cleaned and repaired, they found the lost and forgotten Book of the Law. Josiah was saddened by how far from God they had become and gathered all of the people together and read the Book of the Law to them. Although the Word of God had been in the temple all along, it had not been read. During his reign Judah returned to reading God's Word and experienced spiritual renewal. Josiah is remembered as one of the greatest kings of Judah. "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses." (2 Kings 23:25). How will you making time for or increase your daily Bible reading, both personally and in your family group?

Conversation Together:

- What stories in your life have you read over and over again?
- What experiences have caused you to like or dislike reading more than you did?

- What is one of your favorite memories of reading together as a family?
- What is something you have read that has been life changing?
- Which parts of the Bible have caused you to reflect on your life?
- What do you think God cared about most in Josiah's response to hearing the book of the law?
- What can you do to help reading together change you going forward?
- What are some of the "forgotten" books of your childhood that you enjoyed the most or were the most meaningful to you?
- What do you think the impact would be if you were to read them again?
- What were some of your favorite Bible stories when you were younger?
- How can those stories still have an impact on you today?

Prayer for Read Together: Dear Lord, help us to be faithful in reading and studying your Word consistently. This is where we learn about you and you show us how to live, and we can see where we fail to live to your expectations, as King Josiah learned when he found the Book of the Law. But, there we also find that no matter how often we fail, you have already provided the way back to you through Jesus, our Savior. When our faith is like a weak battery, help us by your Holy Spirit to get plugged into your Word for a recharge. We ask this in Jesus's name, Amen

Memory Verse: *Try memorizing Scripture as a family to help you keep God's Word in your hearts*

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

Games to help you remember: Form a circle with your group and toss a bean bag around, saying one word at a time.

Or learn it set to music: Music Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GncLqKJOvQ8>

Other activities and Resources:

- Use one of the many Bible reading plans on the YouVersion Bible app
- Choose a book series and read it together as a family
- Read one of the Gospels. Plan out how you'll do it (1 chapter/paragraph a day/week) Make a calendar to help keep you on track
- Read the Jesus Storybook Bible
- Find a copy of your favorite childhood book and read it with a younger family member or family friend. Ask them what their favorite book is and read that with them as well.
- Revisit your favorite Bible story from when you were younger. As you read it carefully, pay attention to any new details or insights you may not have noticed when you were young and let this opportunity help you grow in your faith. Share this new insight with friends and family.
- Get a group of friends together who have similar interests to form a "book club" for the summer. Pick a book none of you have read before, but from the reviews you think you all will enjoy. Read it at the same pace and discuss it over ice cream, at the pool, at Starbucks, etc. once a week.
- Develop a Bible reading plan to do as a family or with a group of friends.

Other Resources (Links): You can easily access these and other ideas online at www.oswlc.org. Click on the "Together" header

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B01Y9XyWKTw> Video from the Bible Project on public reading of God's Word, including Josiah passage

youversion.com

Jesus Storybook Bible - <https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Storybook-Bible-Every-Whispers/dp/0310708257>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/>

<https://library.loudoun.gov/>

https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/15058.Clean_teen_fiction_Christian

https://jamesriver.org/blog/bible-quiz#gf_123

<http://www.religionresourcesonline.org/bible-quiz/print-30-bible-quiz-whos-who-in-the-old-testament->

<http://www.religionresourcesonline.org/bible-quiz/print-53-bible-quiz-whos-who-in-the-new-testament->

<https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/living-word-god/>

<https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/meditating-on-scripture/>

<https://thelittlesandme.com/childrens-books-that-celebrate-value-dignity-and-spreading-kindness/>

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