



## SET A BIBLE 'TRAP' FOR KIDS

National Bible Week, observed in November, probably isn't on your teens' radar. But is the Bible? Surveys show that Americans of all ages revere God's Word yet don't really read it. As longtime youth pastor Leneita Fix points out, "For many kids, the Bible is a boring, confusing, contradictory, and complicated collection of pronouncements, truisms, and even incantations." The solution, she says, is to set a redemptive "trap" that gets young people magnetized to Scripture. Parents can adapt her strategy with these steps:

- **Begin with yourself.** Admit when your relationship with God seems dry, and use Scripture as a path out of that desert.
- **Equip kids with the "how."** Use a teen-friendly Bible (and version), as well as a journal. Choose a good starting point and read in small chunks.
- **Create opportunities to explore "what."** Discuss how words and concepts tie into the bigger story God is telling.
- **Help teenagers find time to read.** Begin with a commitment to read every day for five minutes. It takes about 21 days to start a habit.
- **Help kids learn how to use study helps.** Dig deeper with resources such as *Devour: Consuming the Word of God* and *Totally Infatuated* (Simply Youth Ministry).
- **Raise the bar.** Give teenagers an epic challenge, such as reading the Bible in one year. Never underestimate the power of high expectations!

## THE VIEW

Many U.S. teens are biblically illiterate or aren't "buying" what God's Word offers:

- Almost two-thirds of teenagers couldn't identify a quotation from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.  
—Gallup Poll
- Only a third of Christian teenagers confidently believe the Bible is trustworthy in what it says about Jesus.
- Almost two-thirds of Christian teens are either unsure or unwilling to commit to the belief that "Jesus saves."  
—*The Jesus Survey*

## TIPS >>>

**The traditional practice of Lectio Divina helps Bible readers grow their knowledge of God's living Word and promotes communion with him. Here's how to use Lectio Divina in personal devotions:**

- **Choose a text you'd like to focus on.** The passage doesn't matter, as long as you don't try to cover too large of a chunk.
- **Get comfortable and silence your "inner conversation."** Focus on your breathing or recite a prayer word or phrase.
- **Read the text slowly and gently.** Savor each portion of the reading, listening for the "still, small voice" of the Spirit to highlight a word or phrase.
- **Repeat the phrase to yourself.**
- **Memorize it and let it interact with your concerns, memories, and ideas.** When a thought surfaces, embrace it and give it over to God.
- **Tell God how the passage is impacting you.** Use words, ideas, and/or images to interact with God as one who loves and accepts you. Give to him any discoveries you have during the experience.
- **Rest in God's embrace.** Rejoice in the knowledge that God is with you in both words and silence. Don't feel as if you need to "perform" for God; simply stay in his presence by praying through his Word.
- **Try journaling.** Explore what you've been learning, ask questions, jot down topics you'd like to delve into later, and list prayer requests.

## PONDER THIS

- What Bible-reading habits and attitudes do you have? Which of them would you like to pass on to your own kids?
- How might you set aside more time to delve into God's Word?
- What are some ways that Scripture has helped you? What are some ways it has challenged you?





Youth Group Starbucks Sunday 10/28/2012

# Make the Bible Irresistible

Expert Insights for Parents of Teenagers

By Dana Wilkerson

**Curriculum editor Dana Wilkerson shares the importance of giving kids a big-picture view of Scripture:**

I've gone to church my entire life but didn't learn until my freshman year of college that all the events in the Bible are part of one big story spanning all of history. It blew me away. I thought it was amazing, but I was also annoyed I'd never learned that key fact.

Most kids look at the Bible as they do a book of fairy tales. Fairy tales are all about magic, but the stories don't have much to do with each other. To most kids, biblical events are all about God but don't have

much to do with each other either. Kids know that Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and they know Joshua fought the battle at Jericho, but do they know Joshua was part of the exodus from Egypt (and a major player in the events between those two)? Most kids probably don't.

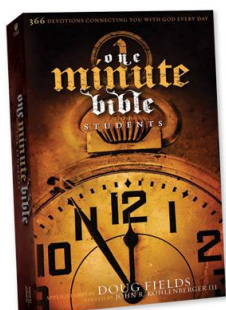
You may be thinking, "Does that really matter?" I believe it does, especially when it comes to getting kids interested in the Bible. Think about this. At any given time, the most popular kids' books are usually part of a series. Readers want to know what happens next. Even in a series where some, if not most, characters change from book

to book, there's enough of a common thread to make kids want to read more. Does this mean you need to read the Bible straight through from Genesis to Revelation? No. But it does mean that if you can help kids make the connection between the stories, it will make Scripture more interesting for them. For example, after reading about Ruth and Boaz, share how that famous couple fits into Jesus' ancestry in Matthew 1.

Then maybe, just maybe, if you read about Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery and share that there's much more to the story (with exciting happenings such as false accusations and prison sentences), they'll take the initiative to read the rest of the story on their own.

—www.childrensministry.com

## RESOURCE



*The One-Minute Bible for Students* (Simply Youth Ministry) helps kids move from Creation to Revelation in just a year. The bite-sized servings of Scripture help increase teenagers' appetite for God's Word. Devotionals and notes show readers how the Bible is relevant to everyday life.

## BIBLE FOCUS

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:103-105

# MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

## MAINSTREAM MUSIC



### GREEN DAY

**Background:** After 25 years, Green Day's angry punk rock remains popular with teenagers (and adults). Their latest album is the first of a trilogy that will be released over the next few months. It seems much less serious and political than recent albums. There's a larger focus on love, relationships, and fun—though now the band is getting flak for making less-thoughtful music. Two holdovers are a penchant for curse words and unbridled contempt for authority. After a recent on-stage outburst, lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong is seeking treatment for a substance-abuse problem. Green Day's songs are undeniably catchy but full of attitude.

**Albums:** *¡Uno!* (2012), *American Idiot* (2004), *Dookie* (1994)

**What Green Day Says:** "In every song I write," says Armstrong, "whether it's a love song or a political song or a song about family, the one thing that I find is feeling lost and trying to find your way."

**Explore:** You can hear Green Day's albums on Spotify.

## CHRISTIAN MUSIC



### TOBYMAC

**Background:** He was part of the Christian band Newsboys, but TobyMac has enjoyed even more success and influence as a solo artist. The Grammy Award-winning singer has had crossover success while never compromising his beliefs, serving as an outspoken evangelist for the diversity of God's kingdom. TobyMac's latest album, *Eye on It*, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 list; he's only the third Christian artist to have done that.

**Albums:** *Eye on It* (2012), *Portable Sounds* (2008)

**What Toby Mac Says:** TobyMac says he looks forward to "stretching" the Christian music industry and "inviting more culture into it." He says, "It's going to be interesting how our industry takes this," adding that the challenging part is where stores will put his music.

**Explore:** His entire catalog, including performance tracks, is on Spotify.

## MOVIES

**Movie:** *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2*

**Genre:** Drama, Romance, Thriller

**Rating:** PG-13

**Synopsis:** Edward and Bella have to prove to the vampire council that their offspring isn't an "immortal child" in order to save its life.

**Our Take:** The popular teenage vampire-werewolf series finally comes to an end. Many things are wrong with this series, not the least of which is that Bella and Edward's relationship is unhealthy, violent, and dysfunctional.

**Movie:** *Red Dawn*

**Genre:** Action, Drama, War

**Rating:** PG-13

**Synopsis:** A group of teenagers wakes up to find their town is the target of a foreign military takeover. After heading to the hills for training, they take back their town.

**Our Take:** I'm not sure the classic '80s movie needed a reboot. The fact that this is still only rated PG-13 means it *might* be a good movie to spark discussion.

For more media discussions and ideas, go to [www.MinistryandMedia.com](http://www.MinistryandMedia.com).

## VIDEO GAMES



**Halo 4**—The next installment of this incredibly popular franchise sees the return of Master Chief. It's to be the first of a new trilogy of games set in the universe. Despite the M rating, most blood is of the alien variety, and the games are generally less violent than similar shooters. (Rated M; Xbox 360)

**Hitman: Absolution**—If the distasteful prerelease trailer is any indication, this will be sacrilegious, violent, and not-for-the-kiddos. The agent you play has been betrayed, lied to, and manipulated, and it's a good guess that the way he'll try to get out of this cycle is through more violence. (Rated M; PS3, Xbox 360, PC)

# NOVEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Unashamed Tour	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		VOTE	PULSE			Haiti Garage Sale Jam Tour
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Krista/Spencer 1 Year Anniversary			PULSE Guest Speaker	NYWC	NYWC Fall Festival FH Blood drive	NYWC FH Blood drive
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
NYWC Rikki's B-day			No PULSE	Thanksgiving Day		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			PULSE		Acquire The Fire	

**December:**

- 11.30-12.1: Acquire The Fire
- 12.02: Church Budget Vote
- 12.31: New Year's Eve Party