

The Universal Textbook - Part 2

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The Bible, God's Word, our Text Book and guide. How do you study your Bible?

We have found that listening to scripture, read aloud on audio tape, to be most captivating. A purchased dramatised version, read by a competent speaker is lively and enjoyable. We read along, following in our Bibles. This not only teaches the Bible, but also helps with reading such as word recognition, pronunciation, and reading speed. Correct emphasis and suitable inflection of words enhances understanding. Comprehension is thereby increased by attentively listening to expressive reading. Listening skills are also reinforced. You can teach "fidgety" children to sit still and listen, slowly increasing the time span as the child matures - useful in church services and symphony concerts! The tape recorder can be stopped at will and questions posed. The passage can be applied to daily life and re-stated in the child's own words, making it personally relevant. Listen to a passage, switch the tape off and let the child re-read it, trying to emulate the speed, diction, emphasis, tone and whatever criteria is chosen. They could mark interesting verses, or copy them into a special "Scripture" notebook, kept for the purpose, using their neatest handwriting. This could also be memorised. The usefulness of these exercises is limited only by our imaginations. An entire reading course could be conducted in this way. Even little children would benefit from listening and participating in the interaction. Beginning readers could be given a single letter of the alphabet, a word, or a sentence to copy. Talk about synonyms, antonyms, and many other literary devices. The whole family, whatever the ages, will benefit from studying God's Word.

The Bible is our blueprint for life. Let us read it because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

Another way to study the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation is to listen to Christian radio. A program such as "Through the Bible", with author and speaker J. Vernon McGee, airs daily. The organisation sends notes and outlines that are used in the broadcast to anyone who requests them. The entire Bible is covered in a period of five years, in half-hour segments aired daily.

What will you have done five years from now? Will you have studied every verse of the Bible, even once? As parents and teachers, let us be found to be good stewards of our time. Let us not merely dwell on "stories", but on the meat of the Word.

Jo-Ann Pienaar was OCHEC's Area 4 representative and a home school parent.

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