



valleychildren

August 4, 2011

Dear First Grade Parents,

It has been a tradition in our church to give first graders a new Bible. We do this because we value the importance of helping children develop daily Bible reading habits at a young age. It is by reading the Bible that God's Words begin to transform our lives and the Holy Spirit speaks to us. We also do this because we want to partner with you and empower you to fulfill your God-given responsibility to train your children in the ways of the Lord and impress His words upon them. [Deuteronomy 6:7](#) says to parents, *Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

The Bible Presentation this year will be during the worship services on September 24 & 25. If you would like your son or daughter to receive a Bible, we will need you to participate in the following ways:

- First, read through the attached materials and complete the *Bible Treasure Hunt* worksheet and activities with your first grader. This worksheet can be done all at once or broken up into pages to use for your family faith talks this summer.
- Bring your completed *Bible Treasure Hunt* worksheet to the Children's Welcome desk by **September 18**. When you present the sheet, you will be asked which service you will be attending on September 24/25. Then you will be given a Bible in which you may write a note or Parent Blessing to your child on the inside. Leave the Bible at the desk so that they can be distributed in the service.
- Check out the [Thriving Family](#) for more activities: <http://www.thrivingfamily.com/Family/Faith/2010/sep/gods-word-is-true.aspx>. Talk to your child about the importance of having their own Bible and reading it daily to strengthen their faith and learn God's ways.
- On September 24 or 25, arrive early with your first grader and go directly to the front of the Sanctuary. When the Bible Presentation is to take place, you and your child will be called forward. Take the Bible in your hands, but do not give it to your child until instructed to do so. All the parents will read, in unison, a blessing to their child and then present the Bible. Next the children will respond to a question. See a sample of this blessing and

questions at the end of this letter. Copies will be available that morning with the Bibles.

- Challenge your family to learn Psalm 119:105 together this month!

Once your child has received the Bible, may I encourage you to set up a reading plan for him or her. At this point in the year, you may have to sit down and read with them as this is not a beginning reader Bible. The book of John would be a good place to start. Instruct them to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through God's Word as they are reading. After your child has finished reading, ask them what God was telling them personally through this. There are many more books and resources available for you to check out from the Valley Children's Library or Resource Center located behind the Children's Welcome Desk to support you as you build faith in your home.

I am blessed to be able to participate in this joyful time for you and your child. If you have any questions regarding Bible Presentation or the materials attached, please call or email me. May God enrich your child's life through His Words!

#### Parent Blessing Sample

\_\_\_\_\_, you are my child and I am very proud of you. You are a wonderful creation of God who is fearfully and wonderfully made. God has a special plan for you life, a plan for hope and a future. May this book be a lamp unto your feet. May it teach you, correct you and train you to be the very person God wants you to be. We love you and present to you your very own Bible.

#### Questions for First Graders during Bible Presentation Service

- Do you receive this Bible as God's Word for you? If you do, say yes.
- Will you try your best to read and understand it and follow what it says? If you do, say yes.

I'd also like to bring an exciting opportunity to your attention: This fall we will hold our next Family Summit on October 1. Please watch for more information so that you can attend. Starting in Block 2 on Tuesday evenings in October, we will offer another Faith Foundation Course to help you get ideas for making faith real to the preschool and younger elementary kids in your home. Ideas will be shared for teaching about prayer, worship, faith talks, and much more!

Blessings,

Lois Hales  
Director of Children's Ministry