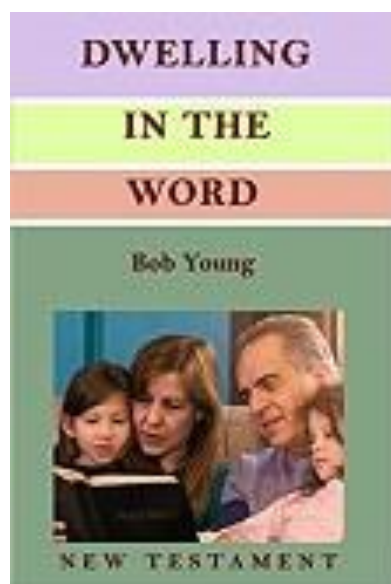


## Reading the Bible as a Family

### By Bob Young

In her article, *How to Leave a Legacy of Discipleship*, Jana Magruder, strategic initiatives director for Lifeway Kids, emphasizes the importance of family Bible reading. Magruder cites a Lifeway Research study, *Nothing Less*, reporting that **“reading the Bible is the number one thing parents can do to help their children continue to grow in their faith as adults.”** Magruder calls attention to the challenge of Deuteronomy 6 – to tell our children about God in every moment of our daily lives.

Most Christian parents fervently want their children to know Jesus and follow him faithfully. Are we doing the **one thing** that is most likely to make that a reality? Are we doing everything we can to reach the goal? Are we helping our children develop their heart for God and His Word? We can hope and pray about the faith of our children, but modeling daily discipleship in the Word of God is our most powerful influence! We show our children, especially during their youth and adolescence, that we care about their heart for God and his Word by leading them in daily Bible reading, by prioritizing time in God’s Word.



When our grandchildren visit Jan and me, they love helping us read Papa’s book, my book *Dwelling in the Word*, each night. They take turns reading the biblical text, the meditations, applications, and the prayers designed to remind us of biblical principles. Our adult children receive Nana’s daily Bible verses by email, along with a prayer.

I encourage you to find simple tools to help the “word of Christ dwell richly” in your family and your children. My book, *Dwelling in the Word*, is one excellent option. The book is currently discounted by the publisher as we begin the New Year ([www.jameskaypublishing.com](http://www.jameskaypublishing.com)).

In addition to reading the Bible together, I encourage you to pray together as a family (not just at meals). Do God’s work together. Jan and I often took our children with us on evangelistic visits when we were in fulltime ministry. Find ways for your children to be involved in eternal ministry.

Our fondest hope is that the faith is being passed from generation to generation, and that the process will continue into the future, until Jesus comes! The #1 thing to make that happen is reading the Bible together as a family!