

Receiving His *Gifts*

Before You Start!

I am so excited you've downloaded the *Receiving His Gifts Bible Reading Plan*! This makes a great reading plan anytime of year, but I think it's especially exciting during the Advent season. Gifts are a big focus during the month of December, and I know as a mom I want to teach my kids what God's Word has to say about God's good and perfect gifts in Jesus Christ. But how can I teach what I do not know?

I created this Bible reading plan to walk through WITH my children, but you can do it by yourself just as well. **This Bible reading plan includes 21 passages about receiving God's gifts.** This means you don't have one for everyday of the month; nor will you have one for everyday of Advent, if using during the month of December. I did this intentionally. I don't know about your home, but in my home, we don't always have those perfect days where reading the Bible and discussing it happens. I discovered the 21-day Bible reading plan method works better for me. This gives me plenty to "chew on" during the month without ever feeling like I'm "getting behind" if I miss a day.

If you're doing this on your own, then it's pretty self-explanatory. Simply read one Scripture passage a day, and answer the questions on the right for each passage. **However, if you're doing this with children, especially younger children, I want to give you a few tips for making it work.**

Before beginning the Bible reading plan, talk about **why you're going to spend time focusing on this topic.** Letting them know the WHY behind the study goes a long way with children. Then, everyday before beginning, revisit your

WHY for doing the study. Hopefully, by the end of the study your kids will be able to tell you why this study matters. For example, in our family, we are focusing on God giving gifts so that we can enjoy life to the full (John 10:10).

Next, I like to **ask some questions to get my children thinking about what they believe about God**. Some questions I'm asking them regarding this Bible reading plan:

- *Do you ever think God doesn't want you to have fun?*
- *Do you think God cares whether you have toys or not?*

After some initial discussion, I will explain that God cares about our physical world AND our spiritual world. Yes, He gives physical gifts to be enjoyed, but He also gives us gifts that have to do with salvation, righteousness, and grace (to name a few). I try to keep this explanation SUPER simple. We'll be expanding on this idea as we read and discuss all month long.

Finally, I **reiterate why we're doing this and sum up what we talked about**. For example, I might say something like: "We are going to spend time reading Scriptures about gifts and blessings this month because God is the giver of good gifts, and we want to learn how to identify the gifts He's given and we might even discover some gifts we can give to Him. Wouldn't that be fun? To give gifts to God?"

Once we start diving into the Scriptures, I have **two questions** I use with my children.

- *What does this passage say about God?*
- *What does this passage tell us about God's gifts?*

More often than not, they start telling me what we "should do" after reading the passage. This is a common problem for anyone reading the Scriptures, not just children. Therefore, I work hard to **make sure we first discover what the passage tells us about God**. If they are having a particularly hard time, I might read the passage in a few other translations. The NIV is especially helpful for children, I think. Once I let them answer in their own little way, I will summarize what is true about this passage, adding anything that needs to be added.

For example, the first passage is James 1:16-18, and this passage tells us:

- God gives good AND perfect gifts.
- God created the stars.
- God is unchanging.
- God chose us.

I might then ask them if any of those things surprise them. The point of this question is to raise our gaze a little higher, to stand in awe a little more at who God is!

The second question I ask my children is what this says about God's gifts. In the case of the first Scripture passage of this reading plan, we give the answer in our explanation of who God is - the giver of good and perfect gifts.

In all of this, we're just talking. I ask questions to get them thinking about the Word of God. **It's less about getting the RIGHT answer and more about getting comfortable engaging with the Word.** I work hard to not "teach at" my kids, but simply marvel with them through the Scriptures about how great God is.

Finally, we wrap up with some sort of application point and prayer. This is going to vary from family to family, and from reading to reading. But always, make sure you keep the focus on who God is, what the passage says, and apply it as best you can as a form of worship to God. We want our children to be doers of the Word, yes, but we also want them to be worshippers of God. Don't be afraid to just marvel at God and let that be your "application point."

I hope you enjoy the *Receiving His Gifts 21-Day Bible Reading Plan*. I pray you learn something new about God and His gifts, and I hope that your worship increases as you marvel at who God is and what He's doing in your life (and the lives of your children).

**By Grace Alone,
Leigh Ann Dutton**

Receiving His Gifts

21-Day Bible Reading Plan

___ James 1:16-18

___ Matthew 7:7-11

___ Romans 4:1-9

___ John 4:7-15

___ Romans 3:21-26

___ Romans 5:12-21

___ Romans 6:15-23

___ Acts 2:36-38

___ Acts 8:14-24

___ Ephesians 4:7-16

___ 1 Peter 4:10

___ Ephesians 2:1-10

___ Luke 21:1-4

___ 1 Timothy 4:11-16

___ Philippians 4:14-20

___ 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

___ 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

___ Romans 11:25-36

___ 1 Corinthians 14:1

___ 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

___ 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

FOR EACH DAY'S READING:

1. Summarize the passage in your own words.
2. What does this passage teach you about God?
3. What does this passage teach you about receiving His gifts?

AFTER EACH DAY'S READING:

1. Examine your beliefs. Are you believing anything that contradicts God's Word?
2. Examine your lifestyle. Are there any words, actions, or attitudes in your life that contradict what you just learned?
3. What steps are you going to take to grow in what you just learned?
4. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk in obedience to this passage.