



Hi, EPIC Families!

This September marks the completion of our first four-year reading through the Bible with the Bible Savvy reading plan. With the new cycle beginning this Fall, we have taken time to collect your feedback on the reading plan and journals for EPIC, and evaluate how we can best serve you moving forward.

We're excited to introduce several new changes to our reading plan and journals that we think you and your kids will love!

SHORTENED DAILY READINGS

The value of daily Bible reading is incredibly important, but we recognize many of our kids, especially our younger participants, had a hard time with the length and content of the readings.

To that end, we have created a shortened version of the Bible Savvy reading plan specifically for kids, which we'll simply call the EPIC reading plan. The readings will still closely follow the overall pattern of the adult/teen plan (i.e. we'll mostly read the books in the same order), but you can expect to see the following changes, too.

Shorter sections of reading

Most daily readings will be significantly shorter than the Bible Savvy plan.

Consideration has been given to sections that are easier to read than others (Gospels vs. Prophets, for example)

No longer verse-by-verse

Focusing rather on the gist of a passage, we will be reading segments rather than every verse of each book, especially if the content matter is challenging to read or repetitive.

No longer skips book to book

We did hear from many that kids were confused when skipping from one reading to another on alternating days, so we'll instead focus on completing one book at a time (with Psalms/Proverbs continuing on the weekends)

BRAND NEW JOURNAL LOOK

We wanted to simplify the journal and encourage kids to use it in a wider variety of ways as they reflect on their readings.

No daily questions

While they'll still appear on the page as guides, we won't feature the questions as prominently and allow more space (with a dotted background for ease of writing/drawing) for kids to journal their own thoughts.

Increased color and fresh new look

As much as possible, we're adding color where we can to help the overall look of the journal feel more engaging for kids

Addition of activities

Word searches, crosswords and more - we're adding in several fun components to the journal on a regular basis to help keep kids engaged and wanting to come back to it.

Removal of turn-in pages

We're no longer going to collect weekly turn-in pages of reading. Instead, we're going to focus on celebrating each book of the Bible read. More on that below.

NEW READING INCENTIVES

In talking with kids and parents, we learned that many were not incentivized with the award/medal system and quickly felt left behind if they fell behind on reading.

To address that issue, we will be retiring our award/medal system for completion of reading. Instead, we're going to focus on a smaller scale - celebrating every time we read a book of the Bible.

We'll celebrate by:

Having a party at EPIC on the week closest to completing our read-through

Kids will get to choose from a variety of small EPIC swag prizes each time they complete a book
Introducing a new "EPIC Passport" (think Pizza Hut's Book-It program) in which kids will receive a special passport book and a unique sticker each time they finish a book. Once they've filled in their whole passport (every book of the Bible!), they receive a truly EPIC grand prize!

QUESTIONS?

We are so excited for these new changes and we hope you are, too! We look forward to seeing kids get more and more engaged with Scripture over the coming year.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please call me on 630.485.3318 or e-mail me at dgwynne@ccclife.org