

Creating Bible Journals...

(Taken from **Language Arts...The Easy Way!**)

In our home, discipleship is the #1 priority. If nothing else is done each day, we consider a day a success if we have further instilled the disciplines of a consistent Christian walk. Likewise, God has sent blessings immeasurable as we have been faithful to encourage our children to their daily quiet time...to seek God EACH day...and to keep a record of that walk with God!

Bible Journals are a "given" with our family...we are fully convicted about equipping our children fully for their walk with God and we are fully convinced of the worth of keeping Journals/Notebooks! Do you wonder where I get the conviction for Journals? In Scripture, we see that God instructs us over and over to REMEMBER what He teaches us...to REMEMBER the wonders that He has done in our lives! God instructed His people to WRITE down in a book His work among them, His Words spoken to them...warnings and promises!

Our Bible Journals are our feeble attempt to instill the discipline of writing down the work of God in our lives. They are very personal and are not evaluated as schoolwork. Our Bible Journals are simply 5-subject spiral bound (9 1/2 in. X 6 in.) Notebooks. You could use a small 3-ring binder if you prefer. We prefer the spiral bound because they already have the dividers and sections petitioned off and they are more economical and easier to carry along to church.

We divide our Notebooks into the following sections:

1. Sunday Morning Worship Notes
2. Sunday Evening Worship Notes
3. Wednesday Evening Worship Notes
4. Quiet Time Notes
5. Prayer Lists and Memory Verse Lists

We began at an early age discipling our children to take notes in Church. It began as they drew pictures or copied words in their "Journals" just as Mommy did in hers. This built the discipline and now they take notes on their own in the Church Services and Bible Studies. During Church, Matthew (11) does not always keep up with the complete outlines, but he does keep up with key thoughts and Scripture references. He has been doing this since he was 7 but of course, not like he does today!

At home, we began the first real Journals through our Copywork. The children would copy passages of Scripture into their Notebooks. This developed the discipline for them to keep their own personal Bible Journals because Copywork is a daily discipline. The children keep their insights and thoughts jotted down as they study through their quiet times. They also copy verses that are memorized into their Notebooks. Matthew spends his quiet time jotting down thoughts, insights, and copying special Scriptures that he

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wants to commit to memory...yes, he learns 10 times as much as old mom does! He has been copying larger amounts of Scripture during his quiet time into his Scripture Notebook too like Psalm 1, Psalm 23, Matthew 5, The Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. I give him freedom to copy his own gems and I have seen great benefits in his "school skills" as a result. ...Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all of these things shall be added unto you? Yes, God blesses our faithfulness! Not only do the children learn the skills of writing, but also Bible Journals are great for review and to encourage the children as they look back and see ALL the wonderful verses that they have hidden in their heart!

Because there are often so many things to remember in our prayers we have adopted a systematic plan for prayer. We were encouraged a few years ago by our church to have a program set up to pray. We did use their program for several years but now we have gotten really simple in our way of remembering requests. We have a list in the back of our Notebook of needs that we are concerned about praying for. It is so neat to be able to check off the answered prayers! On those days that we have a request that seems too BIG to our little heavy hearts, we can just go back and see all the answers that God has provided! Another bonus...we have a great history of God's work in our lives!

On the last 20 pages or so of the notebook, we keep a list of Bible verses we are committing to memory. As we memorize them, we check them off but still have them in the list for review. Each week, we have a time of accountability when we quote our verses and share highlights from our quiet times. This is what keeps our Notebook alive and purposeful. It is amazing to see prayers being answered, to share insights from quiet times and services, and to actually see our growth as Christians as we walk along together.