

Bible Verses to Read & Talk About

Where We Put Our Trust: Psalm 16:1–3, Psalm 34:1–8, Philippians 3:4–11

In the mid-1600s, a Frenchman named Blaise Pascal had a dramatic effect on the thinking of many French people. He wrote several public "letters" against the teachings of some very prominent teachers because they were counseling people to trust in their own good works for salvation. Read these Scripture passages together and talk about what you learn.

- When you read these Psalms, who is the one being described as good? Who is the one who delivers and saves? In whom should we put our trust?
- List the things Paul says were important to him before. What does he say about them

now? What is the most important thing Paul names now?

A Matter of the Heart: Matthew 15: 7–9

In Germany, during this same time frame, a group of people known as Pietists began meeting. They were very concerned that Christianity had become merely a matter of rules and regulations, doctrines, and church attendance. They believed that each person needs to have a personal, experiential relationship with Jesus Christ. Read this Scripture passage together and talk about what you learn.

- In the passage in Matthew, how does Jesus describe people who "talk the talk" but don't have it in their heart? What does that mean for us today?

Suggested Books for Reading Together

1620: Year of the Pilgrims by Genevieve Foster

This wonderful book covers not only the Pilgrims, but also Shakespeare, Rembrandt, Galileo, Akbar of India, and more. Highly recommended!

The World of William Penn by Genevieve Foster

A great book for younger students, this one covers the years 1660–1718. Highly recommended!

Sir Francis Drake by Roy Gerrard

Though this is a delightful picture book for younger students, it is a fantastic and hilarious description of Drake's adventures in poetry form!

Elizabeth I and Tudor England: Life and Times by Stephen White-Thomson

Great book for younger students about Queen Elizabeth and the Elizabethan Age.

Rembrandt—Men of Genius series by Ellen M. Dolan

Though this is written for children to understand, it gives a wonderful understanding of the life and work of this Dutch painter, one of the most important artists in world history.

A Piece of the Mountain: The Story of Blaise Pascal by Joyce McPherson

A very well written, interesting story about the French mathematician and Christian apologist of the 1600s. Pascal is the man who gave us "Pascal's Wager" and spoke of the God-shaped vacuum in people. I really enjoy this book.