



## Preparing and Presenting a Bible Story

Many cultures have strong traditions of storytelling. However, discipleship of children is more than simply telling a Bible story well. We want to help children understand and apply the lessons from the Bible story.

**What is your favorite Bible story? Why? How has it helped faith to grow in your life?**

**Read Hebrews 4:12. What does it teach us about God's Word?**

### **Hebrews 4:12 NIV**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

## Elements of Every Great Bible Story

What makes a story great?

### **Goal of every Bible story:**

To teach a lesson worth learning, one that grows faith, not just facts.





## Preparing to Tell a Bible Story

### 1. Pray

Ask the Author (God) to open up your understanding, not just relate facts. Ask God to open children's hearts to receiving the story. Ask God for His direction in applying this lesson to children's lives.

### 2. Read

Read the story over and over again from the Bible itself.

### 3. Think/Imagine

Let your imagination be free in visualizing characters, setting, and action. Let the living Word of God bring the story to life in your heart.

### 4. Plan

Identify the one key spiritual truth you want the children to learn from the story. Work out the details of the story's beginning, middle and end (see below). Write notes.

### 5. Practice

Learn to tell the story as you have planned it.



## Story Guide

Beginning	<b>INTRODUCE THE PROBLEM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must catch attention of listeners (shock, mystery, question, history, etc.)</li> <li>• Sets the scene and action</li> <li>• Introduces the main characters (they must be interesting!)</li> <li>• Begins to reveal the passion in the story</li> </ul>	THE PROBLEM
Middle	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROBLEM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce the remaining characters</li> <li>• Weave in background. Avoid overloading with details. Include only what fits the truth</li> <li>• Move step-by-step to climax. Include three to four main points of the story</li> <li>• For impact, choose strong, descriptive words, phrases and powerful word pictures</li> </ul> <p>TEACHING COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider how you will integrate your teaching objectives</li> <li>○ Find the teaching points</li> <li>○ How will you involve kids in the story? How will you illustrate the story?</li> </ul> <b>CLIMAX OF PROBLEM (THE CRISIS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truth is revealed to resolve the conflict</li> <li>• Use dialogue and action words</li> <li>• No digression here</li> </ul>	
End	<b>SOLUTION TO PROBLEM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the action</li> <li>• Explain the rest of the conflict being resolved</li> </ul> <b>APPLICATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To clearly bring home the truth of the story</li> <li>• To make a clear connection between the truth of the story and the point</li> <li>• To guide children to consider the point of the story and respond</li> </ul>	THE SOLUTION



## Illustrating the Story

Illustrations or “visuals” can help to enhance the lesson of the story, to make it more interesting and engaging for children. As a Chinese proverb states:

*I hear, and I forget*

*I see, and I remember*

*I do, and I understand*

### How can you illustrate your story?

1. Use your hands (i.e. counting, pointing, motions)
2. Use your body and face
3. Use shadows (objects, shapes on an overhead projector)
4. Make your own drawings, draw on the whiteboard as you tell the story, or draw a picture together
5. Use ordinary objects and items you can easily find. (Preschoolers especially need to touch and feel) Let children:
  - Touch mud
  - Tear cloth
  - Count coins
  - Peek inside an empty box to find Jesus is risen
6. Use a child’s imagination (as we did in the game)
7. Use drama (act it out)
8. Use puppets (stick puppets, finger puppets, hand puppets, etc.)
9. Use flannel/felt or paper pieces  
You do not need a lot of elaborate flannel graph pieces to illustrate your point. Ten or fewer well-chosen characters and props will be sufficient for most stories. Prepare the story. Practice with the felt pieces so that the focus is on your story and message and not on the pieces. Start by securing the felt board on an easel or chair at a slightly backward angle so pieces do not fall off as you place them. Add pieces one at a time to build the story. Keep pieces covered in your lap or in a file folder so children do not see them before the appointed time.
10. Other ideas:

### What are the best story illustrations to use for children?



## Action Steps

Read **Nehemiah 8:8**. Reflect and respond to the following question:

### **Nehemiah 8:8** NIV

They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

**What is God saying to you as you prepare to teach the Bible to children?**