

Opening:

- Choose a question or activity where children can share a personal story.
- The answer should generate an emotion from the children.
- Ask a question that needs an answer more than “Yes” or “No.”

The Opening doesn't have to be directly tied to the Bible story but gets the children thinking in that direction.

Background:

- Define words or explain geographical locations and cultural differences the children may not know.
- Explain important events that happened before today's story.
- Review important concepts from the previous story if applicable.

You don't want to stop during the story to explain words so make sure to go over them all in the Background time.

Tell the Story:

- Break down story into 4 or 5 “chapters.”
- Involve the children in the story.
- Use dramatic elements that would make the story more engaging and interactive. Use visual objects to show the group if possible.
- Keep the length of the story appropriate for the children to learn so they can tell others.

Tell the story just as it is in the Bible. Don't add your own words or interpretations.

Make it memorable but stay true to God's Word.

It is crucial that the children know that the story comes from the Bible and that it is true.

Retell:

- Have children use their Bibles to read and retell the story.
- Choose a game or activity to engage the children.

Make sure the children are being Biblically accurate when retelling the story.

Discover & Response Questions:

- Pray about this lesson regarding where the Holy Spirit might lead the discussion.
- Use questions that engage the heart and not just the head.

Move the children from remembering facts in the story to what God is doing in their hearts and lives.

We want the Spirit to speak to each person for the implication that will be for them specifically.

EXAMPLES

Tell the Story:

- Use costumes or objects.
- Have children make sound effects (rubbing hands to make the sound of rain).
- Move around the room. Use lots of facial expressions.
- Tell the story in First Person (as though you were one of the characters in the story).

Retell:

- Game: Musical Chairs. Person standing without a chair tells first part of story. Repeat until story is done.
- Art: Billboard. Design a roadside billboard to tell the story.
- Drama: Give children an object and see how many ways they can use it to tell the story.
- Music: Create a rap of the main events in the story.
- Writing: What's Next. Have the children write out what God wants them to do with what they heard in the story.

Discover & Response Questions:

Head Questions (Facts)

- What stood out in the story?
- Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell/feel?
- What is Jesus/God teaching them in this story?
- How did God/Jesus respond when...
- What have we learned about what God/Jesus is like?
- How are the characters alike or different in the story?

Hand Questions (Action)

- What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to change your life?
- After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
- Who can you share this story with this week?
- How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?

Heart Questions (Feelings)

- What do you think was the most important part of today's story?
- What feelings did you have as you heard the story?
- What do you think was going on in _____'s heart and mind in this story?
- How do you feel about God/Jesus now?
- Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?

KIDStory relies on Jesus' method of teaching through telling stories combined with interactive experiences and meaningful discussions. The methods used to tell and retell God's story are coupled with interactive questions that allow the Holy Spirit to take hold of what the children have heard and learned so that it becomes a self-discovery process, bringing about life change.



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