

# Session 1: Welcome to KIDStory

***Generation after generation stands in awe of (God's) work; each one tells stories of Your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4 (MSG)***

KIDStory is about reaching and discipling children in God's Word by creating a relational learning environment where children can become eye-witnesses and active participants in God's Story rather than distant observers. KIDStory relies on Jesus' method of teaching: telling stories, interactive experiences and meaningful discussions.

These strategies are fun to learn, and they are easy to use and share with others. Leaders are taught to listen rather than lecture ... listen to the Holy Spirit and the responses of the children, then encourage the children to also listen and be obedient to God's voice. The questions and interactions posed by the leaders are not just to learn information, but to facilitate Holy Spirit transformation of the heart and mind. KIDStory is about God transforming a life, a family and ultimately a community through His Story and His Spirit.

**Click Here to Watch a Video on  
Creating an Environment**



## **Creating a Welcoming Environment like Jesus**

KIDStory is all about creating environments where children encounter the love and hope found in Jesus; it is where they are welcomed, loved and blessed. Jesus modeled this for us when the children were brought to Him. (Mark 10). This learning environment is what we call a StoryClub. You may call it whatever you want and meet wherever and whenever it is convenient for you.

**A StoryClub is a place where** students have fun and are free to ask real questions, connect dots and share what they are learning and experiencing; a place where God's presence is very real and evident. It's here that we leave behind rote learning concepts and step toward an approach that thrives on dialog, fun activities and is anchored in genuine relationships. It's where everyone feels safe, feels known and feels accepted and do likewise for others.



## Core Essentials

There are certain things you will find in every aspect of KIDStory, whether you are training leaders or leading a group of children. We want to create environments where children learn: who God is, who they are (their purpose and value) and how to have a relationship with Jesus that is real and personal. We believe these things will happen when the following core essentials are practiced:



**Bible Centered:** The core of every lesson, both in teaching children and training leaders, is the Bible Story. Everything continually keeps coming back to the story and discovering who God is and how to follow Him.



**Fun:** We want these truths to stick and become a part of a child's everyday life. In order for this to happen and to engage a child, it needs to be fun. When there is fun and laughter, children will want to be involved, come back and bring their friends with them.



**Reproducing:** KIDStory is simple and practical. Leaders can show others how to use this strategy and the kids can retell the Bible Stories to family and friends.



**Relational:** Of all the things that draw children closest to Jesus, significant relationships is by far the most critical thing needed. It's not just about teaching a lesson, but it's getting to know the children and what is stirring in their hearts and souls. (To illustrate this, see the exercise at the end of this lesson.)



**Spirit Led:** Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be the One who would reveal all the things that Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit is the teacher and the One who transforms a life. We need to be listening and moving in the directions that the Holy Spirit leads us.

For more information about **Fun**, download these KIDStory resources:

- Keeping the FUN in Fundamentals Webinar Recording: [https://bit.ly/KS\\_FUN\\_Recording](https://bit.ly/KS_FUN_Recording)
- Corresponding Notes: [https://bit.ly/FUN\\_fillablenotes](https://bit.ly/FUN_fillablenotes)



**Click Here to Watch a Video on  
StoryClubs: Environment That Transform**



## **KIDStory Format**

There is a recommended systematic approach as to the “why” and “how” KIDStory is done. The following is a recommended way of teaching and facilitating a Bible Story. How much time you have and the unique nature of the group you are leading will determine what will be best in your context.

**Click Here to Watch a Video on  
The KIDStory Format**



# KIDStory Format

## Opening:

- Choose a question or activity where students can share a personal story
- The answer should generate an emotion from the students
- 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 students thinking in that direction.

## Background:

- Define words or explain geographical locations and cultural differences that may not be known
- 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:

- Involve the students 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 students 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 students know that the story comes from the Bible & that it is true.

## Retell:

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

Make sure the students 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 students 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.



## Ask Yourself

1. How is the KIDStory strategy different than how you are currently discipling children in your community?
2. What Core Essentials need to be added or reinforced in your method of teaching? In what ways can you add more FUN and being relational to your time with the children?

**Join us for Session 2 when we start looking at the specific elements of the KIDStory Format.**

**For more information on Kids Around the World, go to:**

**[katw.org](http://katw.org)**



## Reoccurring Themes That Draw Us Closer to God:

A study was done to determine what factors were instrumental in drawing people into, and deepening, a relationship with Jesus. All of the responses could be compiled into the following four categories: and Prior to class, post on the walls the four signs of:

The Reoccurring Themes That Draw Us Closer to God:

- Significant Relationships (important people in their lives)
- Spiritual Disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, fellowship, journaling, worship, etc.)
- Pivotal Circumstances (things that may have happened in their lives like an illness, a death of a loved one, an accident, a job promotion, etc.)
- Personal Ministry (serving the Lord in some capacity whether it be as a volunteer or in a ministry)

Explain the different themes and give some personal examples of how they have drawn you personally closer to the Lord. Then ask participants to go to the theme that has personally drawn them closest to God. (Remind them that there is no right or wrong answer – God works differently in people’s lives.) Highlight the two most popular themes. Have them then go to the theme that next draws them closer to God. Once again, highlight the two most popular themes.

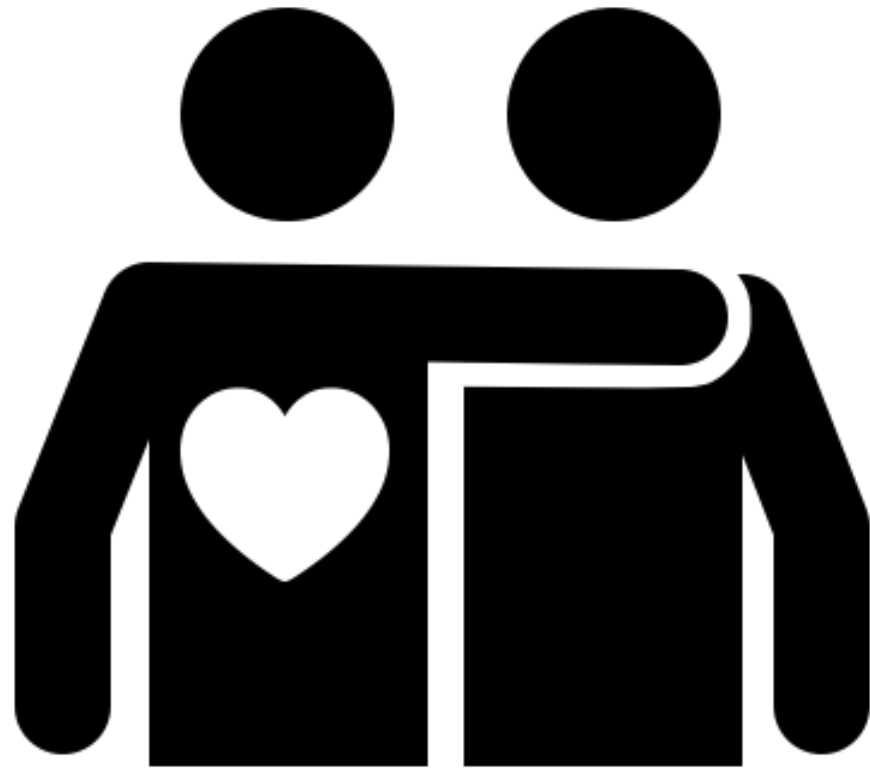
After you have completed the first part of this activity, make some observations as to what is the most common about the people’s responses. You will probably discover that there is not one particular one that is predominant over the others.

Now, repeat the exercise for how they think children are drawn into a closer relationship with Jesus. What will impact a child the most? Have them go to that place. Almost everyone goes to Significant Relationships.

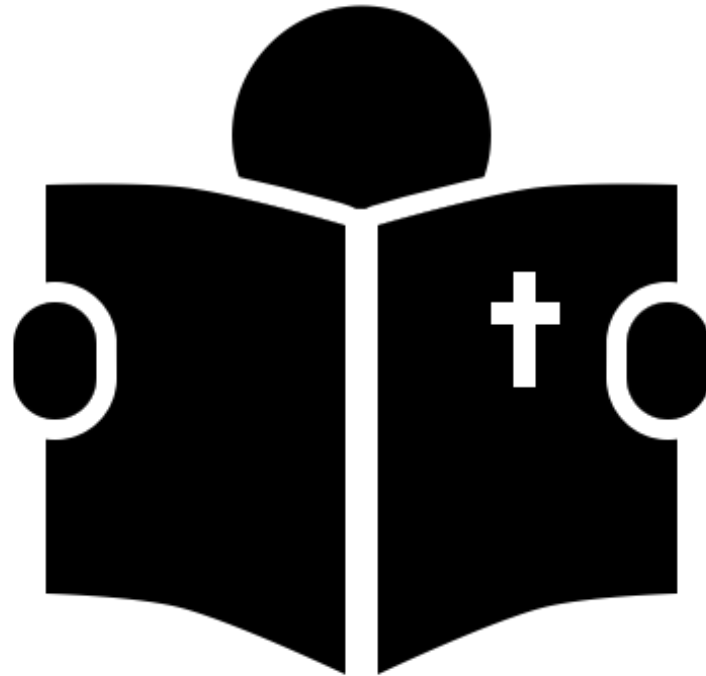
What observations can be made as to what is most impactful for children? How does this compare with what was most impactful for us as adults? Have the participants get into small groups and discuss: How will this change how we approach ministering and teaching our children? Have them report back their key ideas to the large group.



# SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS

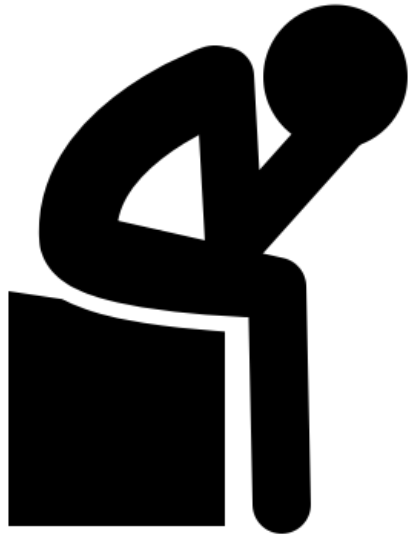


# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES





# PIVOTAL CIRCUMSTANCES



# PERSONAL MINISTRY

