

Session 2: Time to Connect

So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Worship

KIDStory is about creating an environment where children can encounter the love and hope found in Jesus through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit. This environment, which we call a StoryClub, may also involve other things that are important in connecting with God and expressing one's love and devotion to Him.

Allowing time for the children to express their praise and worship to God is important. This can happen in many different ways depending on your situation and cultural context. Though this predominantly happens with music, explore different ways. It could be meditating and responding to scripture, journaling, drawing, interpretative dance and much more. The amount of time spent in worship will depend on the time allocated to your meeting and what is relative to your culture.

Worship, in whatever form, is an important segment for children to be connecting with God.

KIDStory Format to Connect with God and One Another

One of the Core Essentials is to be Relational – connecting with Jesus as you connect with one another. You are not just teaching a lesson – you are leading children to Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to be the teacher. But it is important to create an environment where trust is established. Children need to feel that it is safe to share their thoughts and feelings. It starts with the Opening or a KidConnect Time.

Opening (KidConnect Time)

This is an opening time for the children to engage with one another and to **tell personal stories**. It could be an activity or question that is not directly tied to the story but would start leaning people in that direction. Steer away from “Yes” or “No” responses but where the children can share their experience. It helps for when the children can share their perspectives in what they saw, heard and felt in the Bible Story.



Background

Now it is time to get everyone **ready for God's Story**. Is there a pre-story statement that you have prepared to get the children ready for the story? Is there background information they need to have to better understand the story or a transition from the last story to this one? There might be words that need to be defined. Many times, Christian words and phrases are used but the children don't know what they really mean. Maybe there is something common to the culture in the Biblical times which needs to be explained. The Background, without being too lengthy and taking away from the actual Bible Story, helps the children to better understand what is happening as the story is being told.

**Click Here to Watch a Video on
Openings and Background**



Learn the Story

Now it is time to learn the story. Remember, this is a story to be told, not just facts to be memorized and recited. When you tell people about an experience you have had, are you thinking and memorizing everything you want to say?! No! You are remembering people and events that impacted you. Why would it be different with God's story? We want to tell His stories with excitement and expression as we relive it with our audience. We want to stay Biblically accurate while we teach God's Word. We not only want the children to get into the story and to see who God is and how He works, we want them to see God working the same way in their lives today.

What are some ways that will help you remember the story? It is best that it be broken down into 4, at the most, 5 "chapters" or scenes. As you picture in your mind each scene or situation, you can then fill in the details of the story.

It is **CRUCIAL** that you just tell the story as it is in the Bible. It needs to be Biblically **ACCURATE**. This means that we don't add our own words or interpretations to the story! Make it **MEMORABLE** so that the audience will be engaged **IN** the story, but still keeping true to God's Words and not our own. Finally, we want everyone to learn it well enough so they can **TELL IT AGAIN** to someone else.

**Click Here to Watch a Video on
Learning the Story**



Ask Yourself

1. No matter how long we have been teaching, we can always incorporate more ways in which the children feel safe when they are with us. What is one or two things you can do to create a safe environment with the children you are leading?
2. What challenges the most about learning the Bible Story and not just reading it to the group?

Join us for Session 3 when we discover Jesus as the Master Storyteller and how to engage children as they learn the Bible Story well enough to share with others.

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

katw.org

