

Tell Me the Story Most Precious:

Making the Bible come alive for preschoolers

*"Tell me the story of Jesus; write on my heart every word; Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard."* Franny J. Crosby

Set the stage

-  **Provide a welcoming environment.** What makes it welcoming? Refer to the picture of Jesus and the children. Your own experiences.
-  **Be prepared by knowing the entire Bible text of the lesson well, not just the part you are teaching.** Take time to read and study your scripture/lesson. Make sure you understand the Bible truths.
-  **Understand who your listeners are.** Know their age, abilities, the time of day, new students, seasonal church attenders, familiarity with scripture, etc.
-  **Have all your supplies ready.** What will you need while you are teaching: your script/lesson outline, props (practice ahead of time), your Bible.

Tell me the Story Most

Present the story with confidence, imagination and excitement.

- Practice and know your story. Be ready to adjust if needed.
- Use hand motions, props, change the tone of your voice, move around, yet don't let it distract from the message of the lesson.
- In addition to the suggestions in your teaching plans, use additional items to supplement your lesson or work for your group.

Reinforce or repeat the spiritual truth of the story.

- Spiritual truth: memory verse, core truth, unit theme
- Fact: True parts of the story
- Truths: Spiritual part of the story, what you want children to gain spiritual understanding from, leading toward Spiritual growth.

Expect the unexpected and be flexible.

- If it can happen...expect it to happen
- Have a plan for redirect, take a moment to refocus, laugh, address discipline appropriately, whisper or do a silly voice.
- Get up and move, always have a plan they will know if you don't have a plan for issues!

Check for understanding

- Do this often throughout the lesson. This helps you know what they are understanding. Allow them to ask questions. Perhaps you need to redirect or change how you are teaching them.
- Head, Heart and Hands Example

Involve them in the story

- Allow children to participate in different aspects of the lesson/story.
- Have them listen for a specific word or respond to a specific word. (pray-folding hands, rain-wiggle their fingers, Jesus-sign the word)

Open and close in prayer.

- A reminder that God's word is precious and they are special stories
- Calms and prepares our hearts
- Allows God to lead the discussion, providing the right words for teaching

Use a variety of senses

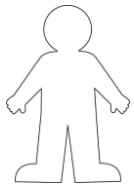
- Visual
- Hearing
- Touch
- Smell
- Taste

Short, simple, and structured

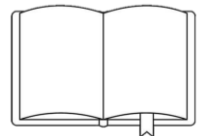
- About 1 minute per year of age
- How long is the actual story or lesson
- Avoid having them sit the entire time, use movement
- Preschoolers thrive on repetition and will be more relaxed when they know what to expect.
- If you notice that your structure is not working at the moment, remember to redirect or take a break.

We are planting seeds to help begin their journey of understanding of God's word and spiritual truth. Don't make it complicated that they tune you out. Don't use church-ease, be sensitive to those children who are not churched. Don't get so focused on teaching your lessons and making sure you check all the boxes that you forget who your audience is. As preschoolers grow and gain more understand of the truths of scripture, then story of Jesus will become more precious to them as they are written upon their heart.

Helping Preschoolers connect to Scripture



Preschoolers



God's Word

Past _____ Present

Used in our workshop:

"Tell the Story: Bible Storying for Children" Available in only digital form. Each comes with a storytelling cloth (cloth cannot be purchased separately) Purchase from wmu.org.

Ideas, activities and devotion for children: www.truthforkids.com

Article "15 Ways to Introduce the Bible to Preschoolers: <https://churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-how-tos/175781-15-ways-to-introduce-the-bible-to-preschoolers.html>

Wonderful resource for teaching scripture to children "*Our goal is to encourage and help you as you serve God's kids*" All website content is 100% free to use offline in your church or Christian ministry." <https://ministry-to-children.com/>

"Cubbies" Preschool Curriculum 2 year program, "Puggles" Toddlers 1 Year program from Awana Clubs International www.awana.org

www.teachusthebible.com Chronologic Bible lessons for all ages, tiered pricing

Levels of Biblical Learning ®: Covers 10 biblical concept areas - God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Bible, Salvation, Creation, Church, People, Family, Community & World - that children can learn as they study God's Word. The concept areas are presented through six different age ranges, from infancy through the preteen years, and reflect levels of understanding that follow how God designed children to learn. www.lifeway.com/en/special-emphasis/levels-of-biblical-learning (Southern Baptist Affiliation)