

4. Imagine being in the story. What would you see, smell, feel, taste, hear?
5. Act out the story.
6. Draw a picture or use a variety of art materials to illustrate the story.
7. Encourage your child to retell the story to you. If something seems out of place, do not tell them they are wrong. Sometimes it's a simple misunderstanding of what they are trying to communicate. Instead, ask them to explain their thoughts, and then revisit the story for added clarification and self-discovery.
8. Consider asking the GROW explore questions below:
  - **G=God's Word:** What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story.) Do you have any questions for God about the story?
  - **R=Relationships:** Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead.)
  - **O=Outward Action:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week.)
  - **W=Worship:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us or others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?
9. Close in prayer. Prayer example: "Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out. Amen."

### Bible Helps

*Bible Dictionary* offers definition and description of people, places, and key words in the bible. Helpful for expanding understanding of biblical words, especially those not used today (e.g., "ephod" a sleeveless vest worn over a priest's robe made with red, blue, and purple cloth, woven with gold).

[www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries](http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries)

[www.thebeginnersbible.com/bible-terms.php](http://www.thebeginnersbible.com/bible-terms.php)

 The Evangelical Covenant Church

For more GROW Kids resources, visit [CovChurch.org/children](http://CovChurch.org/children).



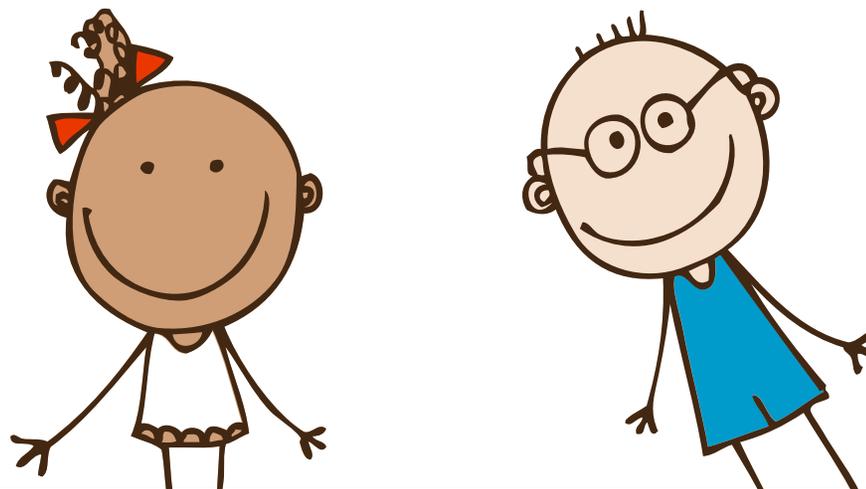
Tips for  
Engaging  
Children...

# The Bible

**This resource includes suggestions for exploring the Bible with children ages 2-10.**

Reading the bible with children is more than exploring a story. It's a time to dwell with God. That's why we begin and end with prayer and why we provide space for children to reflect on the story and ask questions about the story. We don't have to have all the answers to a child's questions. Sometimes we can acknowledge that we don't know because God is so awesome, we are still learning about God and God's creation. But we can assure them that God knows the answer. These are ways of helping children to be attentive to God and to recognize the bible is more than a story book. God is present as we read together, and God is ready to guide and direct us as we read, reflect, and create. This is special time with you and your child and God.

**Continued inside!**



## Suggested Bibles

The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories by Kelly Pulley (6 and under)

God's Story For Me: 104 Favorite Bible Stories for Children by Gospel Light and Cheryl Nobens (7 and under)

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name by Sally Lloyd-Jones (Ages 8 and under)

New International Readers Version, Nlrv (average reading level 3.0)

International Children's Bible, ICB (average reading level 3.0)

New Century Version, NCV (average reading level 3.0)

God's Word Translation, GW (average reading level 5.0)

New Living Translation, NLT (average reading level 6.0)

## Developmental Considerations (Ages 2-6)

1. Average attention span: Ages 2-4 (2-4 minutes); Ages 4-6 (5-20 minutes)
2. Need simple, clear directions
3. Require routine and repetition
4. Learn through stories, songs, and family routines
5. Can articulate their love for God
6. Can pray
7. Can understand:
  - I belong to God's family
  - God made me
  - God made everything
  - God is good
  - God loves me
  - God takes care of me

## Developmental Considerations (Ages 7-10)

1. Learn best by doing
2. Are learning to read and write
3. Have the ability to list in chronological order
4. Can name bible books and read a bible reference
5. Have limited ability to reflect on spiritual meaning of bible stories
6. Memorize a few key passages
7. Can grasp simple study of sacraments
8. Have the ability to engage in simple map studies and use of bible dictionary
9. Can hold concrete images of God
10. Want to belong and please

## Parent/Mentor Helps

1. Remember that the bible is more than a story; it's a way of building and fostering our relationship with God.
2. Pray a brief prayer before you begin to acknowledge God's presence as you read God's Word.
3. Watch for daily opportunities to revisit and reflect on bible stories, concepts, and conversations that make application to "day to day" life and serve as a reminder that God is always present.
4. Providing space for children to reflect and question reminds us that children have something to teach us as well.

## For Children Ages 2-6

1. Open in prayer: Consider lighting a candle. (The candle reminds us that God is always with us.) Explain that you are entering into a special time with God. Encourage your children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Prayer example: "God you are with us. Thank you for the bible. We are glad we have it to read! Teach us. Amen."
2. Tell the story.
3. Provide space for children to ask questions. Ask them, "Do you have any questions for God about this story?"
4. Encourage your child to point to the illustrations as they recognize different aspects of the story.
5. Have your children retell the story to you.
6. Close in prayer: Prayer example: "Thank you for loving us, thank you for this story and for our time together. Amen."
7. Keep it short.

## For Children Ages 7-10

1. Open in prayer: Consider lighting a candle. (The candle reminds us that God is always with us.) Explain that you are entering into a special time with God. Encourage your children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Prayer example: "Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen."
2. As they are able, have children read to you and affirm them as they do so. (Take turns reading verses.)
3. Don't just ask factual questions; ask wondering questions about the story. For example; "I wonder what Moses thought about God, when God spoke to him from a burning bush." You will discover your child's feelings about God. Remember, we read first to draw closer to God.