



# **BiBLE** **Storytelling** **TOOLKIT**

*5 Simple Steps for Fun  
& Engaging Family Learning*

# Contents

<b>I Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II The Power Of Storytelling .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Getting a Better Night's Sleep</i>	
<i>Strengthen Your Relationship With Your Children</i>	
<i>Introducing Your Kids To The Bible</i>	
<b>III 5 Simple Steps For Effective Storytelling .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Step 1: Choose The Right Story</i>	
<i>Step 2: Choose The Right Location</i>	
<i>Step 3: Become An Effective Storyteller</i>	
<i>Step 4: Choose Visual Aids To Help You</i>	
<i>Step 5: Pray</i>	
<b>IV Conclusion .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>5 Steps Rundown</i>	

# Introduction

Storytelling is a way to convert interesting events into words using images and situations that appeal to the audience you're telling the story to. It has been used for centuries as a way to pass down valuable information from one generation to the next. It's also been a way to entertain those who are listening.

Jesus frequently used storytelling to communicate Biblical principles to the masses that gathered to hear Him preach, as well as to His disciples. Jesus was a master storyteller. He used stories and parables as a means of illustrating profound ideas for the people to remember easily. Jesus' goal was to make the gospel easily understandable to anyone who wanted it, so He would use stories about fishermen, carpenters and even lepers for the purpose of conveying His message of salvation.

Many parents long to emulate Jesus in the way that they discuss the Bible with their children. Perhaps you're one of them.

The problem many parents run into, however, is a lack of understanding about how to tell stories to their kids that will provide them with excellent Biblical instruction, as well as help them to remember the stories and apply them to their lives.

The goal of this toolkit is to help parents become great storytellers. We want to help you get your kids excited about the Bible, and engage them with its truths. Once you use this toolkit, you will find that it makes telling Bible stories easy. By following this five-step process, you will get the most of the time you spend with your kids during story time, and you won't spend a lot of time learning how to become a great storyteller.

# The Power of Storytelling

With television and electronics commanding our kids' attention, it's not surprising that it's difficult for them to get a good night's sleep. The National Sleep Foundation conducted a survey on kids' sleep, and the findings of the survey were astounding. 69 percent of children under the age of 10 get around 9.5 hours of sleep per night. The recommended amount is between 10 and 11 hours for this age group.

## Getting a Better Night's Sleep

Storytelling works wonders to help kids settle their minds down before bedtime. As a parent, you understand that their productivity in school is directly tied to whether or not they get enough sleep the night before. Too little sleep has been linked to all kinds of issues for kids, including behavioral problems, falling asleep in class, and even eventually being diagnosed with conditions such as ADHD.

Many kids go from watching television, surfing the Internet, or playing video games to bedtime. It's not surprising that these kids have a very difficult time making the switch in their minds.



## Strengthen Your Relationship with Your Children

In addition to being an excellent tool to help kids make the transition from playtime to bedtime; storytelling is a great way to strengthen your relationship with your children. It provides you with a way to communicate to your children one-on-one. Your children crave personal interaction from you, and when you take the time to invest in storytelling with them, it strengthens your relationship. You'll find that because they're able to get such focused attention from you, you'll experience an improvement in behavioral problems as well.

## Introducing Your Kids to the Bible

Storytelling becomes even more powerful when it's done by using the Bible as the primary resource. As you know, the Word of God contains some of the most popular stories ever told. The Bible itself is God's love letter to us, His children, so when you're able to successfully convey these important stories and lessons to your children, you're helping them to grab hold of exactly how much their Heavenly Father truly loves them. What a wonderful gift for you to give your kids!



In the next chapter, you'll learn how to easily tell Bible stories to your children. Our proven method makes it simple.

Even though many parents understand the importance of telling Bible stories to their children, many of them still express a bit of anxiety at the thought. Can you relate? Maybe you're nervous about being the center of attention, even in front of your kids. Or perhaps you worry that you might not get the story exactly right.

No matter what your concerns are about storytelling, with a few tips to help you, you'll find that it won't be long before you're telling stories like an "old pro." In the next section, you'll learn how to tell compelling Bible stories that will captivate your children and have an incredibly profound effect in their lives.

# 5 Simple Steps for Effective Storytelling



## Step 1: Choose the Right Story

In order for a story to be effective, as well as for it to hold your children's attention, it's important to choose the right one. If your kids are close in age, you might be able to tell them all a Bible story together at the same time. However, if your kids' ages vary, you might want to simplify Bible stories for your younger children, and tell them those stories at a separate time.



So, how do you know that one story would be better for your kids over another? One idea many parents find helpful is to consider the struggles or challenges facing their family at that point in time. Quite often, kids also undergo struggles of their own, whether they're dealing with bullying in school, or they're having difficulty with their schoolwork. If you can pick a story that speaks to your children, and meets them where they are, you'll help them learn how to practically apply the Biblical principles of the story to their everyday lives.

### Simple is Better

The most important thing you can do when deciding which story to tell your children, is to remember that simple is always better. If you make the story too complicated, your kids won't be able to draw the right conclusions that will help them understand what you want them to learn. Also, keep your story short and sweet. If it's too long, you'll lose their attention quickly.

If you're struggling with choosing which story you'd like to tell your kids, why not let them choose? You might even think about having them take turns picking a story each day of the week. Letting them pick will give them a sense of helping with the story, and you'll find that they're eager to be involved even more.

Choose **Storytime Capsule** - a summarized Bible story with appropriate pictures and guide for storytellers using flannelgraph. [Click here to know more»](#)



## Step 2: Choose the Right Location

### A Special Occasion

The "venue" you use for your story time together is just as important as the story itself. Take some time to set the right atmosphere, regardless of where your storytelling takes place. This is a very special time for your family, so it's important to treat it as special.

Of course, you can tell your children Bible stories at any time of the day you choose. However, because of how beneficial storytelling is with regards to their sleep schedules, and their ability to easily fall asleep, it's a good idea to use the time period right before bed to begin your family's story time. This is a great time to choose, especially if your kids usually watch television before bed, or if other electronics usually hold their attention in the evening.

### Electronics Not Allowed

It's important for you to be very diligent when you create your storytelling atmosphere. There should be no television playing in the background, and any tablets or video games should be shut off. In fact, it's a good idea for you to have story time in a quiet room that is completely free from distractions. If you can dim the lights, that will assist you in holding their attention even more.



## A Story Before Bed

For many parents, they find that their children's bedrooms work best for storytelling. You'll want to be sure your kids are comfortable while you're telling them that evening's story, which is why a bed works really well. However, perhaps your kids would enjoy having a story "nook" in one of their bedrooms. This is a great idea as well, and you can really make storytelling like a special treat by creating a unique spot just for that.



## Step 3: Become an Effective Storyteller

Storytelling has actually become an art form in many cultures, and this has been the case for centuries. It's a very effective way of communicating information, however, storytelling works best when you know how to tell a story well. Our blog, [www.theminiark.com/blog](http://www.theminiark.com/blog) has many great techniques and tips to help you become a better storyteller.



### Practice

To be an effective storyteller, you will want to familiarize yourself with the story beforehand. Practice telling the story out loud, so that you can get comfortable with it before you try it out on a live audience (your children). It will also help you to understand the moral of the story better, especially if your kids have questions after the story is over.

While you're telling your story, make sure you maintain eye contact with your kids, and use gestures and voice inflection to communicate and add emphasis wherever it's needed.

Of course, you want to teach your children important concepts with your stories. However, you don't want to tell them what to think after they hear it.

The great thing about the Bible is that (according to Hebrews 4:12) it is living and active. There is a great truth that lies in those pages, and that truth will speak for itself.

If you'd like to get some dialogue going with your children, instead of telling them what you feel they should have learned, ask them what they think about the story or which part of the story they like best.

## Know Your Audience

One of the most important things you can do to be effective in your storytelling is to remember the age of your audience. This will help you know how long your story should be, and how many details you should include.

Very small children will enjoy shorter stories about animals, such as the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den, or the story of Noah's Ark. However, keep them short and sweet to make sure you can get through the whole thing. For your older children, you can incorporate more difficult Biblical principles to help them learn more advanced concepts.



## Step 4: Choose Visual Aids to Help You

The main reason kids are so receptive to technology is because its visual stimulation. Visual aids always help with storytelling, and there are so many options for you if you want to enhance your stories even more.

### Storybooks

There are many storybooks available that will help you tell Bible stories while providing you with beautiful pictures to illustrate the story for the kids. For Bible storybooks check out, [The Mini Ark digital edition ebooks](#).



If you'd like to skip the storybooks in favor of actually telling your kids the stories yourself, there are many accessories that can still help you grab (and hold) their attention.

### Storytime Capsule

Pictures are always a great way to help kids visualize what they're hearing, but if you want to

be really adventurous, consider adding a puppet show to your storytelling time. You might even incorporate your older children to help perform the show for the younger ones as you tell them the story.

In addition, we also offer a **Storytime Capsule** that many parents have found to be extremely helpful in their storytelling adventures with their kids. The kit provides parents with a summary of Bible stories, along with visual aids for flannelgraph storytelling to help the story come alive. [Click here to know more](#)

## Keep the Fun Going

No matter what visual aids you choose, try to occasionally mix things up for your kids. You'll keep them guessing, hold their attention, and have more fun with storytelling yourself. As you know, when you're having fun with storytelling, your kids will sense that, and they'll enjoy it more too.



## Step 5: End the Story with a Prayer

Some parents like to come up with a prayer they can help their kids memorize and say together after each story. As you're introducing this new family prayer time, let your kids know how important it is to talk to God about what they've learned. God gave us His Word so that we could learn how much He loves us, as well as how we can best love Him. We want to always thank Him for the gift of His Word.



If you'd like to create a prayer your kids can memorize, here is a great example:

*Dear Lord,  
Thank you for giving us the gift of Your Word. Help us to remember the stories we hear about Your people, and help us to use what we learn every day. We love you, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.*

You might need to help lead your children in prayer in the beginning. However, as you model prayer yourself, you'll find that they're eager to talk to God, just like you do.

As you instill the importance of storytime within your children, don't get discouraged if, at first, it's difficult to get your kids to pay attention. If you are consistent in your efforts, and if you continue to practice, it won't take long for your kids to appreciate this special time you spend with them. Before long, they'll begin to look forward to storytime, and actually become even more engaged.



Please check the last page of this book for the 5 step rundown guide reference.

# Conclusion

Knowing how to tell a story is such an important skill for parents to have. Each Bible story you tell your children is one more small investment into their spirituality and their Christian walks. That makes it a must for every Christian family.

You'll find that as you begin incorporating storytelling into your family, it easily becomes a daily habit. Your kids will truly love, and even begin to crave this special time you get to spend together, and they'll miss it when you don't do it.

Every parent is capable of being a great storyteller, and you'll find that your kids are eager for you to take on the role. Having you spend time with them to tell them stories will quickly become one of their favorite activities, and it will instill within them the importance of sharing Bible stories with their own children once they're older. It won't be long before you grow to cherish this special time you get to spend with your kids, and they'll treasure it too.

Of course, when it comes to storytelling, we place a great deal of importance on this "lost" art form. That's why we have so many great products to help parents communicate effectively through stories.

Visit our blog to find something that will help you get started in your storytelling adventures today!

For more storytelling ideas sign up at  
**[theminiark.com/blog](http://theminiark.com/blog)**

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# 5 Simple Steps for Effective Storytelling



## Step 1: Choose The Right Story

- Choose a Bible story
- Simple is better
- Use Storytime Capsule



## Step 2: Choose The Right Location

- Set the right atmosphere
- No electronic devices



## Step 3: Become An Effective Storyteller

- Practice telling stories
- Know your audience



## Step 4: Choose Visual Aids To Help You

- Bible storybooks
- Storytime Capsule



## Step 5: End the story with a Prayer

Simple prayer sample for children to memorize:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for giving us the gift of Your Word. Help us to remember the stories we hear about Your people, and help us to use what we learn every day. We love you, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.