

Ideas on how to help your children engage with the Bible

Page 1 - Shrimps

Page 2 - Starfish

Page 3 - Lionsharks

Shrimps

Set it apart from other stories

One of the the biggest challenges with little ones is keeping the Bible distinctive and separate from other groups. For 3 year olds, it is so easy to stick 'Goldie Locks and the Three Bears' in the same category as Jonah and the Whale!

In Shrimps, we say a special rhyme before reading the Bible just to set it apart from other stories (let your kids teach you the actions): "Look, look, look! It's a very special Book! It's the Bible!"

Maybe you could say a prayer together before reading the Bible, something simple like "God help our hearts catch from you as we read the Bible today."

We learn about God from the Stories

Sometimes with little ones you may just need to whizz through a story before bed. However, if you have the time, take a moment to talk about the story and all that we learn from it.

Often, kids' Bibles skip out key verses which help us understand the character's relationship with God (because they shorten the stories so much). So, help your little ones fill in these gaps.

For example, when reading the story of David and Goliath, you could say "Wow! David must have really trusted God to do something so scary. Did, you know that David spent time getting to know God really well chatting and catching from him and singing songs to him?"

It can also be helpful just to ask some questions to help your kids connect the story with their everyday life: "How do you think David felt?" "Do you ever feel like that?" "Wow... you can trust God too!"

Starfish

Bridging the Gap

This can often be the trickiest age to read the Bible with. By the age of 6-7, lots of children know the Bible stories in the kids' Bibles upside down and back to front, but are not quite ready to read a "proper Bible"

One idea is to read simple, short stories from your Bible to your child. Perhaps one that they have heard before in the Kids' Bible (so that they can follow along with the pictures). Talk about the differences between your Bible and the Kids Bible.

We learn about God from the Stories

Often, kids' Bibles skip out key verses which help us understand the character's relationship with God (because they shorten the stories so much). So, help your little ones fill in these gaps.

For example, when reading the story of David and Goliath, you could say "Wow! David must have really trusted God to do something so scary. Did, you know that David spent time getting to know God really well chatting and catching from him and singing songs to him?"

It can also be helpful just to ask some questions to help your kids connect the story with their everyday life: "How do you think David felt?" "Do you ever feel like that?" "Wow... you can trust God too!"

For some older children, have a look at what LionSharks are doing and maybe give that a go. This would be great to do as a family!

LionSharks

In Lionsharks, we have been learning how to navigate the Bible and have been looking at skills to read the Bible. We have been using:

“The Bible is A L I V E”

A- All

Read through all of the passage. Who is speaking or writing? Is this a letter, a story, a song or a poem?

L- look

Look again at the passage and try to retell it to a friend

I- Imagination

Imagine you were one of the characters in the story or the song/poem was written for you. How would you feel? Would you have done the same?

V- Verse

Pick out a key verse. Maybe you could write it in your journal.

E- Everyday

What does God want to teach me from this passage that will help me everyday? What does God want to store in my heart?