

# Leading a Bible Story Discussion



You have three main goals when you lead a story discussion: to help children understand the story, to help them discover any truths or biblical principles they should live by, and to challenge them to apply what they learn. For Bible stories, you should challenge them to retell the story to people they know. The idea of the discussion is to aid children in discovering the truths found in the story for themselves. In this way, God can use the story or biblical principle to bring about conviction, discovery, growth, and/or application.

There are three parts to a storying session: **telling and retelling, discovery and application.**

## Telling & Retelling:

Ensuring that children have the key facts of the story makes certain that they remember it well enough to think about discovery questions and to retell the story later. Repetition is key in making sure that children are learning a Bible story. Retelling is a large part of the session because it is the most important part of the learning process.

A session teaching a Bible story would look like this:

**Tell the story** – Tell the group the story once straight through. Then, tell it a second time.

**Group retelling** – Using prompts, help the group retell the story. The storyteller starts it out and pauses at various points to ask: “What happened next?” or “What did he say then?” The group retelling gives the audience a chance to respond within the context of a retelling of the story.

**Individual retellings** – Ask volunteers to retell the story themselves.

*If no one volunteers, there are many ways to involve the audience in the individual retelling. You can ask the group to act out the story with each person taking his own role in the story. You could also have the group sit in a circle and pass a ball around; the person with the ball tells some of the story and then passes along the ball to the next person.*

The key in working with children is to make retelling interesting and engaging. Have the story retold 2-3 times in different ways.



## Discovery:

Discovery questions provide an individual child the opportunity to discover truth based on events within the story. Children are more likely to remember truth that they discover than things they are told to believe; the truths becomes “theirs” when they discern it for themselves. These questions are relatively easy for children to answer because they determine what they find important.

Seven easy, yet profound, questions that can be asked with any story are:

1. What did you like?
2. What confused you?
3. What did you learn about God?
4. What did you learn about people?
5. How can you use what you discovered from the story in your life this week?
6. How will you remember this story?
7. Who will you tell this story to?



These questions are designed to help children process the story. Children should be encouraged to freely express their thoughts in answering these questions.

## Application:

The last three questions listed above turn the discussion toward ways to apply what children have learned from the story. After children have discovered any truths and biblical principles found within the story, challenge them to obey what they have learned and be accountable for doing so. Sometimes it is difficult for children to verbally express answers to application questions; they just “know” it but can’t explain it. Application may take time to process. This is one reason why it is important to often review previously told stories. Discuss possible applications with the children, drawing out their thoughts, reactions, and discoveries – let them guide the conversation to discuss how they can apply what they have learned.



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