

Leading a Caravan 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. 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: **fact**, **discovery** and **application**.

Fact: After telling the story, ask fact questions help ascertain whether children remember the facts of the story – if they know the characters, events and plot. Ensuring that children have the facts of the story makes certain that they remember it well enough to think about discovery questions.

After going over fact questions, you may want to ask a volunteer to retell the story. If children are hesitant to retell the story, ask for a group retelling (letting individuals tell different parts of the story). Encourage the group to make good-natured corrections when things are told incorrectly, left out, or not in order. Remember: the more someone hears a story, the more likely he is to remember the lessons he learns from it.

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.

Five 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?



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 question listed above turns 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.

To incorporate a Caravan story into a longer children’s group time use any related activities. You can also find a variety of supplemental prayer guides, group games, coloring pages, activities and more on our website.

the Caravan
CaravanFriends.org