Creative Ways to Tell (or review) a Bible Story

Use sequence pictures use them during the story then use them for review.

Listen for a specific word or phrase and do a quiet motion when they hear it.

Draw the story as you tell it or have them draw their favorite part.

Use a Rebus (pictures or drawing) and they say those words.

Play a song that goes along with your story.

Create a finger play or poem to make it easy to remember.

Use movement when teaching.

Use sound effects, or have the children help you create the sound.

Read directly from scripture, then tell the story in their own words.

Show a movie version that is appropriate, follow up with what is real or not.

Create story box (diorama) to use during the story or as an activity afterwards.

Put together a puzzle as you tell the story.

Use finger puppets or standard size puppets, allow the children to help you.

To make using felt boards more inviting, hand out key figures or items and have the children put them up as you tell the story.

Use leaders and children to act out the story, use costumes to add to the excitement. Tell the story first, then have them act it out to see what they remember.

Or the leaders be the characters after you share the store and then children tell you want to do as they share the story.

Tell the story from the point of view of someone in the story, such as the little girl Jesus healed or the little boy who had the 5 loaves and fish.

Tell the story using a puppet or animal from the story such as an owl from the story of Nicodemus at night or the donkey that Jesus rode on.

After sharing the story, tell it again but this time making mistakes and see if they can catch the mistakes. Give them a reward when they catch the mistake.

Read the story from a children’s book, always remind children the story is from the Bible.

Use food for example olive oil & mushy rice as manna, or oyster & fish crackers.

Head, Heart and Hands Questions

Here is a good formula to use from “Tell A Story” curriculum. (Listed in resources page)

HEAD questions call forth the facts of the Bible story. These questions prepare children to tell the story to someone else because they can remember the details. Head questions are “what” questions based on observation. They are the easiest questions to formulate.

HEART questions help a child interpret the story. They are designed to make them think about changes that need to come about in their lives. Heart questions answer the questions “why” and “so what.” They focus on implications and interpretation.

HANDS questions move children to apply what they have learned. They call for specific, personal action. Hand questions are “how “and “now what” which call for application.

Helping Preschoolers connect to Scripture

It is important to connect them God’s Word. But how do we do that? Let’s use the head, heart, hands method.

Using the story of Joseph. Most often we teach the part of the story of the coat of many colors because it’s the easiest part of young children to understand.

Head/Facts/What Questions: How many brothers did her have? Was Joseph the favorite? What was Joseph’s father’s name? What did his father give Joseph?

Heart/Why/So What Questions: Why did Joseph’s brothers not like him? Why did Joseph’s dad give him a special coat? So what did his brother’s do to him? Why did they put him in a pit?

Hands/How/Now What Questions: These are going to be harder for young children to answer. Remember this is where we connect them to the scripture. How did God take care of Joseph? How does God take care of you? Now what we can we do to trust that God will care for us?

Connecting Past to Present

When telling stories to young children having them understand the past, such as before they were born, before their parents were born, etc. can be difficult. Preschoolers are very concrete thinkers and think in the here and now. How do we help them understand why the past of the Bible has anything to do with them?

Using the story of Joseph as our example let’s take a look at how we can do this.

It’s is unlikely that young children will have family members that would be so jealous of them they would pretend to kill them and throw them in a pit, by tearing up their clothes, killing a wild animal and then return it to their father *and* lie about his youngest son being killed, all the while leaving him in a pit, and then selling him into slavery. Give examples maybe when they are jealous that someone received something better than them. Or there friend was made they got something they didn’t have. How about a time they disobeyed and their parent was unhappy with them.

We can then connect they Bible truth that God cares for us even in hard times. People can sometimes be cruel, and unkind but God is there for us. He can speak to us through his work, their parents. He will take care of us even during the tough times.