

# Every Kids Bible Story Needs



## The Right, Mapped, Story

Not all scripture passages make good Children's Bible stories. You'll need to look for something with the following components:

- \* *A clear and distinct main character*
- \* *Some action of some kind*
- \* *Something that resolves within that person's lifetime* (younger kids are not ready for "generational" stories yet). *They need an ending.*

Then you need to map the story, as shown at the end of this resource. That's how you practice telling it.



## 2) A Prop (you just need one)

As much as they love us, our kids are well practiced in NOT always listening to us. You need to help them out. Few things command attention (in the short term) better than a prop. Find something that connects to the story that you can wear, wield, hold, pass around, or otherwise possess it in some way while you tell the story. It builds mystique, helps kids pay

attention, and engages the senses of both sight and touch (in addition to sound).



## 2) A Nugget (chicken or gold)

What's a nugget? Simple. It's one piece of **Extra Biblical Information**.

You will use this to add to/enhance your storytelling. The phone that is likely in your hand or pocket while you read this, your computer at home are awesome to help you with this. You *need* this in your story because it demonstrates several things to your kids: 1) Mom/Dad is an expert, they have even more information than is on the page in the Bible, 2) this story is important enough that I went and looked something up about it, 3) finding the right nugget allows you to *personalize* the story, because you can find something that your own kids are interested in.

Example nuggets: Good Samaritan—oil, like olive oil was considered medicine back then

Prodigal Son—look up a picture of the carob-pods the pigs would eat

Feeding of the 5,000—What kind of fish would they have been eating?



## 4) A Hook (1 per kid)

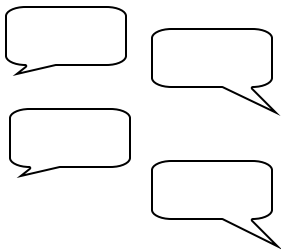
You personalized the story once with the prop, once with the nugget, and you're doing it again now with the hook. **The Hook:** is the one part of the story that you think your son/daughter will be the MOST interested in. Try to have a hook chosen for each kid. When you get to *that part* of the story, make eye contact, and give your direct attention to THAT KID (if you're telling to more than one) for that part of the story. You know you have found a good hook if it can also serve as a *preview* for the story.

**If telling to multiple children,** the personalized story hook is *especially* important it allows you to choose a section of the story for each child based on their interest. **If telling to one child,** the hook can be phrased as a question that invites the story to become its answer. A sort of "what would you do if..."



## 5) THEIR (not your) Bible

You'll do your research and prep with your (full) version of the Bible, but *when you tell the story* you'll use THEIR Bible. You're not going to be reading it out-loud at all anyway it's best to connect the tale to their children's or youth Bible. You can reference the pictures that they have in their book, and pick one (just one) sentence to read out-loud. If your chosen story is NOT in their Bible, still use it, but highlight where the story happens (like in-between this story and this story). This can get your kids excited about one day reading the full version.



## 6) Discussion Time

Please note that this does NOT have to be a long time. At the pastor's house, discussion time is just two questions and then prayer. Question one: What part of the story did you think was the coolest? Question two: What do you think we're supposed to learn from this story? Or alternatively, What did you learn from the story? Do not lead their answers, or steer them toward what you want them to say. This is their chance to speak and interact, and your kids may surprise you. Close with sharing YOUR answers to the questions, and then you can pray together.



## 7) A loving storyteller

No matter how good, or badly you do. Your kids will recognize the gift of a Bible story as an act of love. And you *already* love your kids so, you got this ingredient in the bag!

# Story Map: Moses Vs Pharaoh Round 1

## Exodus 4:18-6:1

When you map a story you are looking for *movements*. These would be like scenes in a play or movie. You direct the movie and decide where the scenes stop and end. The most obvious way to separate a story is by its *locations*, but timing (...and then sometime later, or that next day) is also a good way to break up a scene. Here is the first round of Moses' contest with Pharaoh broken up into scenes with notes:

### Scene One: At Jethro's Camp

- Moses asks permission to leave with his wife Zipporah (also Jethro's daughter).
- He's headed back to a dangerous place (Egypt).

### Scene Two: God's instructions to Moses, could happen anywhere you want it to.

- God tells Moses to perform wonders before Pharaoh
- God tells Moses **this won't work**, you *won't* be able to convince him.
- God predicts the finale (10th plague) of the Exodus before it even happens. Cool for adult study, too meta for kids, let them work up to that point. I recommend skipping this portion.
- I usually say something like: God gives a prophecy here, that we're going to talk about later.

### Scene Three: Zipporah circumcises her son.

- Um... yeah, skip this one. For adult and even youth Bible study there's some important stuff to talk about here, things that harken all the way back to Genesis 13 and 15 with Abraham, but cutting this scene doesn't change the story too much. Plan to teach it later when they are older.
- I usually say something like: This next part is about Moses' family, but I'm skipping it now because it's a more grown-up part of the story.

### Scene Four: God sends Aaron to meet Moses in the wilderness.

- God doesn't just speak to Moses, that's interesting.
- Aaron serves as Moses's voice (see Exodus 3), like a herald. Kinda like Moses is for God.
- When Aaron shows the Israelites God's power (before Pharaoh), everyone is excited and worships God.

# Story Map: Moses Vs Pharaoh Round 1

## Exodus 4:18-6:1

### Scene Five: Pharaoh's Palace

- Moses and Aaron give God's ultimatum "Let my people go". They even give a reason "so that they can have church in the wilderness."
- Pharaoh asks "Who is this God person?"
- Moses and Aaron say, the God of the Hebrews (God of our people). We need to go worship him.
- Pharaoh says, the people have to work. And now, they will work twice as hard.
- They have to make bricks without the Egyptian delivery of straw! That's twice the work!

### Scene Six:

- Moses asks God... "What the heck is going on?" "Why am I here?" "What are you doing?"
- God answers, with the best cliffhanger ever... "this is just the beginning." You are about to see wonders.

You could stop here, or move on to chapter 7. If you stop here it opens up all kinds of interesting questions about prophecy and fairness, and remembering what God said was going to happen. Also, this is Pharaoh's one chance to escape the Exodus with no punishment, a chance he does not take.