



There's More Than One Way to Tell a Story

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The Bible story should be the focal point of every Sunday School lesson. When teachers use variety and allow students to participate in the Bible stories, little ones listen longer and remember more.

Silhouette Stories

Cut paper silhouettes of story figures, or trim visuals with recognizable shapes (e.g., Jonah and the whale). During the story, project silhouettes with a overhead projector, moving them to match events of the story.

Eating

Include a snack that represents some part of the story (e.g., frosted flakes as manna, blue Jell-O for Red Sea).

Sound Effects

Give the children "noisemakers" to make sounds connected with a story (e.g., shaking a piece of paper like the sails of a boat during a storm, patting legs for walking sounds).

Props

Give children simple items that represent props in a story (e.g., paper towels to represent fishing nets). Or, before the story, help the children make

props they can move during the story to help tell the story (e.g., sheep puppets made from white socks).

Tape Outlines

Use plastic or masking tape to create floor outlines that children can interact with during a story (e.g., an ark shape, a path to follow).



Sheet "Tents"

Cover a table with a sheet to represent something in a story (e.g., Jonah's whale, Paul's prison, the Easter tomb). Children can sit in the "tent" during the story.

Toys

Adapt toys to use during a story (e.g., cut felt to make biblical costumes for Little Tike figures, tape visuals to blocks to make stand-up figures).

Blocks

Build a prop with blocks (e.g., Jacob's well, Elijah's altar).

Classroom Equipment

Ask children to use their imaginations to "transform" furniture or equipment into a setting for the Bible story (e.g., climbing equipment becomes Mt. Sinai; a circle of chairs becomes a lions' den).

Masks

Purchase or make masks so children become a part of the story (e.g., animal masks in the story of the ark, lion masks in the story of Daniel).

Backgrounds

Help children color an enlarged scene made with an overhead projector. Later, tell (or act out) the story in front of the background (e.g., the stable at Jesus' birth, the Garden of Gethsemane).

Children's Belongings

Ask children to bring a toy from home to use during a story (e.g., stuffed animals for the story of Creation, baby dolls for the story of Baby Moses).

Motions

Ask the children to move in a way described in the story (e.g., sway like flowers blowing in the wind, bounce like Abraham riding a camel).

Household Items

Bring items from home that can be used to tell the story (e.g., two blue sheets or two blue towels to act out the parting of the Red Sea).

Questions for Further Study—

1. What is the focal point of every Sunday School lesson?
2. Why is it important to present the Bible story with variety?
3. List items available to you that can be used to add variety to your Bible story presentation.
4. List items you can purchase inexpensively to enhance your Bible story presentation.



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