

ROOKIE CHRISTIAN | FACT SHEET

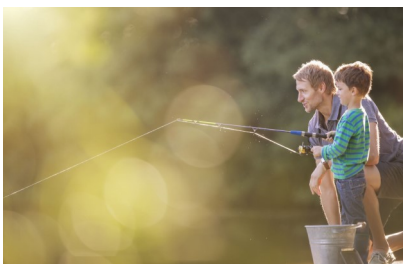
The Importance of Bible Stories in the Home

Our Seminaries are saying the students coming to their graduate schools don't know their Bible stories. Sure, they know the basic beliefs and the verses which teach those beliefs, but they do not know the stories of the Bible. It should be routine in a Christian home to teach our children their Bible stories. It is an simple and easy thing to do. Here are the top seven reasons to read Bible stories to your children:

7. Knowing one's Bible stories helps one understand a lot of other literature! How can your child understand the sportscaster describing the big upset as a David and Goliath story if he has never heard the Bible story of David and Goliath? Consider these expressions: *the handwriting on the wall, there is nothing new under the sun, like a lamb to the slaughter, he has feet of clay, a fly in the ointment, scapegoat, by the skin of one's teeth*. All of these saying are either direct quotes or are derived from the Bible.

6. The Bible is a story. There is the big story and lots of little stories—sub-plots that contribute to the big picture. You will find a beginning, conflict, a climax, and a conclusion. It is the story of the Creator's love for people, how people rejected his love and ran away, how God sought us out, came to our rescue when we could not help ourselves, how He brought us back to Himself, and how he will write the final chapter, righting the wrongs and healing the hurts in the end.

5. The biblical stories are our story. Jesus' parables have been called "earthly stories with a heavenly meaning." These are stories that make a point. There is biblical biography also—the accounts of real people in real time. Their lives are described honestly, with both their strengths and weaknesses, victories and defeats. We see ourselves in these stories and relate.



4. Children can understand stories. Long theological terms are more challenging, but big ideas are found in simple stories. And children can understand them. Bible Stories give a person a concrete mental picture of what biblical principles look like when applied in real life. It's not just a word anymore; it's a *word picture*.

3. Bible stories build character. When one reads the stories in the Bible book of Daniel, for example, we learn to stand alone and do the right thing, even if it costs us. Daniel was willing to be thrown into a den of hungry lions instead of breaking his relationship with the true God.

2. Bible stories show us what God is like. It gives our children the understanding so they can to come to know Him for themselves. For example, in one story Jesus told: God is like the Father whose son left home and, finally, returned home broke and broken. The Father saw him coming from a long way off, ran to meet him, and took him back in.

1. Parents who read Bible stories learn, too. As you hear these stories through your adult ears—for example, when Joseph literally runs out of his jacket—to escape the temptation of his boss's wife—the Bible will come alive to you in new ways. So, buy a good Bible Story Book (one without cutesy pictures making the people look like cartoon characters; these were real people) and read the stories to your children!