



NextGen Telling the Story

This document presents storytelling preparation, elements, and methods for the NextGen Leader as well as the importance of reviewing stories and considering learning styles and learning modalities.

NextGen Telling the Story is to be used to train NextGen Leaders how to tell the Bible story to the children each week. Each week in Community Bible Study (CBS), as children hear the truth of God's word through the Bible story, there is an opportunity to impact lives for eternity.

If desired, share the Telling the Story video from leadership training to prepare the teachers.

Link to video: <https://vimeo.com/522874404/e9811874c6>

Storytelling Preparation

- Begin with prayer.
 - Always pray in preparation for sharing God's Word.
 - Ask the Lord to show how to tell the story most effectively and appropriately for the age level being taught.
- Know the children.
 - Recognize that young children are just beginning to learn how to sit and listen.
 - Be prepared to teach age appropriately since rule of thumb for a child's attention span is one minute per year of age.
 - Keep the story short and full of impact, otherwise children may become restless.
- Know the story.
 - Begin preparation early so that the story becomes familiar.
 - Start by reading the Key Word or the Aim which is found in every teacher's lesson to use as the focus in preparation.
 - Use the Scripture references in the teacher's lesson to read the story from the Bible.

Storytelling Elements

- Have a special spot for story time in the classroom or another room dedicated to story time because this helps the child know they must sit in one spot and be ready to listen.
 - Use a blanket for younger children or carpet squares, etc. to define the space.
 - Try not to have anything distracting nearby such as toys or books and, if necessary, cover these items with a sheet.
- Pray with the children, modeling prayer for them.
- Hold the Bible or have a child hold the Bible so that the children can connect that the story is from the Bible.
- Help the children to settle down before the story by using a transition activity such a fingerplay or action rhyme.
- Use a brief review of the previous week's story, especially if it is a story such as miracles of Moses or Jesus told over several weeks.
- Keep the story simple, only focusing on one major point.
- Use words that the children can understand to explain words they are not familiar with or use a picture to describe the word.
- Try to relate what children know to explain customs that were different in the Bible times.

- Do not hold and read the story from the lesson since it is only a guideline.
- Try to vary the method of storytelling since some stories may lend themselves to a short skit while others lend themselves to using the flannel board or rice box.
- Use voice to help tell the story.
 - Talk softer which can help quiet the children since they must be quiet to hear the story.
 - Use dramatic pauses to heighten the anticipation of what is going to happen next.
 - Talk louder and louder as it builds to the climax.
 - Change the pitch of voice to identify different persons in the dialogue.
 - Use dialogue in a story to make it much more interesting. Dialogue gives life to the characters.
- Always speak with enthusiasm and let the children know there is something wonderful to share with them. The storyteller must be excited about the story so the children can catch the excitement.
- Use word pictures, action words, and imagery so that the children can use their imagination to picture the story as it's told.
- Use sound effects and the five senses, telling children what they might hear, see, feel, smell, or taste. This draws them into the story and makes them feel as if they are right where the story is happening.
- Ask questions as the story is told. It is a wonderful way to involve children.
- Help the children understand how the story relates to them personally. Use the Life Application and Aim found in each lesson to help formulate what application the children need to hear.
- Use story time to go over the memory verse and tell the children how it relates to the story.

Storytelling Methods

- Costumes
 - Use everyday items for costumes such as a hand towel for the headpiece and a sheet or bathrobe for the outfit.
 - Dress in costume to tell the story, to become the Bible person to the preschooler.
- Puppets
 - Use simple sock puppets, finger puppets, spoon puppets, paper bag puppets, dollar store puppets or even beautiful store-bought puppets.
- *Colored Children's Home Papers*
 - Use the papers when telling the story or for review.
- Rice box
 - Put rice or beans in a box so figures which are on popsicle sticks can be placed in the box while telling the story.
 - Use figures from the *Colored Children's Home Papers*, Christian coloring books, or Christian web sites on the internet to help tell the story.
- Flannel board
 - Use a flannel board for another colorful and visual way to tell the story.
 - Order flannel backgrounds and figures online.
- Simple pictures
 - Use pictures to help the children imagine the scene.
- Props
 - Use props to enhance the storytelling.
- Black Light
 - Purchase or borrow a black light for a special and fun way to tell or review the story, using pictures with neon paper, paint, or markers.

- Storybook Bibles
 - Use storybook Bibles that have beautiful colored pictures that can be shared with the children.
- Object Lesson
 - For an older child, relate an object lesson to the Bible story. Simple object lessons can be used for preschoolers.
- Role Play
 - Bring the story to life by asking a child to role play.



Colored Children's Home Papers (under Courses)
NextGen Interactive Storytelling
Teaching with a Flannel Board
Building Blocks Fall 2017
Building Blocks Fall 2008

Storytelling Review

- Review the story in fun ways so children will get the Bible stories into their long-term memory and into their hearts.
 - Review the story with simple questions at snack time.
 - Use the flannel board or rice box to let the children retell the story.
 - Brainstorm during lesson planning to find creative ways to review the story.

Storytelling Learning Styles and Modalities

- Be aware of learning styles and uses a variety during storytelling.
 - Visual learners
 - Learn by watching and seeing.
 - Auditory learners
 - Learn by listening to instructions.
 - Need to say it out loud in order to learn.
 - Tactile-kinesthetic learners (all young children in this category)
 - Learn by touching and doing.
 - Need to move in order to learn.
- Be alert to learning modalities.
 - After two weeks, we tend to remember:
 - 10% of what we read.
 - 20% of what we hear.
 - 30% of what we see.
 - 50% of what we hear and see.
 - 70% of what we say.
 - 90% of what we say and do.

It is important to include visual, auditory, and especially tactile-kinesthetic elements when telling the story for preschoolers. Research shows that involving the children in the story in some way increases their retention and ability to recall it later when questioned. A NextGen Leader has the opportunity with a little effort and creativity to make a lifelong impact on a child because storytelling is about placing God's Word in the child's heart.



NextGen Personality Types and Learning Styles