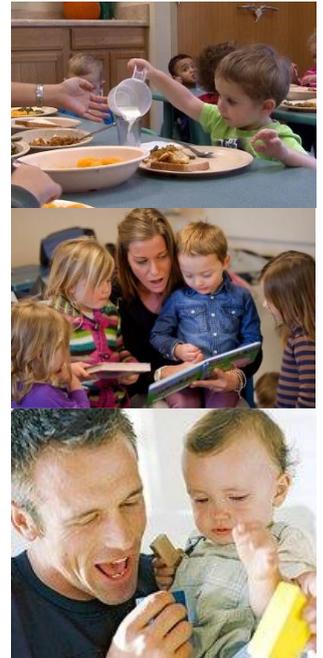


FAMILIES with young children sharing FAITH together

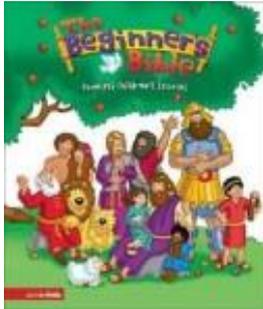
Some ideas and resources for families with pre-schoolers (up to about 7yr olds) getting together to share food, faith and fun.

TIPS

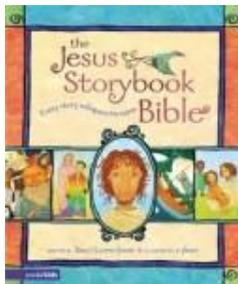
1. Keep it simple, with organisation and equipment to a minimum so that it is easy to set up and sustain. Share tasks around the families so everyone has something to contribute and a reason to come- older children enjoy helping.
2. Aim for once a month- it's amazing how quickly that comes around.
3. Decide if you will eat first or after the gathered activity, in a home or a hall- depending on numbers.
4. Keep whole time between 1.5 to 2 hours and early enough to maintain regular family meal time/bedtime routines.
5. Have a gathered Bible story time and keep it short- read/tell one story, have visuals or props, invite actions, sounds, participation. Ask a couple of wondering questions to stimulate conversation later. See resources below
6. Remember a lot of learning happens through play so play! Have some simple activities to follow up the story- paper, crayons, playdough, lego/duplo, dress ups to retell the story. Keep it simple! EVERYONE participates- not just activities for kids to do on own while parents talk.
7. Start your gathered time the same way each time- maybe a song or poem that welcomes everyone. (Eg Here we are together, together, together, oh here we are together to read from God's word- there's Sarah and Tom and Elliott and Nathan andaround the whole circle! Or favourite welcome song from preschool or church)
8. Include a short prayer- over time introduce TSP prayers = thankyou, sorry, please. Start with thank you prayers and short responses to 'Thank you God for...'
9. Begin the meal by singing a fun grace together- Even under 2s start to join in when it is practised at home too- leaflet attached of some favourites.
10. In everything you plan and do together, keep it simple and focus on relationships, belonging, and fun ways to encourage faith to grow – for everyone!



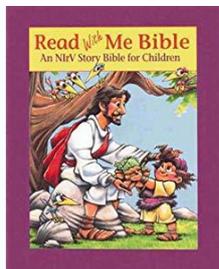
RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK BIBLES



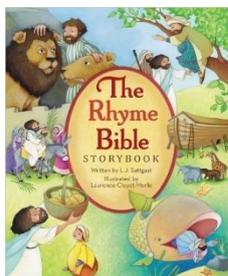
THE BEGINNERS BIBLE is an ideal first Bible for young children but also enjoyed as a 'read yourself' Bible for children up to about 10yrs old. 90 favourite Bible stories come to life through simple text and colourful, fun illustrations on every page.



THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE is a brilliant, read aloud book. The stories are woven together beautifully where 'Every story whispers his name.... He is like the missing piece in the puzzle....the Child on whom everything would depend.' Also come with a curriculum and audio CDs, DVDs (some available on YouTube)



READ WITH ME BIBLE has 106 well-loved Bible stories, based on the NIV and preserving much of its wording and flavour. Every page contains fresh, colourful art as you retell the story.

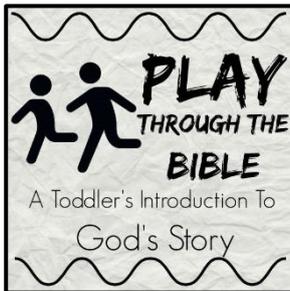


The RHYME BIBLE STORYBOOK

35 delightful, classic Bible stories retold in lilting verse and rollicking, read-aloud rhyme from the story of creation, to the resurrection of Jesus. (Toddlers version too)

OTHER RESOURCES that may help create a simple session

The Beginners Bible <http://www.thebeginnersbible.com/curriculum.php> and the Jesus Storybook Bible <https://www.sallyloyd-jones.com/books/jesus-storybook-bible/curriculum-kit/> have curriculum resources that include DVDs of the stories and suggested activities. Again and adapt to keep it SIMPLE!



25 Bible stories using the Rhyme Bible, activities and craft for EACH day of the week to go with it- a treasure trove of ideas for pre-schoolers. www.steadfastfamily.com/play-through-the-bible



The Faith Box has been created in NZ for NZ families! www.faithbox.co.nz for all the information and resources

It has been designed for older children (5-12 years) but some families have adapted, simplified and shortened this resource for younger children.

Worth a look. 12 sessions per book with lots of creative, fun and interactive ways of engaging as a family/families. Single sessions available in digital form too.



www.vibrantfaithathome.org

Design your own- more work but a wealth of FREE resources under "Activities" Group = Young families and six categories:

- Caring Conversation
- Ritual & Tradition
- Prayer
- Bible Story
- Serving Others
- Learning About Faith



Read the brief descriptions, select the one you want, click 'DO IT'

2019 Kids Friendly Resource- More ideas for families and churches at www.kidsfriendly.org.nz

Wondering Questions are easy and effective for all-age sharing

These 4 key questions from **Godly Play** <https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/> are simple and ideal for all ages to wonder about while they create, play and eat after the storytime:

- * *I wonder what you like best about this story*
- * *I wonder which is the most important part?*
- * *I wonder where you are in this story?*
- * *I wonder if there is any part we could leave out, and still have all the story we need?*

Websites for Bible Based crafts, visuals and more

<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/> New ideas added regularly for Church seasons and festivals eg Easter and Christmas, prayer, reflective colouring pages, playdough mats, creative story-telling and much more! Search by topic or scroll down HUGE alphabetical list in the side bar

www.freebibleimages.org Free sets of Bible story images for teaching use in PowerPoint, PDF, Keynote or JPEG formats. Use the helpful Find a story right now menu to search for a Bible story by book, character or theme or click on the photos, illustrations of contributors tabs in the main menu to browse.

www.dltk-bible.com A great site for bible activities, songs, stories, crafts especially for younger children.

www.daniellesplace.com Bible Based crafts, activities, games and lessons. Search alphabetically

Be real!
Keep it simple!
Have Fun!

