

Creative Bible Storytelling

Introduction

Here is a short story for you: a man gets up in front of a room full of kids and delivers a spellbinding and life-changing message with no forethought or preparation. The kids are so grateful that they carry the man out of the room on their shoulders as confetti cannons go off. Great story, right? Unfortunately, you'll find it under "fiction" if you search for it.

Have you found yourself in this situation before? Sadly, I confess that I have walked into a room unprepared to teach. Why does this happen?

When was the last time you had fun? What did you do? What made it fun?

When was the last time you had fun in your kid's ministry?

What would it take to have kids excited about Bible study more than recreation or snack time during VBS and even on Sunday and Wednesday?

The reason you can recall these "fun things" you did is because you were involved in them. That's fun, which is different than entertainment.

You are not an entertainer. You are teaching the truth of God to children, and that is a very high calling. We all know the Bible is not boring, as some suppose—people think it is boring because the person teaching it was probably stale.

The Bible is fun, and kids can have fun while learning when they take part in the lesson itself. They remember because of opportunities for engagement.

Interactivity is better than a talking head! Try to engage kids with all their senses or learning styles. The more you use, the better the kids can engage with and retain the Bible story and its message.

- **Visual**
- **Auditory**
- **Read/Write**
- **Kinesthetic-Tactile**

CREATIVE TECHNIQUES: ELEMENTARY

Snapshot or Statue

- Begin teaching the Bible story by telling the kids that there will be 4 to 5 key phrases, and when they hear the phrase, they need to pose for a picture.
- This can be individual poses or group poses.
- Choose poses that go along with the Bible story and demonstrate them.
- Have the kids hold the pose while you or another volunteer takes a picture.
- The next day, use a slideshow of the pictures to review the Bible story.

Creative Canvas

- Provide individual pieces of paper or large sheets of butcher paper.
- Have kids draw or write words as they listen to the Bible story.
- Pause periodically to allow them to catch up.
- Display the artwork and use it for review.

Shake-It-Up (Day 4 – Jesus & Nicodemus)

- Choose 4 props to help tell the Bible story and place them in numbered wrapped boxes.
- Allow kids to shake the boxes and guess their contents.
- Open each box at the appropriate time in the story and use the prop for storytelling.
- Use the props at the end for kids to retell the Bible story.

Mad Props

- Similar to Shake-It-Up, but with random, unrelated props.
- Examples: slinky, rubber chicken, couch pillow, boa.
- Have kids choose which box to open and use the prop to act out part of the story.

Live Out Loud (Day 2 – Jesus Calms the Storm)

- Use sound effects to help tell the story.
- Have kids create rain sounds (rubbing hands, snapping fingers, patting legs).
- When they hear “silence,” they stop immediately.
- Read Mark 4:35-41 and emphasize the power of Jesus.

Imagination Time Machine (Day 3 – Woman at the Well)

- Have kids lie down, close their eyes, and listen to guided imagery storytelling.
 - Use vivid descriptions to help them picture the scene.
 - Encourage them to immerse themselves in the story.
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CREATIVE TECHNIQUES: PRESCHOOL

Guess What? (Charades)

- Choose 4-5 actions related to the Bible story.
- Act them out as you tell the story.

Super-Duper Picture Party (Day 1 – Jesus and the Children)

- Draw 4-5 pictures that relate to the story.
- Ask kids what they think each picture represents.
- Use each picture as a cue to tell different parts of the story.

Seek & Find

- Hide 4-5 printed pictures in plain view.
- Use a puppet or stuffed animal to “lose” the pictures.
- Have kids find the pictures and tell the story based on their locations.

Sneak-a-Peek

- Use covered pictures with cut-away strips.
- Reveal sections one at a time as the story unfolds.

I Spy

- Similar to Seek & Find, but kids look around from their seats.

Silly Sound Factory

- Use jars with prerecorded sound effects to enhance storytelling.

Max the Mixed-up Pup (Day 5 – Jesus Taught About Worry)

- Tell the Bible story straight through.
- Use a puppet (Max) who keeps getting the details wrong.
- Have kids correct Max when he makes mistakes.

CONCLUSION

Back to the fictional short story at the beginning—great messages don't just happen without preparation. Your goal as a Bible teacher is to communicate God's truth to kids in an engaging way so that life change can happen. To do that effectively, you need to prepare:

- **Live the message.** Kids need to see you pursuing God.
- **Memorize.** Start small and build up.
- **Rehearse.** Don't let the first time you teach be in front of the kids.
- **Pray.** Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you teach.

With preparation and creativity, Bible storytelling can be a powerful tool to engage kids and transform lives!