

# Kids' Ministry Training Video 4: Telling Stories

Storytelling is an important part of engaging children with the big story of the Bible, so it's helpful to be able to tell stories well!

## Why Tell Stories

- ❑ **Stories are a gift** to communicators. Stories draw people in and can bring a fresh perspective to well-known information.
- ❑ **Stories help explore meaning.** Stories help us explore the meaning of experiences, and they can help connect people because they are personal.
- ❑ **Stories live on.** Stories can also easily be carried with you and shared with others.

## Preparing Your Story

- ❑ **Get into the story.** You've got to get into the story, if the kids are going to get anything out of your story. You need plenty of time to understand, process and learn your story.
- ❑ **Start early.** If you start too late you won't be ready, confident and relaxed to tell the story on the day.
- ❑ **Sing into your hairbrush!** Imagine yourself telling the story. What is going on around you, who will be there, how will you present?

## Telling the Story

- ❑ **Stay in the story.** It's hard to get off a rollercoaster halfway through. When you are telling your story, don't jump out to make an example or application, because it's hard to get the kids back into the story. Stay in your story until the end.
- ❑ **Let the kids get into the story.** What is a movement they could make, a response they could give? How could they get involved and participate?
- ❑ **Trust the story.** The value of a story is not measured by instant understanding. You don't have to make every point of application at the end – trust that the story will do its own work.

Telling a story to a group of children can feel daunting, but with some good preparation, we can present a great story that will engage children from the beginning to the end.

The Bible is rich with many, many stories that reveal to us the great story of God and people. By becoming excellent story-tellers we can help children to carry that story with them and to share it with others as they find their own place in the big God story.

### Further Reading

- <https://ministry-to-children.com/storytelling-tips/>
- <https://childrensministry.com/storytelling-keys/>

### Questions for Your Team

- How prepared are we when it comes to telling stories?
- Have we considered the impact of our tone, connection, body language, use of different senses and participation in our storytelling? Where could we improve?
- Are we faithful with our application, and do we stay true to the biblical intent of the stories?
- Who in our team or church has a passion or gifting for storytelling?