

# Story-telling Ideas

## Comic strip

Print out your story from the Bible and cut it into strips. Give each group a different bit and ask them to draw a picture of what's happening. Bring all the drawings together and show them as the story is read out.

## Consequences style

This will only work with really well-known stories. Give everyone a piece of paper and get them to write the first part of the story, they can then pass on the paper to the next person to continue the story and so on. You could also do this with a drawing in which each person adds something to the scene.

## Drama – devised

Use some simple costumes and props and select volunteers to play parts in the story. Make sure you know the story well and can direct your different characters. If in doubt, keep it simple!

## Drama – scripted

The simplest way to do this is to read from the Bible with different people voicing the words of the characters in the text. Alternatively you might use a dramatized Bible, write your own version or scour the internet for other people's work. Make sure the language is age appropriate so the children can read it easily. Also, make sure the children know they will have to read aloud before you ask for volunteers.

## Drawing

On a flip chart, draw aspects of your story as you tell it. Plan out your drawing ahead of time. Alternatively, you could let one (or more) of the children be the artist as you tell the story.

## Playdough

Give each child a lump of playdough (or blu tac!) and ask them to model aspects or characters of the story as you tell it.

## First person story

Dress up as a character and tell the story from that character's point of view. The key here is just to go for it. If you are confident and unembarrassed, the children will go for it too. Again, make sure you are really familiar with the story and know exactly what you are going to say. Practise in a mirror!

## Parody Songs

Rewrite modern chart songs to tell Bible stories. Find a backing track and sing them with the children. If you have the facility, you can make videos or PowerPoints combining the words and backing track.

## Suggestions:

*Let It Go* works well for Moses asking pharaoh to let God's people go.

*Roar* by Katy Perry is good for Daniel in the lions' den.

Jessie J's *Domino* is effective for Joshua and the walls of Jericho.

There is a Christian parody band called Apologetix who have several CDs.

## Picture order

Select some images – find them online or make them yourself – to represent the main events of your story. Print the images out on A3 card and ask the children to put the story in order. You can also do this with sentences of the story written on separate cards.

## Poetry

An internet search will turn up Bible stories in poetry. Alternatively, you can write your own. Something with a catchy refrain the children can join in with always works.

## PowerPoint

Collect some images that help to tell your story and put them together in a PowerPoint presentation. Make sure you use large enough images so they aren't pixelated or over stretched!

## Puppets

If you are proficient at using a talking puppet, get the puppet to tell your Bible story as one of the characters in it. If you are not confident at making the puppet speak, you could use the 'puppet whispering in your ear' method and relay the story. If you want to use puppets, it's well worth going to a workshop. And remember, practice makes perfect!

## Reading from the Bible

Ask the children to respond to certain words with actions or sound effects. For example, in the story of Daniel, they might roar every time a lion is mentioned. Don't pick too many different words – 4 or 5 are plenty. Adjust the story so all the words are mentioned often.

## Story with props

Collect together objects that appear in your story or represent certain aspects of it. As you tell the story, show the props or invite children to come up and hold them for everyone to see.

## Tableaux

Divide the children into small groups. Ask them to make a freeze-frame picture using their bodies whenever you pause in the story.

## Travelling with the story

Use different parts of the room to tell different parts of a story – you can set up objects or furniture to represent the scene. Only use this in a story where there is more than one scene. Move the children from location to location as you tell it.

## Video clips

There are a lot of downloadable resources online. We love: [www.crossroadskidsclub.net](http://www.crossroadskidsclub.net) and [www.Max7.org](http://www.Max7.org)

You can also easily make your own videos using still pictures and a programme such as Windows Movie Maker or iMovie.

For images, check out: [www.thebricktestament.com](http://www.thebricktestament.com) and [www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org).

## What do you know?

Ask the children to contribute to the story and add what they already know. Make sure that a variety of children get to say their bit..

