

# Holy Habits – session 1: Exploring the Bible Together

## Introduction:

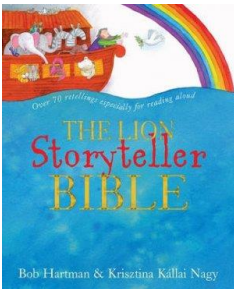
Always try and use a Bible translation that is suitable for the language skills of your group and engages them. Also good for use at home by parents, carers and wider family!

There are a number of Bible translations that we would recommend including:



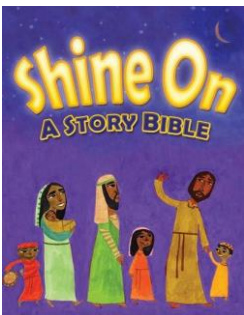
**The Big Bible Story Book** (Maggie Barfield) also available in Welsh

Age 3-8 – single page illustrated story



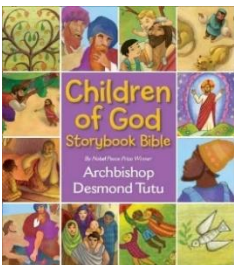
**Lion Storyteller Bible** (Bob Hartman)

Age 3-10 – double page spread story with illustration, designed for reading aloud and some group participation ideas



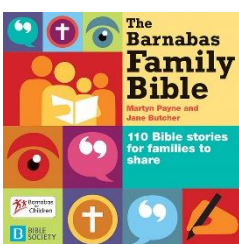
**Shine On: A Story Bible**

Age 6-12 - double page spread story, illustration, questions to connect, wonder and explore further



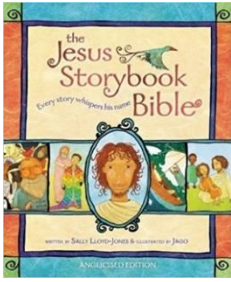
**Children of God Storybook Bible** (Desmond Tutu)

Age 3-8 – double page spread story and illustration, simple prayer – all linked to theme of God's love



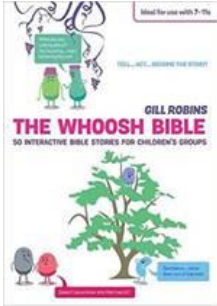
**The Barnabas Family Bible** (Martyn Payne and Jane Butcher)

For families to use together – CEV text with illustrations, commentary, prayer, activity and questions



**Jesus Story Book Bible: every story whispers his name** (Sally Lloyd Jones)

Aged 5-12 – written as longer stories, illustrated by Jago, all linked to Jesus in overarching narrative



**The Whoosh Bible** (Gill Robins)

Age 7-11 (and wider) 50 Bible stories explored through innovative drama technique with follow-up activities, discussion starters and prayers

For older children and young people reading try The Message, The Street Bible, NIV Readers Bible, New Living Translation among others.

There are also a number of non-traditional translations which might strike a chord with your group – including Manga bibles, Minecraft bible and The Brick Testament (Lego) – do have a good look before you recommend them!

There are numerous Bible stories/animations available on YouTube or on video, and <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/> from The Bible Society has some good ideas, too.

Some online videos that might be helpful:

This is a decent but very american website with alots of videos etc

<http://fevr.net/videos>

## Christian Youth Videos, Animations & Short Films | Fevr

fevr.net

Browse through the best Christian youth videos, animations & short films for teens. Collected and curated on our award-winning Christian youth website.

Igniter media on facebook has some good stuff

<https://www.youtube.com/user/IgniterMedia/videos>

Spoken Truth has some good Spoken word pieces based on bible verses

<https://www.youtube.com/user/daiwoolridge/feed>

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## Spoken Truth - YouTube

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

My heart is very much to engage people with great stories, spoken word and humour. My spoken word videos are available to download at my website <http://www.s...>

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Also Veggie Tales DVDs (cheesy but good – kids like them); Story Keepers DVD series (excellent cartoon adventures of underground early church keeping the stories of Jesus alive)

### **Bible Reading Activities:**

These can work well as a group activity –

- Remembered Bible story – tell the story as a group as you remember it
- Wall frieze (Bible timeline) – where does this fit into the whole?
- Godly Play – find trained someone to lead this
- Bibliodrama – ways of acting out the story

For exploring the Bible to become a 'Holy Habit' it is important to encourage readers to make time on a regular basis – whether that's daily, weekly, monthly... It can be 5 minutes or an hour, the important thing is to create a schedule and stick to it. It can be done individually (there are a number of podcasts available), or sign up to the URC Daily Devotion, or as a group/family – bedtime stories, meal time conversations, etc.)

### **Age banded examples of questions to help explore the Bible:**

4-7 years

Reflect on a picture from the Bible that illustrates the passage you are exploring and ask questions such as:

- a) What's going on in this picture?
- b) What's missing?
- c) What do you like best?
- d) Where do you think God is?

7-10 Years

Ask 'I wonder' questions...

- a) What you like best
- b) What you could miss out of the story without changing it
- c) Where are you in this story?
- d) Where is God in this?

e) What happens next?

Activities: draw/act/sing/craft

### **Children reading alone...**

Read it again slowly

What stands out for you?

What do you think God is saying to you?

10+ years

How does this connect to your life and the world today?

Are there other stories in the Bible you can connect with this?

What type of Bible passage is this? (e.g. History, parable, poem, letter, vision, myth, instruction...)

What would it be helpful to find out more about?

What do you love/hate/struggle/connect with in this story?

What are you going to do differently now?

There are other resources we can recommend to help you with this:

- 1) Council For World Mission – Chatter Time
- 2) Children and Youth Work magazine – Faith at Home series
- 3) Godventure
- 4) Speak to your CYDO (or equivalent) for other resources