

A PARENT'S GUIDE

*to Making Faith Connections with the
Spark Bible Stories*



Welcome to the Spark Bible Stories!

Each picture book in this series is designed to engage children in a popular Bible story in a way that is entertaining, clear, and engaging. Each book uses carefully crafted text and rich illustrations to tell the featured Bible story. Each book also contains helpful resources in the back, including discussion questions, activities, and Bible connections.

Using the Spark Bible Stories with Your Child

This parent guide will help you and your family engage more deeply with the Spark Bible Stories. This guide offers simple ways you can take a bit of extra time to build on and apply what you have read in the stories. Whether you do some or all of the suggested activities, the stories, characters, and lessons of these delightful books will sink deeper into your child's heart, mind, and soul.

Discussion Questions

After you've read one of the Spark Bible Stories picture books, sit back, get comfortable, and ask your child some or all of the following questions. Feel free to tweak the questions in a way that feels comfortable and natural for your family. The goal of these questions isn't to drill or interview your child, and it isn't to come to final conclusions about a story. Instead, these questions are designed to open doors to conversation and to invite your child to engage, discuss—even wrestle!—with God's Word. If your child feels unsure about answering, share some of your own thoughts first.

- Who did you "meet" in the story? Which person was your favorite? Which one did you like the least? Why?
- What was the setting for this story (where and when did it take place)? Why does that matter for this story?
- What happened in the story?
- What's something new you learned—or never thought about before—from the story?
- What did you learn about God and how God wants us to live?
- How does this connect to our family?
- What's one thing our family might want to do or to do differently based on this story?

Activities

Picture a Phrase

Ask your child to close his or her eyes and listen as you reread a story. But before you do, ask your child to listen for a favorite word, phrase, or thing that happens. Then ask your child to draw a picture about what makes it a favorite and talk about why.

Change a Life

Spark Bible Stories offer examples of God changing lives through God's love and through God asking us to change our lives to show love. Choose one change your family could make that would show love better. Perhaps you cut down on the amount of screen time in the family. Or perhaps you reduce the amount of garbage your family generates. Maybe you give up that weekly pizza and instead donate the money to a food bank.

Sounds and Silence

Sound and *noise* play big roles in these stories. The writers are careful to help us "hear" what the Bible folks may have heard. Sounds not only help us understand stories better, but they can help us know God better. Why not experiment with the sounds of your life? Stop whatever you are doing, wherever you are, and just sit quietly. Take in the sounds. What do you hear? What do those sounds tell you about your lifestyle? About your community? About God?

Line to Remember

While every sentence in a story matters, some lines just stand out to us more than others. Is there a sentence or line that stands out to you or your child? One you'd like to return to or think about? If so, write it below. Then share why the line matters to you.
