

Beginning with God

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Welcome to "Beg

Beginning with God helps parents with young children to explore the Bible with their child. It provides a simple way to start your child in a regular habit of reading God's word, which will hopefully stay with them for life. Our hope is that as your child explores the Bible, they will come to know the God who loves them.

Each day gives three menu options: an appetiser, the main course and a snack for the journey.

An appetiser:

- an optional activity to start the session.

The main course:

- the main meal, all on one plate! Read the Bible story, ask a few questions and pray together. Each meal ends with sticking today's colourful sticker onto the page.

A snack for the journey:

- a simple idea for using something you see or do while out and about to remind your child of today's true story from the Bible.

The main course

1 Opening prayer

A time to thank God for the Bible and ask for His help as you read it.

2 Read the story

Page numbers are given for *The Beginner's Bible*. Many of the stories can be found in other infant and toddler Bibles as well.

3 State the truth

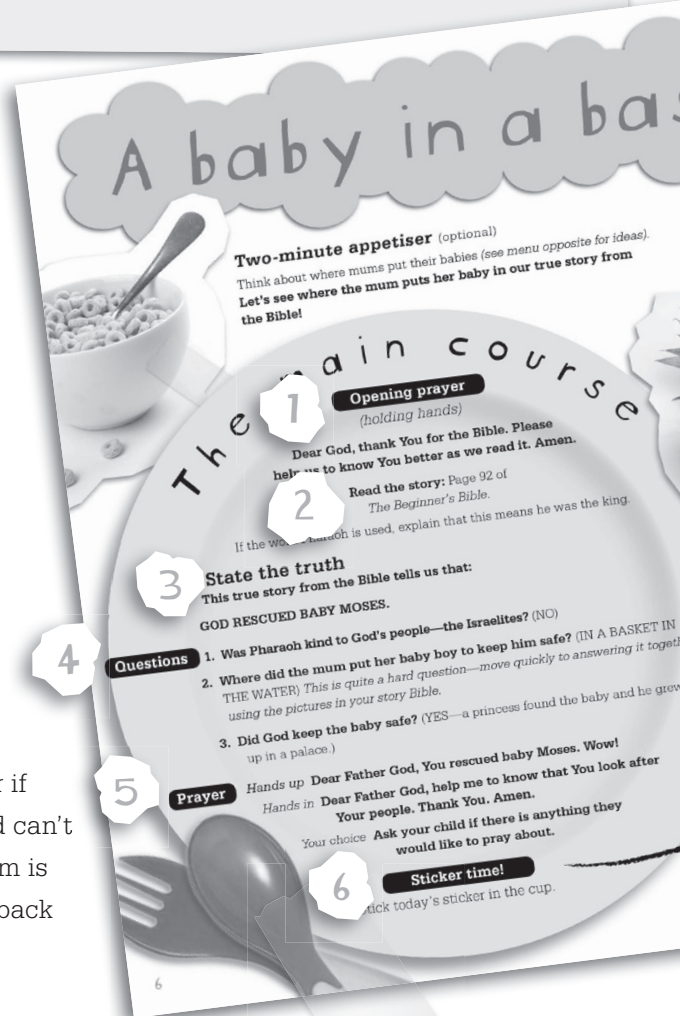
There is a statement to read at the end of each story. This is for you to read aloud to highlight what you and your child have learned about our wonderful God.

4 Questions

Read out the questions. Make them harder or easier if necessary and do answer them yourself if your child can't answer or is struggling to concentrate. The main aim is not for them to be able to recite answers, but to go back over what has been learned.

5 Prayer

Each page gives prayer ideas, using actions to help your child understand.



Beginning with God"

Optional extras

a

Appetiser menu

The appetiser is an optional activity to grab your child's attention and settle them into the session. Present this in an exciting way. You might sit around a special rug each session and hide the appetiser under it for your child to discover at the start. Alternatively, you could use a special bag or box, or simply lay the activity out on the floor, table or bed.

b

A snack for the journey

This is a conversation to have while out and about. (On those days you don't go out, the suggestions can be adapted to things you see on television or in books.) As parents we often use walks to teach or reinforce things our children have been learning. We point out animals and make the appropriate noise, we count, we spot colours... This is a chance to do the same with the content of our Bible stories—taking the teaching out of an isolated spot and bringing it into everyday life.



6



Sticker Time!

After each story, there is a colourful picture to stick to the page.

Tasty new word

Tricky question

Occasionally these symbols may pop up. They will appear if there is a key Bible word you could teach to your child from this passage or a tricky question they might ask. You will find a simple explanation of each tasty new word on page 71—and help in answering questions on page 70.



Dear Parents,

We hope this book will help you and your child to explore the Bible together. Along the way you will meet Moses; read about God's special family the Israelites; and be thrilled by the wonderful things said and done by God's perfect Son, Jesus. But most of all, we hope that reading God's special book, the Bible, will help your child to know God, who loves them.

In today's culture so much pressure is put on us to feed our children well. We pray that this material will help those of us with pre-schoolers to nourish them with the word of God.

Jo Alison

Jo Boddam-Whetham—Mother of pre-schoolers
Alison Mitchell—Children's Editor



True stories from the Old Testament

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| A baby in a basket | 6 |
| The burning bush | 8 |
| Ten plagues | 10 |
| The Red Sea | 12 |
| Food from heaven | 14 |
| Ten commandments | 16 |
| Twelve spies | 18 |
| Joshua and the spies | 20 |
| The battle of Jericho | 22 |
| Deborah leads the way | 24 |
| Gideon's battle | 26 |
| Samson | 28 |
| Ruth and Naomi | 30 |
| Hannah's prayer | 32 |
| A voice in the night | 34 |

A baby in a ba

Two-minute appetiser (optional)

Think about where mums put their babies (*see menu opposite for ideas*).

Let's see where a mum put her baby in our true story from the Bible!

The main course

Opening prayer

(*holding hands*)

Dear God, thank You for the Bible. Please help us to know You better as we read it. Amen.

Read the story: Page 92 of

The Beginner's Bible.

If the word Pharaoh is used, explain that this means he was the king.

State the truth

This true story from the Bible tells us that:

GOD RESCUED BABY MOSES.

Questions

- 1. Was Pharaoh kind to God's people—the Israelites? (NO)**
- 2. Where did the mum put her baby boy to keep him safe? (IN A BASKET IN THE WATER)** *This is quite a hard question—move quickly to answering it together using the pictures in your story Bible.*
- 3. Did God keep the baby safe? (YES—**a princess found the baby and he grew up in a palace.)

Prayer

Hands up Dear Father God, You rescued baby Moses. Wow!

Hands in Dear Father God, help me to know that You look after Your people. Thank You. Amen.

Your choice Ask your child if there is anything they would like to pray about.

Sticker time!

Stick today's sticker in the cup.

sket



Tasty new word:
ISRAELITES (see page 71)



Appetiser menu

Ideas to **chat** about or **do** as a quick introduction to today's true story from the Bible.

Chat

Talk together about what mums normally put their babies into ie: to play or sleep or eat.

How many different things can they think of? Prompt them with particular activities if necessary: **Where might they sleep, what might they go in if they were going in the car or to the park...?**

Do

Look at some relevant objects together.

Have photos of your child in various different pieces of equipment or use a baby catalogue and get your child to choose which one they would choose for their doll.

Place toy versions of buggies, slings, backpacks, cribs etc. in a bag or pillowcase to reveal gradually or hide them around the room. Talk about them as your child finds them.

Be prepared

Have any photos or catalogues ready, and gather/hide any toy baby props you are planning to use.

A snack for the journey

Have a conversation while out and about.

Point to different babies in buggies and baby carriers and ask your child: **Where did the mum put her baby in our true story from the Bible? (IN A BASKET IN THE WATER) Did God keep the baby safe? (YES!)**



The burning

Two-minute appetiser (optional)

Think about different jobs that people do (*see menu opposite for ideas*).

Let's see what job God gave to Moses in our true story from the Bible!

The main course

Opening prayer

(*holding hands*)

Dear God, thank You for the Bible. Please help us to know You better as we read it. Amen.

Read the story: Page 98 of
The Beginner's Bible.

State the truth

This true story from the Bible tells us that:

GOD WAS GOING TO USE MOSES TO RESCUE HIS PEOPLE.

Questions

- 1. Was Pharaoh still being mean to God's people the Israelites? (YES!)**
- 2. Who did God tell to bring His people away from Egypt? (MOSES)** Your child may also mention his brother, Aaron.

To explore the details further ask...

- 3. What did God give Moses to help him? (A STAFF OR STICK THAT WOULD DO AMAZING THINGS AND HIS BROTHER, AARON)**

Prayer

Hands up **Dear Father God, You told Moses to bring Your people away from Egypt. Wow!**

Hands in **Dear Father God, please help me to do what You want me to do. Amen.**

Your choice Ask your child if there is anything they would like to pray about.

Sticker time!

Stick today's sticker in the cup.



Tasty new word:
SIGN (see page 71)

Appetiser menu

Ideas to **chat** about or **do** as a quick introduction to today's true story from the Bible.

Chat

Talk together about different jobs that people do. How many different jobs can your child think of? Prompt them with questions. Eg: **Who might make you better if you are ill? Who puts out fires? Who builds things?** You could also talk about the job that a parent or friend of the family does. Summarise by saying: **These are called the jobs that people do.**

Do

Use props or pictures to talk about jobs. Show your child a pretend stethoscope or some bandages; a toy fire truck; a dress-up hard hat, play-tool bench or some bricks. Use them to act out the relevant jobs. Alternatively play this game: spread the items out in a line. Ask your child to bring you the toy associated with a particular job. Add a description of the job if necessary, eg: **What would a fireman use to put out fires?**

Be prepared

Have any toys or pictures ready.

A snack for the journey

Have a conversation while out and about.

Look out for someone doing a job or a place where people work. You may see an ambulance go by, walk past a school, or see someone working in a shop or café. Talk about the relevant job with your child. Eg: **Look, there is a school. Some people's job is being a teacher and helping children learn things.** Ask your child: **Who did God give a very important job to in our true story from the Bible?** (MOSES. GOD TOLD HIM TO BRING HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT.)