

Beginning with God

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Beginning with God

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Welcome to "Beginning with God"

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.

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.

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 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. See page 68 for more ideas to help your child to talk to their loving Father God.

6 Sticker Time!

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



Tasty new word

Occasionally this symbol may pop up.

It will appear if there is a key Bible word you could teach to your child from this passage. You will find a simple explanation of the word on page 69.

True stories from the Old Testament

Dear Parents,

We hope this book will help you and your child to explore the Bible together. Along the way you will read about the beginning of everything; meet Abraham, who was called a "friend of God"; 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

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The beginning

Genesis 1

Two-minute appetiser (optional)

Think about things being made (see menu opposite for ideas).

Let's find out what God makes in our true story from the Bible!

Appetiser menu

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

Chat

Talk with your child about things that the people close to them have made.

Extra ideas:

- Show your child something that has been made for them. See if they can remember who made it for them.
- Tell them about something you made as a child.
- Remind them of something they have made with you recently.

Do

Have some materials your child can quickly use to make something.

(Eg: four blocks to make a wall, a few stickers to make a picture, the parts of a face to place in the right positions on a paper plate/circular card...)

Be prepared

Gather any items you want to show your child as you chat and/or any materials your child will need for their creativity!

A snack for the journey

Have a conversation while out and about.

Point out things like an animal your child likes, a pretty leaf, an interesting stone, a massive tree... and ask your child: **Who made this?** (GOD) **Yes, God made everything.**

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 7 of
The Beginner's Bible.

State the truth

This true story from the Bible tells us that:

GOD MADE EVERYTHING AND HE MADE IT JUST RIGHT.

Questions

1. Look at the pictures in your story Bible and ask your child: **Who made the trees?** (GOD) Do this a few times using things that will grab their interest. You may want to start with the question: **What's this?** and then ask them who made it.
2. **Who made everything?** (GOD!)

Prayer

Hands up Dear Father God, You made everything. Wow!

Hands in Dear Father God, help me remember that You made everything. Amen.

Your choice You may want to ask your child what they want to thank God for making. **Dear Father God, thank You for making _____.** Amen.

Sticker time!

Stick today's sticker in the cup.

Adam and Eve

Genesis 2

Two-minute appetiser (optional)

Think about animals (see menu opposite for ideas).

Let's find out what Adam thinks of the animals in our true story from the Bible!

Appetiser menu

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

Chat

Talk with your child about the animals they like.

Extra ideas:

- Practise different animal noises together.

Do

Look together at some toy animals.
(Eg: cuddly, zoo/farm figures, pictures...) You could put a variety of animals in a pillowcase to pull out one by one. Identify the different animals with your child, adding the noises etc. if they would enjoy that.

Be prepared

Gather together whatever toy animals or books you want to use and perhaps a pillowcase to pull them out of.

A snack for the journey

Have a conversation while out and about.

Point to some children having fun together: **They look like they are good friends. Who did God make to be Adam's special friend? (EVE)**

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 14 of
The Beginner's Bible.

As you read about Adam naming the animals, you could look at the animals you got out earlier. Point out that none of these were the right friend for Adam.

State the truth

This true story from the Bible tells us that:

GOD MADE A SPECIAL FRIEND FOR ADAM CALLED EVE.

Questions 1. Why was Adam sad? (HE NEEDED A FRIEND.)

2. Who did God make to be Adam's friend? (EVE)

Prayer Hands up Dear Father God, You made just the right friend for Adam. Wow!

Hands in Dear Father God, You give me lots of good things. Help me to 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.



The sneaky snake

Genesis 3



Two-minute appetiser (optional)

Think about gardens (see menu opposite for ideas).

Let's find out about a wonderful garden in our true story from the Bible!



Tasty new word:
SIN (see page 69)

Appetiser menu

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

Chat

Ask your child about what they might find in a lovely big garden.

Imagine tall trees and pretty flowers that smell beautiful, fruit growing, a stream, rabbits and birds...

Do

Make a 'garden' with your child.

Gather together a tray with some bits and pieces that you can use to make a garden. (Ideas: A green sheet of paper, some play trees from a toy set, some ripped up coloured paper for flowers and tin foil for a river. Alternatively, you can have some actual bits and pieces collected from your garden.) Assemble your garden together and, if possible, have some toy figures to live in your garden.

Be prepared

Select and collect the materials you want to use for making the garden and any toy figures to go in it.

A snack for the journey

Have a conversation while out and about.

Point out a nice garden. Remember the lovely garden God gave to Adam and Eve? Did they do what God said? (NO!) Did that make God happy and pleased or sad and angry? (SAD AND ANGRY!) That's right—sad and angry. They had to leave the lovely garden.

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 18 of

The Beginner's Bible.

If your child enjoyed making a garden, do use it as you tell the story.

State the truth

This true story from the Bible tells us that:

GOD WAS SAD AND ANGRY BECAUSE ADAM AND EVE DIDN'T DO WHAT HE SAID.

Questions

1. Using the picture in your Bible: Did God want Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from this tree? (NO!)
2. Did they eat the fruit? (YES!)
3. Was God happy and pleased or sad and angry? (SAD AND ANGRY)

Prayer

Hands up Dear Father God, You are sad and angry when we don't do what You say. Amen.

Hands in Dear Father God, I am sorry that I don't do what You say. Amen.

Your choice You could use this as a chance to say a particular sorry.

Sticker time!

Stick today's sticker in the cup.

