

BIBLE BLOCKS

Encounters with Jesus



PARENT GUIDE

Simple ways to read, retell, and explore together.

bibleblocks.org/resources

QUICK START

Be Ready in 60 Seconds

You do not need to prepare a lesson, print worksheets, or gather special supplies.

Choose one Story Block, find the corresponding story in the Bible or Parent Guide, and place the Activity Block nearby.

Paper and something to draw or write with are optional.

That is all you need.

QUICK START

Dive Into the Story

1. Read

Read the story from the Bible. Narratives are available at bibleblocks.org/resources.

As you read, turn the Story Block to show the picture that matches each part of the story.

2. Show How to Retell

Use the six pictures to briefly tell the story back in your own words without a story in front of you.

Keep it simple. The pictures are there to help you remember the main moments.

QUICK START

Let Your Child Retell

3. Let Your Child Retell

Pass the Story Block to your child and invite them to tell the story.

They can tell one sentence for each picture, or simply share what they remember.

Help with questions like:

- “What happened first?”
- “What happened next?”
- “What did Jesus do?”

QUICK START

Choose an Activity. Close Simply.

4. Choose an Activity

Choose one activity from the Activity Block based on your family's time, energy, and interest.

One activity is enough.

5. Close Simply

End with a short prayer or one thing your family wants to remember.

*“Jesus, thank you for this story. Help us remember it and follow you.
Amen.”*

That is a complete Bible Blocks experience.

A Complete Bible Blocks Experience

- 1 Read the story
- 2 Model the retelling
- 3 Let your child retell
- 4 Choose one activity
- 5 Pray simply

That is a complete Bible Blocks experience.

PART II

The Activity Block

60-Second Guides for Every Activity

Begin every experience with Retell.

Then intentionally choose one additional activity.

THE ACTIVITY BLOCK

Choose What Fits Today

The Story Block helps your child remember and retell the story. The Activity Block helps your family explore the story in a new way.

Begin every Bible Blocks experience with Retell. Then intentionally choose one additional activity based on your family's time, energy, and interest.

Each activity includes two ways to begin:

Simple Start

For children who need more support, shorter responses, movement, drawing, or concrete prompts.

Go Deeper

For children ready for more independence, reflection, writing, discussion, or detail.

You can choose either option at any age. Use what fits your child today.

Tell the Story Using the Pictures

Retelling is the heart of Bible Blocks. Return to it every time you explore a story.

Simple Start: Tell What You See

Give your child the Story Block and invite them to turn it from picture to picture.

Ask them to say one thing they see on each side.

Use prompts such as:

- “What do you see?”
- “Who is in this picture?”
- “What is happening?”
- “What happened next?”

If all six sides feel like too much, choose three pictures and tell the beginning, middle, and end together.

You can also begin each sentence and let your child finish it.

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Retell in Your Own Words

Invite your child to use all six pictures to retell the complete story.

Encourage them to include:

- what happened first
- what Jesus said or did
- how the other people responded

The goal is not a perfect performance. The Bible is the source of the story. The block is a memory tool that helps your child begin to make the story their own.

REFLECT

Respond Through Drawing or Writing

Reflect gives children space to slow down, notice something meaningful, and respond to the story.

Simple Start: Draw One Moment

Ask your child to choose one picture from the Story Block.

They can draw:

- the whole scene
- one person
- one object
- a facial expression
- their favorite moment
- When they finish, ask:
- “Tell me about your picture.”

Stick figures and simple drawings are enough. The purpose is not artistic skill. The drawing helps your child think about the story.

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Respond to the Story

Invite your child to choose the moment, phrase, action, or person that stood out most.

They can draw or write about:

- something they noticed
- something that surprised them
- something they want to remember
- something the story teaches them about Jesus
- something that connects with their own life
- Try one prompt:
 - “This part stands out to me because...”
 - “One thing I learned about Jesus is...”
 - “This story makes me think about...”
 - “One thing I want to remember is...”

Children can respond with a picture, several sentences, or a journal entry.

CHARACTER

Experience the Story Through Someone's Eyes

Character helps children pay closer attention to one person's experience within the story.

Simple Start: How Did They Feel?

Choose one character from the story.

Ask:

- "How do you think this person felt?"

Your child can name the feeling, show it with their face, or draw the character's expression.

Then ask:

- "Did their feelings change?"

Compare how the person may have felt at the beginning and at the end.

CHARACTER

Simple Start

Possible feelings include:

- happy
- sad
- afraid
- angry
- confused
- surprised
- hopeful
- peaceful

Encourage your child to point to the pictures that helped them choose those feelings.

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Tell the Story as the Character

Invite your child to retell part or all of the story from one character's perspective.

Begin with:

- "I am ____."
- "At the beginning, I..."
- "When Jesus ____, I..."
- "I felt..."
- "By the end..."
- Afterward, ask:
 - "What did this person see Jesus do?"
 - "What might this person have believed about Jesus?"
 - "How did the encounter change this person?"
 - "What does this character help us notice about the story?"

Your child may answer aloud, write a first-person journal entry, or tell the story while holding the block.

CONNECT

Connect This Story to Another Story

Connect helps children recognize repeated ideas, actions, and themes throughout Scripture.

Simple Start: Find One Similarity

Place this Story Block beside another Story Blocks your family has already explored that has a clear connection.

Ask:

- “What is one thing these stories have in common?”
- Your child might notice:
- Jesus helped someone
- someone was afraid
- someone asked Jesus for help
- Jesus welcomed someone others rejected

CONNECT

Simple Start

- someone chose to follow Jesus
- something changed after meeting Jesus

Handle and turn the blocks together. The pictures can help jog your child's memory.

There may be more than one good connection.

CONNECT

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Choose Your Own Connection

Place all the previous Story Blocks where your child can see and handle them. Ask your child to choose another story that connects with the current one.

Then ask:

- “What connects these stories?”
- “How are the people similar?”
- “How are they different?”
- “What did Jesus do in both stories?”
- “How did the people respond differently?”
- “What theme appears in both stories?”

Your child can also connect the story to another part of Scripture that is not represented by a block.

The goal is not to guess the connection the parent has in mind. The goal is to notice a meaningful connection and explain it.

ACT OUT

Bring the Story to Life

Act Out helps children experience the movement, emotion, and action of the story with their whole bodies.

No costumes, props, or scripts are required.

Simple Start: Create a Freeze Frame

Choose one picture from the Story Block.

Ask:

- “Can you make your body look like this part of the story?”
- Your child might pose as someone:
 - climbing
 - calling out
 - listening
 - kneeling

ACT OUT

Simple Start

- welcoming Jesus
- walking away
- following Jesus

Say, "Freeze!"

Then ask:

- "Which part of the story are you showing?"
- Repeat with another picture if your child wants to continue.

ACT OUT

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Act Out All Six Scenes

Choose a narrator.

The narrator turns the Story Block one side at a time and describes what is happening.

Everyone else acts out each scene using their bodies, facial expressions, movement, and voices.

Children can take turns playing different people or retell the entire story from one character's perspective.

Try adding:

- simple dialogue
- sound effects
- different emotions
- a narrator who connects the scenes
- Afterward, ask:
 - "Which scene felt most important?"
 - "What did acting it out help you notice?"

The Four Choices

One side of the Activity Block contains four options:
Prayer, Find, Music, and Wonder Choose the option
that best fits your family today.

PRAYER

FIND

MUSIC

WONDER

Choose the option that best fits your family today.

Talk to God About the Story

Prayer helps children respond to God using the ideas, emotions, and needs they discovered in the story.

Simple Start: Echo Prayer

Pray one short line at a time and invite your child to repeat it.

For example:

- “Jesus, thank you for this story.”
- “Thank you for seeing people.”
- “Thank you for helping people.”
- “Help us listen to you.”
- “Help us follow you.”
- “Amen.”
- Adjust the prayer to fit the story you explored.
- Short and simple prayers are enough.

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Three-Part Prayer

Invite each person to say or write three short prayers:

- "Jesus, thank you for..."
- "Jesus, help me..."
- "Jesus, please help..."

Encourage your child to connect each prayer to something in the story.

You can also ask:

"What would you like to say to Jesus after hearing this story?"

"What part of this story do you need help living out?"

"Who does this story make you want to pray for?"

Children can pray aloud, silently, or in writing.

Find the Story in the Bible

Find helps children connect the pictures on the block with the words of Scripture.

Simple Start: Find the Book and Chapter

Give your child a Bible and help them locate the story.

Show them how to find:

- the name of the book
- the large chapter number
- the smaller verse numbers

Let your child hold the Bible, turn the pages, and point to where the passage begins.

For younger children, you can find the book while they look for the chapter number.

The goal is to help children understand that the story on the block comes from the Bible.

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Become the Passage Finder

Give your child the Scripture reference and invite them to locate it independently. Once they find it, ask them to:

- read one or more verses aloud
- find a sentence spoken by Jesus
- locate the verse that matches one side of the block
- identify details that are not shown in the pictures
- compare the passage with their retelling
- Ask:

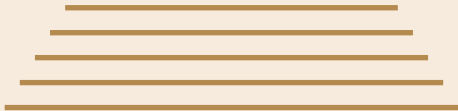
“What did you notice in the Bible that you did not notice on the block?”

“How did the pictures help you follow the passage?”

The Story Block supports the story. Scripture remains the source.

Remember the Story Through Sound

Every family is different in music abilities and skills. Please don't hesitate to rely on any family musical talent, Spotify or YouTube playlists. You might even ask kids for song requests.



Make Space for Questions

Wonder helps children become curious, notice details, and recognize that Scripture is worth exploring.

Not every question needs an immediate answer.

Simple Start: Share One Wonder

Look at one picture from the Story Block.

Begin with:

- “I wonder...”
- For example:
- “I wonder how this person felt.”
- “I wonder what Jesus said next.”
- “I wonder why the crowd responded that way.”
- “I wonder what happened afterward.”
- Then invite your child to share one wonder of their own.

You can simply receive the question without trying to solve it.

Go Deeper

Go Deeper: Explore a Question

Invite your child to choose one question they would like to explore.

Return to the Bible passage and look for clues.

Ask:

- “What does the passage tell us?”
- “What does it not tell us?”
- “Which picture made you ask that question?”
- “Is there another part of the Bible that might help us?”
- “What do you still wonder?”

Your child can discuss the question, draw it, or write it in a journal.

It is okay to say:

- “I do not know. Let’s keep wondering and learning together.”

Wonder is not about producing the correct question. It is about paying attention and becoming curious about God’s Word.

Remember

- Begin with Retell.
- Then intentionally choose one additional activity.
- Use Simple Start when your child needs more support or a concrete way to respond.
- Use Go Deeper when your child is ready for more independence, reflection, discussion, or detail.
- You can choose either option at any age.
- Follow your child's curiosity.
- Keep it simple.
- Come back to the story again.

Follow your child's curiosity.

Keep it simple.

Come back to the story again.

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