

Jump into the Bible

Helping Children get into the Bible and nurture their faith.



All children love the small coloured sweets called SMARTIES - they taste good and look fun to eat. We want to portray the Word of God to the children as fun to read, but also encourage them to taste the Word of God and see that He is good and that they will want more of Him. Using the acronym SMARTIES we look at how you can help your children get into the Bible.

- S** **Start where they are at.** Bear in mind the background and age of the children in your class. We have a tendency to try and cram everything we've learnt in our Christian lives into the minds and lives of our children! Impossible. Stick to the simple aim of the lesson, and let the children meet God on every page.
- M** **Modelling.** Is the Bible a living book to you? Are you involved with God as you daily meet Him in the scriptures? It will show! Not because you constantly quote memory verses at the children, but because your life matches what they've learnt of the basics of the Bible. You are a role model for the young people you are with, and their view of the Bible will be shaped at least in part by what they see in you. How has God helped you through the Bible, Tell them!
- A** **Asking, answering, affirming, anticipating.** Encourage children to ask questions and look for answers to their questions in God's Word. The Bible has to be a major part of how we affirm young people who often have a sense of worthlessness and helplessness. The Big story of the Bible gives them a past and a future in God's plan. God gives them self-respect and a shape to their existence.
- R** **Responding.** We want to encourage the children to respond to the passage for themselves in their own way, rather than just reading the passage to them and trying to interpret it for them. We want to encourage them to see for themselves what God is saying to them and others through His word.
- T** **Telling.** Storytelling is popular with all ages of people. It has to be told using appropriate language and methods. You can tell the story without explaining it - Jesus told parables and sometimes He chose not to explain it. Other times it needs to be clarified. Enjoy talking about Jesus and His Word.
- I** **Inhabiting.** The Bible is God's story and God's people's story. It is also your story. It is about You! We are called to inhabit the text. Look for ways for the children to see the Big story as well as the little story you're looking at each week.
- E** **Expectations.** Getting into the Bible can be a slow process, but we want to encourage the children to make the Bible a part of their lives NOW. We're investing in young people's lives when we open the Bible with them, and we can expect God's Word to take root even if we don't see immediate fruit.
- S** **Stick at it - it is worth it!** To see a child or young person opening up the Word of God for themselves is guaranteed to thrill you and will help them in their walk with God.