



Tools for Parents

Ideas for using Story Cards from Sunday School Curriculum

Each week children aged 3 years to third grade are given a story card to take home. (Children in older grades work out of a magazine that is kept in class.) It is our hope that parents will use these cards with their children to review the story.

One way that we suggest families use these cards is to incorporate them into bedtime routines.

A simple plan for using Sunday School Story Cards at home:

- Read the story that the card is based on (scripture references are included on the card) from a children's Bible or a more simple translation of an adult Bible. The Contemporary English Version or Good News Version are appropriate for children in the primary grades. Older intermediate could use the New Revised Standard Version.
- Say a prayer, ideally, incorporating themes from the lesson taught in the story, and go to sleep.

A more advanced plan would include any or all of these steps, perhaps building on each day or doing different activities as the week goes on.

- Parents would take some time on their own to explore the story in their adult Bible to prepare.
- Relate the character to people we see in society/media/TV or literature today.
- Ask the child how they feel about the character. How are you like this character? How are different?
- Use a word or emotion to sum up the story
- Build on the story each day, for example: Sunday & Monday parent reads to the child, Tuesday & Wednesday, parent and child read together, Thursday and Friday, child reads to parent, Saturday, child re-tells the story in his or her own words.
- Questions to guide discussion:
 - How does this story make you feel?
 - Does this character make God happy
 - What do you think we were meant to learn from this story?

Non-bedtime activities could include:

- For younger children, ask them to identify the characters in the picture on the card.
- Have child illustrate their favorite part of the story.
- Have your child write a letter to the character, or an imaginary postcard from the character.
- Re-write the story in modern language.