

**Kids
of All Ages**

BIG BOOK

of Easy-to-Do Bible Talks



**Kids learn who God is
and how to live for Him!**

Reproducible

**Kids
of All Ages**

BIG BOOK

of Easy-to-Do Bible Talks



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transforming lives together

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BIG BOOK OF EASY-TO-DO BIBLE TALKS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

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Introduction

Why This Book

In this book, you'll find 100 Bible talks that require no preparation. These talks are designed to be easy-to-do sermons for children's worship service or as part of an adult service. When you open the book to one of these Bible talks, you will not have to hunt for supplies. You only need to have kids! Simply read through each talk, and then go for it.

Additionally, included with each talk is a "Going the Extra Mile" page of activities. This is a supplement to each talk and is geared toward older children. You'll need paper and pencils or markers for these lessons and sometimes a few extra supplies. These additional lessons are designed to provide an opportunity for more in-depth discussion. It's recommended that these additional activities be led by small-group leaders to further engage children in Bible discussions.

If you are a children's pastor, encourage parents to use these Bible talks in their role as spiritual teachers of their children. Share these Bible talks with parents by photocopying the talks to give as handouts or scan and e-mail to them.

Choosing Volunteers

These Bible talks rely heavily on asking children to volunteer. You'll want to think through what kind of child you want volunteering for certain tasks. If it's a simple task, like holding your arms in the air, you may want to choose a younger child. If the task is something fairly theatrical, a more exuberant child would be the right choice. Try not to pick the same children over and over again. Make sure to give many different children the opportunity to participate.

When choosing volunteers, you may have one or more children who will consistently raise their hands to answer questions and share their thoughts every time. You may see a child raise a hand who has never shared an idea with the class. If this happens, don't be afraid to invite the child to share his or her ideas or answers. When you ask different children to share their thoughts, their level of confidence increases and they will be more likely to participate in future discussions and activities.

With some tasks in this book, a child will need to be chosen ahead of time. This is because certain Bible talks rely on the ability of the child to do the task correctly. Other tasks require the child have a little time to think over what to do and how to do it. Of course, every group of children is different and you'll know which talks best suit your group. Right now you may have several children who are willing to do anything at any given moment. So you may not feel the need to ask anyone to volunteer ahead of time. If your current group is a little more reserved, take that into consideration when choosing volunteers for Bible talks.

Questions and Answers

You'll find that these Bible talks and activities are full of questions. Most of the questions are open-ended. Here are some tips when asking these types of questions:

1. Try not to critique the children's answers. If a child's answer does not apply to the question asked, smile and say, "Thank you, Joshua" or "How interesting!" If the answer is wrong, you could say something like, "That's a good try. Who else

has an answer?” When children believe that their answers to questions will result in hurt feelings or embarrassment, very few hands will go up.

2. Be sure not to overpraise an answer. Once children sense you’ve found the “right answer,” it is less likely other children will volunteer their thoughts. A simple “Good answer. Does anyone else have an answer?” will acknowledge the child’s response and leave room for more answers to be given.

3. Some of the questions in this book are fairly simple. You may want to consider choosing younger children to answer these questions. By doing this, you help build a young child’s self-confidence to continue participating. However, more challenging questions should be directed to older children. Be sure to give them time to think about their answers. When in front of a large group, children may be more reluctant to respond as quickly as they would with a smaller group.

Attitude Makes a Difference

Your attitude makes a difference in these Bible talks. The energy you put into a talk will be mirrored by the children you teach. If you’re subdued and unsure, you can count on them feeling the same way. If you’re filled with confidence and excitement, they’ll be engaged and ready to participate when asked.

Making It Your Own

Feel free to use your own instincts and adjust whatever you wish to make these Bible talks work for you and your group of children. If you don’t like the way a question is worded, change it. If you think your group of children would respond better if an activity

was conducted another way, do it. The more you can make each lesson your own, the fresher and more natural each Bible talk will seem.

Finding What’s Age Appropriate

When presenting a children’s sermon or some type of Bible talk, most of us probably have a group of children with a wide range of ages. You might have children ages 3 to 11 years old sitting in front of you. With such a large age span, there’s probably no way to completely get the point across to every child. Some lesson objectives may seem more obvious to older children but need more explanation to the younger ones. Some talks will have an impact on younger children, but not interest the older ones. Hopefully, most of the talks teach everyone something. Perhaps the same lesson will introduce a younger child to a Bible story, while teaching an older child a deeper Bible truth. Even the “Going the Extra Mile” activities, designed for third through sixth graders, have a very wide audience to reach.

Learning Styles

Not everyone learns the same way. Over the years, educators have categorized ways people learn into “learning styles.” A snapshot of different learning styles among children may look something like this: Anthony likes to talk about his thoughts and feelings. Isabella prefers to actively experience what she’s learning. Maddie prefers to be creative with her thoughts and ideas, while other children like Daniel love to listen to a teacher tell Bible stories. Jasmine just likes to learn new things, while Isaiah must relate to a life application before showing interest in a lesson. God made each of us different in this way. This book will offer something for every learner.

When it comes to your own learning style, “Know thyself” is appropriate. We all tend to teach the way we learn. Maybe you like to tell stories, so you need to keep that in mind and avoid telling too many of them. Knowing the way you like to learn can help remind you to keep the right balance of engaging different learning styles when teaching. You can also balance your approach to accommodate different learning styles by varying the ways you conduct activities and discussions.

The Element of Surprise

One of the most fun things about teaching children is the element of surprise. When we ask children questions, or ask them to act out something or demonstrate an idea, the results can be wildly different from what we expected. Sometimes the best learning comes when the unexpected happens. It’s kind of like hiking along a mountain trail. It might be a little risky, but the view can be spectacular! Some of us don’t dare ask questions or try anything new or unusual. This may be due to a fear of losing control of the children. Don’t worry if the answer to your question is off the wall, or if the children all crumble into a heap laughing at each other making silly faces. It’s all part of the grand surprise! Have fun while you lead children closer to Jesus!

Leading a Child to Christ

One of the greatest privileges of serving in children's ministry is to help guide children to become members of God's family. Pray and ask God to prepare the kids you know to understand and receive the good news about Jesus. Ask God to give you the sensitivity and wisdom to communicate effectively and to be aware as opportunities occur.

When talking with children about salvation, use words and phrases they understand; never assume kids understand a concept just because they can repeat certain words. Avoid symbolic terms that will confuse literal-minded thinkers. As you watch and pray, you will see kids developing relationships with God.

Here are some questions you can ask and things you can discuss with a child who is interested in accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Encourage the child to look up and read the Bible verses along with you.

Read John 3:16. **Why did God send Jesus to earth?** (God loved us so much that He wants us to have eternal life with Him.)

First John 3:1 says that God wants us to be His children. But sin, doing wrong, separates us from God. Read Romans 6:23. **What do you think should happen to us when we sin? (die) But what is God's gift to us?** (eternal life in Jesus)

Jesus willingly died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3. **But Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. After three days, He came back to life! Jesus died so that we can live forever in heaven with Him.**

Are you sorry for the wrong things that you've done? If you are, what should you do? Read 1 John 1:9. **Our sins are wiped away when we're truly sorry for what we've done and when we turn to God.**

Read Ephesians 2:8. **How are we saved?** (by God's grace, through faith) **Christian faith is a life-long adventure here on earth. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, we build a life of submitting to God, following Jesus, and keeping in step with the Spirit.**

At this point, continue to talk with the child about accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Include what your church teaches about how this happens. If you have any questions about salvation, talk with your pastor or children's ministry leader.

God wants every person to accept the free gift of eternal life that He's offering. What do you need to do about this?

All in the Family

God's family can work together to accomplish His commands.

Bible Talk

Everyone stand up, and while keeping one foot on the floor, try to see how far you can reach to the side with your other foot. Allow time for students to complete the task. **Trying to reach very far by yourself is pretty hard. But how far do you think we could reach if we work together to make a line that starts right here by this _____** (name a nearby object)? Allow time for students to tell predictions. **Let's see how far we can actually reach.** Have a volunteer begin the line by touching the object and standing with feet spread apart. Have other students come up one at a time and extend the line. Students remain connected by making sure that their feet are always touching. After all students are connected, check to see if they were able to reach their goal.



There are always things we can do by ourselves, but some things can only be done or can be done even better with the help of other people. That's how it is in God's family. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor." This verse reminds us that working together can accomplish more than doing something by yourself.

What are some examples of times that God's family can work together to obey God's commands? (help people in need, be kind to a visitor at church, give money to help a missionary)

Conclusion

I'm glad we have many people who can help us obey His commands. We're all in God's family together!

Close in prayer.

Going the Extra Mile

Activity

Today, let's see how it feels to work together to help each other out of a tangle. Divide class into groups of six to eight students each. **In your group, stand shoulder to shoulder in a circle, facing inward. Now hold hands and then tangle your circle without letting go of each other's hands.** Students may step over hands, move under raised arms, etc. **Now see if you can get untangled without letting go of each other's hands. Remember to work together and help each other accomplish the goal.** Allow time for students to untangle themselves. Repeat activity as time permits.

Bible Discussion

The Bible tells us a story of some people who worked together to accomplish a goal. Have a student read Nehemiah 3:1–4 aloud. Let that student know there are many unfamiliar names in these verses and not to worry about pronouncing them correctly. They could even just say the first initial. **These people were all working together to build the wall around the city of Jerusalem. Because they all worked together, they were able to accomplish their goal. Even when it was hard, they kept working together.**

- **What choice did all these people have to make? What could they have done instead?**
- **When have you worked on a project with another person? How did it feel when you accomplished your goal?**

Life Challenge

Working with other people can be hard sometimes. We might have different ideas of how to do something. But when we help each other out, it makes a big difference in how we are able to follow God's commands.

Prayer

Lord, we praise You for giving us people who can help us follow Your commands. Please help us to see when we can help others too. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Brothers and Sisters in God's Family

We are all brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Bible Talk

How many people are in your family? Allow time for several children to answer. **Let's see how fast you can form some new "families."** Ask children to stand up and begin walking in a circle or walking randomly around the room. Call out a number between three and five. Children will see how fast they can form "families" of that number. When all families have formed, encourage each family member to give a high five to their new brothers and sisters. Depending on the number of children, some families may need to "adopt" an additional family member. Repeat the activity as time permits, each time calling out a different number. It's fun to think about what it would be like to have new brothers and sisters.



Our real families are all different, but there is one family we all can be part of—God's family, the church. These words came from Jesus himself. He said in Matthew 12:50, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Jesus is saying that everyone who loves Him is part of the family of God.

Conclusion

As members of the family of God, we are all brothers and sisters. That means even though we may argue with each other from time to time, we can love and rely on each other as brothers and sisters would.

Close in prayer.

Matthew 12:50

Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

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Big Book of Easy-to-Do Bible Talks for Kids of All Ages

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Going the Extra Mile

Activity

Sometimes the people who live in a family have a hard time getting along with each other. What are some of the things that people in a family might argue about? Allow time for several children to give answers.

Since we know God wants family members to do their best to get along and live in peace with each other, let's see if we can come up with the top ten ways to live in peace and resolve conflicts. Help students form groups of three to six. Groups will work together to make lists of ways to live in peace with brothers and sisters in a family. After several minutes, ask groups to share their lists. After all lists have been shared, lead children to determine the overall top ten suggestions.

We might wish that we never had any arguments with the people in our families, but part of living in any family is learning how to get along with each other. You've come up with some great ideas!

Bible Discussion

The people who live in God's family have to learn to get along with each other and live in peace too. Let's look at Acts 6:1–7 to find out what happened when some people in God's family had to figure out a way to live in peace and resolve a conflict. Have a student read the passage aloud.

- Who was involved in this conflict? What was the conflict about?
- What were the choices God's family made to resolve the conflict? What choices could they have made instead?
- What were the results of their choice to resolve this conflict peacefully?

Life Challenge

Our church families are important because our church family is God's family. God wants us to act like a close, loving family of brothers and sisters when we are at church. Sometimes we may have conflicts, but God will help us resolve our conflicts as we love and care for each other.

Prayer

Lord, You have given us the gift of a family right here at church. Show us how to live as brothers and sisters who love You and love each other. Help us to resolve conflicts in ways that please You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Instruments of God

We all have different abilities God uses to accomplish His plans.

Bible Talk

Who here plays a musical instrument or can imitate the sound of a musical instrument? Great! When I point to you, make the sound of the instrument that you play or that you can imitate. Allow time for as many volunteers to participate as possible. **The sound of a single instrument is great, but you know what I really love is a good orchestra or band. In an orchestra or band, several instruments are playing at the same time to make beautiful sounds. Could you imagine a band with no guitar or an orchestra without a trumpet? Each instrument is important in order to make good music.**

Our church is similar to an orchestra or band. Each of us is different but a very important part of the church. The preacher is very important, but so are the ushers, the music leader, and the children too. Paul said it very well in 1 Corinthians 12:14, "The body is not made up of one part but of many." Paul understood that God made all of us very special and important to the whole body of the church.



Conclusion

We all need each other to have a great church and to share the love of Jesus with others.

Close in prayer.

Going the Extra Mile

Activity

Help students form groups of three to six. **In your groups, I would like you to create your own band. Together, your group can choose the instruments you'd like to have in your band. Each person in your group can choose an instrument to play. All at once, each person will make the sound of the instrument they chose to play and act out playing the instrument. Let's make a band!** Allow time for groups to form their bands. Invite groups to have their bands "play" for the larger group. **You all made terrific music together!**

- **What do you think would have happened if one person didn't play his or her instrument?**
- **Was it hard or easy to play in a band together? Why?**

Bible Discussion

In Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, he explained the importance of every member in the church. Have a student read 1 Corinthians 12:14–20.

- **Based on these verses, what is a church supposed to believe?**
- **When is a time our church has worked together to show our love for God or others?**

If we want to follow Jesus, then we need to use our gifts and abilities to help others learn about Jesus. Just like your band needed each person to play an

instrument, our church needs to use everyone's special talents and work together to share God's love.

Life Challenge

God gave us all different abilities to share with one another. We can use our abilities at church, at school, and at home. If we ignore one person's abilities, it's harder for us to accomplish God's plans.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for giving each of us special abilities. Help us to appreciate each other's abilities and use them to share the love of Jesus with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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