



Stories Matters
Deuteronomy 26:1 - 11 (NIV)

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What were some of your favorite stories growing up?

Kids need lots of different kinds of stories...

- Kids need _____ stories over time.
- Kids need _____ stories over time.
- Kids need _____ stories over time.

*Jesus always used **stories** and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. (Matthew 13:34, NLT)*

- The Bible isn't just A BOOK... it's a collection of books & stories written by 40 different authors over 1600 years that connect to tell one story about God and his love for us throughout time!

1. Stories over time expand a child's imagination in a way that can shape his or her _____.

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, ² take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³ and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." (v. 1 – 3)

2. God wired us for stories to help ignite our imagination and...

- Help us see past what we already _____.

⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous." (v. 4 – 5)

- Help us care how someone else _____.

⁶ But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. ⁷ Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. (v. 6 – 7)

- Help give us hope beyond our present _____.

⁸ So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; ¹⁰ and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me." (v. 8 – 10a)

3. If you want to shape how kids experience faith & worship, then look for ways to _____ God's story through stories!

¹⁰ Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. ¹¹ Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household. (v. 10b – 11)

Your challenge this week and beyond...

- ♥ Discover the Arts together!
- ♥ Capture the storyline by recording it and retelling it.
- ♥ Get in the action and help them live the story out.



Doggy Bag for the Week:

1. When it comes to stories would you rather: Read them? Watch them? Learn them (non-fiction, super intellectually stimulating stuff)? Experience them? Take a picture of them? Paint them? Write them? Other? Which matters more: the story or the way you tell it? If it's both, then how are you presenting stories to the kids on your list so they will connect with them?
2. One way to amplify the story is to capture the key moments in the lives of the kids on your list. How are you recording and retelling their story so they will have a rich personal history? (Remember, you don't have to do a lot. It can be simple).
3. One way to amplify the story for a kid is to help them live it out. When you think about the story they are living out, what are some experiences that you want them to have? Imagine each one as the central character of a really great story; what would you want to add to their plotline?