

# CONNECT

## A PARENT'S GUIDE

### to Making Faith Connections Using The Connect Bible Stories DVD Collection



### Welcome to the Connect Bible Stories DVDs!

The animated episodes of Connect are designed to tell God's big story by entertaining and engaging preteens with quirky characters and stories. Kids love following along as the characters put on plays about Bible stories, solve problems, and learn how the Bible relates to their lives.

### Using Connect Bible Stories DVDs with Your Family:

It's not always easy to tackle tough subjects with children—particularly the tough questions about faith, God, and our place in the world. The Connect Bible Stories DVDs and this parent guide are designed to make that job easier. Packed with discussion questions and activity ideas, this guide can be tailored to your family's temperament and schedule. Use it however and whenever you like—to spark conversation around the table, before bedtime, or even in the car, to enrich any family time with fun faith development.

### Discussion Questions

Watch one, a few, or all of the episodes with your child. If you watched more than one episode, ask your child to choose his or her favorite. Then use some or all of the following questions to spark discussion.

- What did you like about the episode? Why?
- What didn't you like? Why?
- What's one question it made you ask or left you curious about?
- Which characters were in this episode? What were their roles in the episode?
- What was the big problem that came up?
- How did the characters solve the problem?
- What did the characters learn?
- How does this lesson apply to your life?
- How does this connect to our family?
- What does this episode tell us about God's big story?

## Activities

### ROCK AND ROLL

Collect several rocks and a collection of permanent markers. The rocks can be any shape or size but should have at least one smooth(ish) side for writing on. Then, as a family, think back on one Connect episode, then each choose a word that comes to mind. The word could be the “takeaway” or lesson, or something else memorable from the episode. The word could be a theme or value, or it could be a random word that pops up for no (initially) obvious reason.

Once you know your word, write the word on the rock and decorate it. Once you’ve finished your rocks, place them in the center and talk about why you chose the word and what it says about the episode. You can do this activity for each episode and create a small “family altar” in which you can remember significant words in your life.

### GIVING JAR

The act of giving generously lies at the heart of the Scriptures and of our faith for many reasons. One reason is that being generous with our money and resources reminds us we are connected to others, and that there are practical ways to love our neighbors. These are two of the key lessons we learn in the Connect Bible Stories.

So why not start a simple family giving fund and experience the joy of giving as a family? Begin by selecting and decorating a vessel (mason jars or old vases work great) to put loose change or dollars in. Place it somewhere visible in your home. Then decide as a family where you would like the money to go. A person you know in need, animal shelters, food pantries, or local church ministries are always great places to start.

### HEAD AND SHOULDERS

Throughout the videos, the characters’ heads move separately and differently from the bodies. Though it’s fun and entertaining in the videos, it’s also thought provoking. Ask your child to think of a time when it seemed as though someone’s “body” moved or behaved differently than what their head may have been telling them. What should we do when we sense our own bodies at odds with our minds?

### WORDS TO REMEMBER

The episodes contain lines that are great to pull out and discuss further. Something like this from “12 Sons” can spark conversations about feeling let down by God: “God’s blessing doesn’t mean everything goes great for you all the time. Just because you encounter hardship doesn’t mean God has abandoned you.”

Use the space below to jot down other lines from episodes that you’d like to explore with your kids later.

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