

A PARENT'S GUIDE

to Making Faith Connections Using
The Spark Story Bible



Welcome to *The Spark Story Bible*!

This collection of beloved Bible stories was designed to make it easy and fun for children and adults to get to know the Bible together. Experience something new each time you read a story, through the carefully crafted words, the vibrant art, or the suggested activities and discussion questions. Grow in faith together as you explore God's Word.

Using *The Spark Story Bible* with Your Child

This parent guide can help you get more out of your experience reading *The Spark Story Bible* with your child. The story Bible itself offers numerous suggestions for activities and discussion questions. As you read with or to a child, you can stop and engage in those activities as they appear. You might make a special sound when one comes up, to transition from the story to the activity or question.

In addition, this guide offers ideas for further questions and activities. You can choose a time that works well for your family—at the end of the day, at the dinner table, or even in the car—to build on what you've read in the stories. The suggestions in this guide are meant to help grow your faith together by bringing Bible stories to life in your child's heart, mind, and soul.

Discussion Questions

Choose a favorite Bible story to talk about. Use the following questions to spark discussion.

- What makes this a favorite story?
- Who are the main people in this story? What do they care about?
- What was a problem that came up in the story? How was the problem solved?
- How does this story help you understand God's love?
- What lesson did people in the story learn?
- How does this story help us understand how God wants us to live?
- What is one way you can show your love for God today?

Activities

Squiggles

Be sure to watch for Squiggles, the expressive caterpillar whose response to each story will help spark children's engagement with the story. After you read the text aloud, find Squiggles on the page and ask your child how Squiggles is feeling. Then ask why Squiggles feels that way. Invite the child to share about a time they felt the same way that Squiggles does.

Squiggles Spotting

Squiggles the caterpillar shows up throughout *The Spark Story Bible*, but sometimes he is hard to spot and takes a bit of searching. One of the best things we learn about God in these stories is that God searches us out too—and sees the wonderful things about us that not everyone else always can. Why not take our Squiggles-spotting skills and use them to see one another as God see us. Take turns “spotting” something wonderful or maybe underappreciated in someone else. Maybe it's a kind thing one of you did for another, a special way someone smiles, or how they always have a funny joke or kind word.

Promises, Promises

We read about the comfort of God's promises through many Bible stories. Share this same comfort through a promise made and kept. Choose a person you know who could use some extra love or might need to feel special. Then write a note or call, text, or e-mail the person promising something special. Think about a specific need you can meet and let the person know of your intentions. Then follow up! Make good on your promise just like God does for us.

Themes to Remember

Though God's Word contains lots of stories and different characters, similar themes are woven throughout. And what we read in *The Spark Story Bible* is no different: lots of stories with similar themes, such as how God loves us, how God saves us, and God's peace and presence.

In which stories do you notice any of these themes? How did they show up?

Consider making a poster with each theme listed at top. Then when you read a story that touches on that theme, help your child list the story under that theme, or draw a picture of it, showing how it expresses the theme.