

Whirl



A PARENT'S GUIDE

to Making Faith Connections Pairing *The Whirl Story Bible* with the Whirl: Leo & Friends DVDs

This guide applies to *Trend or Friend and Other Inspired Adventures: Volume 2*

Welcome to Whirl!

Each animated episode of Whirl: Leo & Friends is designed to entertain kids with a story about Ada and her friends, as they have adventures, solve problems, and learn about faith together. Every episode is inspired by a story from the Bible. Check out the chart at the end of this guide to make these connections to Scripture. And *The Whirl Story Bible* contains wonderful retellings of many of these Bible stories. Whirl characters offer humorous commentary, insights, and questions that engage children with the stories.

Pairing *The Whirl Story Bible* and the Whirl: Leo & Friends DVDs:

One of the ways to get the most out of both *The Whirl Story Bible* and the Whirl: Leo & Friends DVDs is to pair them. Pick an episode and watch it, then find a Bible story related to it (see the chart at the end of this guide) and read it together. Then, have some fun together by asking questions and discussing the stories together.

After all, that's what both *The Whirl Story Bible* and the Whirl: Leo & Friends DVDs are all about. Both products are intended to help kids understand that the Bible is full of life and mystery and adventure—with stories of how God loves us no matter what.

The Whirl kids ask great questions in both *The Whirl Story Bible* and the DVDs—and they also have fun all along the way. Join them by creating your own fun adventures with the discussion questions and activities included in this guide. These work as well around the family table as they do on a family vacation. Tailor the activities and questions to fit your family as you see fit. In taking the time to do them together, you'll all grow deeper in an understanding of God's Word and God's love.

Discussion Questions

After watching an episode of Whirl: Leo & Friends and reading a story from *The Whirl Story Bible*, create some conversation using these discussion questions. Don't worry about asking them in a formal interview style. Keep it casual and fun, and feel free to improvise questions that help keep the discussion going.

- Which episode was your favorite and why?
- What happened in the episode you watched? What was one problem the people in it faced? How did they solve it? What was a lesson they learned? What was a lesson *you* learned?
- What happened in the Bible story you read? Who was in it? What was one problem the people in it faced? How did they solve it? What was a lesson they learned? What was a lesson *you* learned?
- How did the Whirl: Leo & Friends episode and the Bible story connect?
- Which character in Whirl: Leo & Friends did you like best and why? What makes this character special?
- Which character is most like you? What makes this character similar to you? How are you different?
- What is something your whole family could learn from this episode and the Bible story? How could what you learned help your family to grow stronger?
- How do these stories help you understand God's love for you?
- How do these stories help us understand how God wants us to live? What's one way you can live better for God today?

Activities

Flip the Script

Pretend you are a cartoonist. Pick your favorite Whirl episode and draw some scenes from it, using cartoon panels with a different scene in each. Then add a twist! Change a drawing to show one of the characters making a different choice or decision from the one he or she makes in the episode. Then draw what would happen next!

Share:

How does this change affect the outcome? What does it say about the choices we make and our relationship with God?

Sketch a Space

In Whirl stories, the church building itself is like a character. We see lots of spaces: the worship space, gathering areas, classrooms, and grounds outside. Think of your church building. Draw a picture of your favorite room or space or place. Draw what you like about it.

Share:

Why is this space your favorite? How does it remind you of God and God's presence?

Walk the Talk

The idea of loving our neighbors is central to the Whirl stories—because it's central to the Gospel! While "love thy neighbor" doesn't have to be about loving our actual neighbors, it's wonderful when it is. So, how about giving it a "whirl"? Take a walk through your neighborhood—or your favorite neck of the woods—and think about the people whose homes you pass. Offer a silent prayer for them and ask, "What's one way I can show this person or that family love?" Maybe you can bake cookies. Maybe rake leaves or pull weeds. Maybe roll their garbage cans to the curb. As you walk, open your mind and spirit to the tangible ways to show some neighborly love.

Share:

Who is the first person that comes to mind who needs to be shown love? How might you show it?

Sticky-Note It

The Whirl kids ask great questions and offer great insights throughout *The Whirl Story Bible*—encouraging us to ask our own questions and pose our own observations. So why not add our own? Before you read the next story, grab a stack of sticky notes and a few pens, markers, or colored pencils. Pass them out to everyone reading. Each of you can create a character version of yourself with an empty thought bubble next to it. Then, as you read the story, everyone can take note of thoughts or questions. Fill in the thought bubbles when you're done reading and stick your notes throughout the book and discuss!

Share:

What sparked the question or thought? What do you notice about all the notes together?

Set the Stage

Bring the stories from *The Whirl Story Bible* to life by acting them out! Choose one of your favorite stories and then choose one person to be narrator and another (or others) to act it out. Before you start, talk through the setting a bit: What time of day is it? What is the weather like? Are you inside or outside? Perhaps choose a couple of props. Then imagine the people in the story. What are they thinking? Feeling? Doing? Choose one person to read the story and others to act it out.

Want to ramp it up a bit? Why not contact a local retirement community or nursing home and see if you can take your show on the road? Or invite friends and neighbors to watch?

Share:

How does acting out a Bible story help you understand or relate to it?

Appendix

DVD Episode	Scripture Passage	Whirl Bible Story	Page
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