

A Journey in Biblical Faithfulness

Interactive Ideas for Children



By Jean K. Reynolds

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

You have the MP3s for your children. Now all you need are some ideas for keeping the children interested, listening, and learning. Forty days is a long time for children, but you can help them relate that amount of time to Bible stories, such as Noah and the ark and Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. A calendar to help children keep up with the stories and songs for each day can be downloaded from the CBF Web site. Here are some ideas to help children start and keep listening to *The Kidz Bible* for the next 40 days. By no means is this list complete; in fact, we encourage you to share your ideas with us so that we can, in turn, continue to share them with others.

The Kidz Bible

1. **Draw.** Ask the children to draw pictures about each story as they listen.
2. **Make it a family event.** Children can be learning leaders in their families by helping set up the MP3s so everyone can listen to the Bible stories and songs together.
3. **Traveling time.** Families can listen together in the car. They can talk about the stories. They can learn the songs and sing them together.
4. **Act.** These stories lend themselves easily to being acted out. Family members and/or friends can take different roles. The stories can be acted out as they are being read or after they have been read. Drama aids retention.
5. **Move.** Each story has background music. Children can move to the music as they are listening. This can be especially helpful for kinetic learners.
6. **Be like Noah.** Children can listen with a friend—building on the two-by-two concept they'll hear in the stories of Noah. After listening, they can discuss the stories.
7. **Write and tell.** Provide a small notebook or folder with notebook paper for the children to use. Ask them to create a list of words from the story that are important to them. They can then use their lists to tell the story to someone in their family or to a friend.
8. **Ask.** Encourage children to use their notebooks to write down any questions they have about the stories. They can then ask a parent, Bible teacher, or pastor to help answer the questions.
9. **Expand learning.** Often in multigenerational, ethnic families, children learn English quickly at school and playing in the neighborhood. Children can help family members learn English by listening to the Bible stories and songs together.
10. **Bible study groups.** Use the Bible stories and music as an activity as children arrive for Bible study. This can reinforce what the children are doing at home and provide first-time experiences for children who are just getting MP3s or missed some of the stories during the previous week.
11. **Sing.** Use the music as background while the children work on projects. The songs will help them remember the stories and share them with others.
12. **Quiz fun.** For your Bible study group, create questions based on the stories from the previous week's listening. This can improve recall of the stories.
13. **What's Next.** Another way to build recall is to play one part of a story and ask children to act out, draw, or tell the next part of the story.

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Audio Bibles for Youth and Adults

14. **Help others.** Older children could be matched with senior adults as listening partners for the audio New Testament. The children could help with the MP3s, making it possible for some senior adults to participate who might not have been able to because of vision or physical limitations.
15. **In my language.** The audio New Testament is available in other languages and can be downloaded free from the Faith Comes By Hearing Web site (www.faithcomesbyhearing.com). Older children can help families who speak another language access these online files. This could help children learn or improve their understanding of their first language.

During the 40-day listening time, use all of these different ways to help children know these stories and songs well. The Old Testament and New Testament stories in *The Kidz Bible* will give children a firm foundation on which to build their faith.