

52 INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORIES

A COLLECTION OF OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT
ACTION, ECHO, RHYTHM, AND SYLLABLE STORIES

Phyllis Vos Wezeman

DEDICATION

To Ashley Marie Pallo... Celebrate the Story! (P.V.W.)

THANKS

*To Active Learning Associates, Inc. and Educational Ministries, Inc.
for permission to include previously published stories in this collection.*

Copyright © 2009, 2017 Phyllis Vos Wezeman. All rights reserved. Published by The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. You are allowed to share and make unlimited copies of this document for use within the parish or school community that licensed it. If you serve more than one community, each should purchase its own license. You may not post this document to any web site (without explicit permission to do so). Thank you for cooperating with our honor system regarding our eResource licenses.

The Scripture passages contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. All rights reserved.



The Pastoral Center

CONTENTS

<u>Category Index</u>	4
<u>Scriptural Index</u>	5
<u>Introduction</u>	7
<u>Old Testament</u>	9
Creation: Day by Day	10
Adam and Eve: Creation and Consequences	12
Noah: Built a Boat	13
Abraham and Sarah: Strangers with a Surprise	14
Isaac, Esau, and Jacob: Blessing a Brother	15
Joseph: Rescued to Rule	16
Moses: Saved to Serve	17
Moses: Burning Bush	18
Moses: Plagues for Pharaoh	19
Ten Commandments: Laws for Living	21
Samson: Strength and Shame	22
Ruth: Loyalty and Love	23
Samuel: Prophet with a Purpose	24
Elijah: Protection and Provisions	26
Elisha: Oil That's Overflowing	27
Esther: Beauty and Bravery	28
Psalms 100: Glorify Your God	29
Psalms 150: One Spirit, One Story	30
Isaiah: God's Promised Gift	33
Daniel: Delivered from the Den	34
Jonah: Learning a Lesson	35

<u>New Testament</u>	<u>36</u>
Jesus: Born in Bethlehem	37
The Wise Men: Magi Seek Messiah	38
Simeon and Anna: Dedicated and Devoted	39
John the Baptist: Messenger of the Messiah	40
Peter: Chosen and Called	41
The Lord's Prayer: Learn the Lessons	42
Peter: Walks on Water	43
The Unforgiving Servant: Actions and Attitudes	44
Two Blind Men: Follow in Faith	45
The Good Samaritan: Neighbor in Need	46
Prayer: Ask for Answers	47
The Prodigal Son: Look at Love	48
Zacchaeus: Called by Christ	50
The Woman at the Well: Living New Life	51
Last to First: Places and Priorities	52
Jesus' Transfiguration: Teach the Transformation	53
Temple: Turn the Tables	54
Love: Just like Jesus	55
Mary: Offered Her Ointment	56
Footwashing: Served by the Savior	57
Holy Week: Day by Day	58
Holy Week: Events and Emotions	60
Jesus: Risen to Reign	61
The Disciples: Commissioned by Christ	62
Sunday: Emotions of Easter	63
Peter: Feed the Flock	65
Acts 2: Awaiting Agape	66
Pentecost: Sending the Spirit	68
Saul to Paul: Converted to Christianity	71
Peter: Power in Prison	72
Lydia: Heart and Hospitality	73
<u>About the Author</u>	<u>74</u>

CATEGORY INDEX

ACTION STORIES

Acts 2: Awaiting to Agape [Acts 2], 66
Creation: Day by Day [Genesis 1-2:3], 10
Footwashing: Served by the Savior [John 13:4-17], 57
Holy Week: Events and Emotions [Matthew 26:17-28:10; Mark 14:12-16:12; Luke 22:7-24:12; John 12:20-20:18], 60
Love: Just like Jesus [Matthew 22:37-39], 55
Moses: Plagues for Pharaoh [Exodus 5-11], 19
Pentecost: Sending the Spirit [Acts 2], 68
Peter: Feed the Flock [John 21:1-19], 65
Peter: Power in Prison [Acts 12:1-19], 72
Prayer: Ask for Answers [Luke 11:9-13], 47
Prodigal Son: Look at Love [Luke 15:11-32], 48
Psalms 150: One Spirit – One Story [Psalm 150], 30
Samuel: Prophet with a Purpose [1 Samuel 16:1-13], 24
Simeon and Anna: Dedicated and Devoted [Luke 2:21-40], 39
Sunday: Emotions of Easter [John 20:1-18], 63
Ten Commandments: Laws for Living [Exodus 20:1-21], 21
Unforgiving Servant: Actions and Attitudes [Matthew 18:23-25], 44
Zacchaeus: Called by Christ [Luke 19:1-10], 50

ECHO STORIES

Jesus' Transfiguration: Teach the Transformation [Luke 9:28-36], 53
Samson: Strength and Shame [Judges 13-16], 22
Sunday: Emotions of Easter [John 20:1-18], 63
Temple: Turn the Tables [Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:12-19; Luke 19:45-48], 54
Two Blind Men: Follow in Faith [Matthew 20:29-34], 45

RHYTHM STORIES

Abraham and Sarah: Strangers with a Surprise [Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7], 14
Adam and Eve: Creation and Consequences [Genesis 2:4b-3], 12
Daniel: Delivered from the Den [Daniel 6], 34
Disciples: Commissioned by Christ [Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; John 24:36-53], 62
Elijah: Protection and Provisions [1 Kings 17:1-7], 26
Elisha: Oil That's Overflowing [2 Kings 4:1-7], 27
Esther: Beauty and Bravery [Esther 1-10], 28
Holy Week: Day by Day [Matthew; Mark; Luke; John], 58
Isaac, Esau, and Jacob: Blessing a Brother [Genesis 27:1-29], 15
Isaiah: God's Promised Gift [Isaiah, Micah], 33
Jesus: Born in Bethlehem [Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20], 37
Jesus: Risen to Reign [Matthew 28:1-9], 61
Lord's Prayer: Learn the Lessons [Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-14], 42
Lydia: Heart and Hospitality [Acts 16:11-15], 73
Moses: Burning Bush [Exodus 3; 4:1-17], 18
Moses: Saved to Serve [Exodus 2:2-10], 17
Noah: Built a Boat [Genesis 6:1-9:29], 13
Peter: Chosen and Called [Matthew 4:18-19; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11], 41
Peter: Walks on Water [Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21], 43
Ruth: Loyalty and Love [Ruth 1-4], 23
Saul to Paul: Converted to Christianity [Acts 9:1-31], 71
Ten Commandments: Laws for Living [Exodus 20:1-21], 21
Wise Men: Magi Seek Messiah [Matthew 2:1-12], 38
Woman at the Well: Living New Life [John 4:1-15, 25-30, 39-42], 51

SYLLABLE STORIES

Good Samaritan: Neighbor in Need [Luke 10:29-37], 46
John the Baptist: Messenger of the Messiah [Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-20; John 1:19-34], 40
Jonah: Learning a Lesson [Jonah 1-4], 35
Joseph: Rescued to Rule [Genesis 37:3-4, 12-36; Genesis 47:11-12], 16
Last to First: Places and Priorities [Mark 9:33-35], 52
Mary: Offered Her Ointment [John 12:1-8], 56
Psalms 100: Glorify Your God [Psalm 100], 29

SCRIPTURAL INDEX

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1-2:3 - Creation: Day by Day [Action Story], 10
Genesis 2:4b-3 - Adam and Eve: Creation and Consequences [Rhythm Story], 12
Genesis 6:1-9:29 - Noah: Built a Boat [Rhythm Story], 13
Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 - Abraham and Sarah: Strangers with a Surprise [Rhythm Story], 14
Genesis 27:1-29 - Isaac, Esau, and Jacob: Blessing a Brother [Rhythm Story], 15
Genesis 37:3-4, 12-36 - Joseph: Rescued to Rule [Syllable Story], 16
Genesis 47:11-12 - Joseph: Rescued to Rule [Syllable Story], 16
Exodus 2:2-10 - Moses: Saved to Serve [Rhythm Story], 17
Exodus 3; 4:1-17 - Moses: Burning Bush [Rhythm Story], 18
Exodus 5-11 - Moses: Plagues for Pharaoh [Action Story], 19
Exodus 20:1-21 - Ten Commandments: Laws for Living [Action/Rhythm Story], 21
Judges 13-16 - Samson: Strength and Shame [Echo Story], 22
Ruth 1-4 - Ruth: Loyalty and Love [Rhythm Story], 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13 - Samuel: Prophet with a Purpose [Action Story], 24
1 Kings 17:1-7 - Elijah: Protection and Provisions [Rhythm Story], 26
2 Kings 4:1-7 - Elisha: Oil That's Overflowing [Rhythm Story], 27
Esther 1-10 - Esther: Beauty and Bravery [Rhythm Story], 28
Psalms 100 - Psalm 100: Glorify Your God [Syllable Story], 29
Psalms 150 - Psalm 150: One Spirit – One Story [Action Story], 30
Isaiah - Isaiah: God's Promised Gift [Rhythm Story], 33
Daniel 6 - Daniel: Delivered from the Den [Rhythm Story], 34
Jonah 1-4 - Jonah: Learning a Lesson [Syllable Story], 35
Micah - Isaiah: God's Promised Gift [Rhythm Story], 33



NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - Holy Week: Day by Day [Rhythm Story], 58
Matthew 1:18-25 - Jesus: Born in Bethlehem [Rhythm Story], 37
Matthew 2:1-12 - The Wise Men: Magi Seek Messiah [Rhythm Story], 38
Matthew 3:1-17 - John the Baptist: Messenger of the Messiah [Syllable Story], 40
Matthew 4:18-19 - Peter: Chosen and Called [Rhythm Story], 41
Matthew 6:9-13 - The Lord's Prayer: Learn the Lessons [Rhythm Story], 42
Matthew 14:22-33 - Peter: Walks on Water [Rhythm Story], 43
Matthew 18:23-25 - The Unforgiving Servant: Actions and Attitudes [Action Story], 44
Matthew 20:29-34 - Two Blind Men: Follow in Faith [Echo Story], 45
Matthew 21:12-17 - Temple: Turn the Tables [Echo Story], 54
Matthew 22:37-39 - Love: Just like Jesus [Action Story], 55
Matthew 26:17-28:10 - Holy Week: Events and Emotions [Action Story], 60
Matthew 28:1-9 - Jesus: Risen to Reign [Rhythm Story], 61
Matthew 28:16-20 - The Disciples: Commissioned by Christ [Rhythm Story], 62
Mark - Holy Week: Day by Day [Rhythm Story], 58
Mark 1:1-11 - John the Baptist: Messenger of the Messiah [Syllable Story], 40
Mark 1:16-20 - Peter: Chosen and Called [Rhythm Story], 41
Mark 6:45-52 - Peter: Walks on Water [Rhythm Story], 43
Mark 9:33-35 - Last to First: Places and Priorities [Syllable Story], 52
Mark 11:12-19 - Temple: Turn the Tables [Echo Story], 54
Mark 14:12-16:12 - Holy Week: Events and Emotions [Action Story], 60
Mark 16:14-20 - The Disciples: Commissioned by Christ [Rhythm Story], 62
Luke - Holy Week: Day by Day [Rhythm Story], 58
Luke 2:1-20 - Jesus: Born in Bethlehem [Rhythm Story], 37
Luke 2:21-40 - Simeon and Anna: Dedicated and Devoted [Action Story], 39
Luke 3:1-20 - John the Baptist: Messenger of the Messiah [Syllable Story], 40
Luke 5:1-11 - Peter: Chosen and Called [Rhythm Story], 41
Luke 9:28-36 - Jesus' Transfiguration: Teach the Transformation [Echo Story], 53
Luke 10:29-37 - The Good Samaritan: Neighbor in Need [Syllable Story], 46
Luke 11:1-14 - The Lord's Prayer: Learn the Lessons [Rhythm Story], 42
Luke 11:9-13 - Prayer: Ask for Answers [Action Story], 47
Luke 15:11-32 - The Prodigal Son: Look at Love [Action Story], 48
Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus: Called by Christ [Action Story], 50
Luke 19:45-48 - Temple: Turn the Tables [Echo Story], 54
Luke 22:7-24:12 - Holy Week: Events and Emotions [Action Story], 60
John - Holy Week: Day by Day [Rhythm Story], 58
John 1:19-34 - John the Baptist: Messenger of the Messiah [Syllable Story], 40
John 4:1-15, 25-30, 39-42 - The Woman at the Well: Living New Life [Rhythm Story], 51
John 6:15-21 - Peter: Walks on Water [Rhythm Story], 43
John 12:1-8 - Mary: Offered Her Ointment [Syllable Story], 56
John 12:20-20:18 - Holy Week: Events and Emotions [Action Story], 60
John 13:4-17 - Footwashing: Served by the Savior [Action Story], 57
John 20:1-18 - Sunday: Emotions of Easter [Echo/Action Story], 63
John 21:1-19 - Peter: Feed the Flock [Action Story], 65
John 24:36-53 - The Disciples: Commissioned by Christ [Rhythm Story], 62
Acts 2 - Awaiting to Agape [Action Story], 66
Acts 2 - Pentecost: Sending the Spirit [Action Story], 68
Acts 9:1-31 - Saul to Paul: Converted to Christianity [Rhythm Story], 71
Acts 12:1-19 - Peter: Power in Prison [Action Story], 72
Acts 16:11-15 - Lydia: Heart and Hospitality [Rhythm Story], 73

INTRODUCTION

Get ready to have lots of fun with the children in your class! Believe me, they will love these brief excursions into the lives of biblical people. This collection tells stories using four methods, each of which involve the learner in the process and assure that the Bible story is meaningful as well as memorable. To make the best use of these activities, use the following directions for sharing each kind of story:

ACTION STORIES

Action stories include gestures and movements to interpret each line. This method involves learners in the process and assures that the Bible story is meaningful as well as memorable. To use an action story, have the group of listeners sit or stand facing the leader who tells the story and demonstrates all motions. Words to be repeated can be written out on newsprint or on a chalkboard, or can simply be emphasized with the voice so that the listeners understand the key word(s). The group or the leader may also improvise additional gestures and movements.

RHYTHM STORIES

The words of rhythm stories may be written on newsprint or on a chalkboard, or may simply be emphasized with the voice. To tell the story, have the participants sit or stand facing the leader. Begin by establishing the clapping pattern, one clap on the knees and one clap of the hands. Practice the beat several times. Say the first line of the story to this rhythm and tell the group to echo (or repeat) it back. Communicate the entire story in this manner. Maintain the established rhythm throughout.

ECHO STORIES

In an echo story the leader says a line and places special emphasis on the last phrase of each sentence, the capitalized word in the script. A gesture, such as raising a palm at the point where repetition is to begin, gives participants a clue to listen carefully for the words they are to repeat. Then the leader and the participants echo or recite these words together.

SYLLABLE STORIES

Share a Bible passage by using the two syllables in each line to tell the story. Establish the rhythm by slapping thighs once and snapping fingers of first one hand and then the other. Maintain this rhythmic pattern throughout the entire story. Say one syllable of the first line as thighs are slapped and the second syllable as fingers are snapped. The entire narrative is told in this quick, catchy manner.

HOW TO USE THE STORIES

While the contents of this collection are mainly intended for learners in a classroom, the material may be easily adapted for use by children, youth, and adults in small and large group settings. The stories are ideal for religious education classes, parochial school programs, vacation Bible school courses, confirmation sessions, intergenerational events, youth groups, retreat settings, family devotions, home schooling, and more. This collection will be welcomed by religious education directors, teachers, leaders, parents, and pastors.

In order to make the best use of this collection, let's consider a few ways that it will be helpful to the volunteer teacher leading a religion lesson in a parish setting.

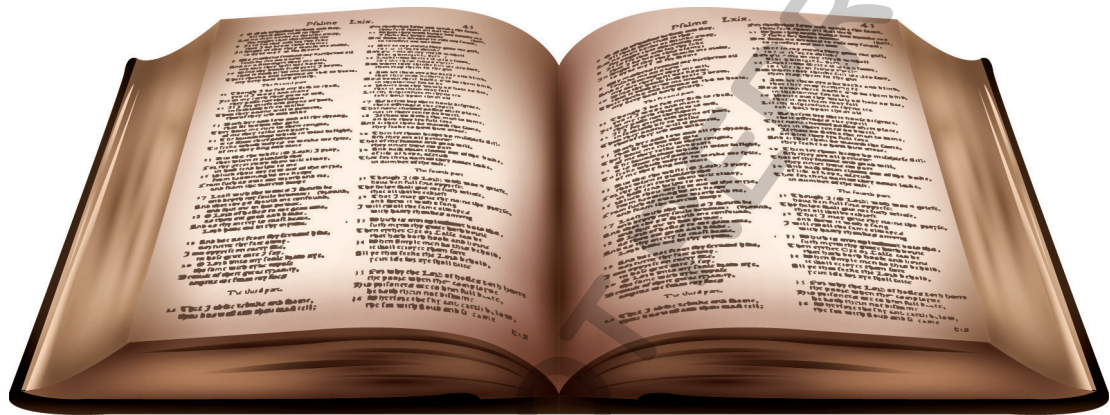
Maybe you work from a prescribed curriculum or a purchased textbook to teach a class. The instructions are clear about what story to tell and the basic information to convey, but you are looking for some way to make the lesson more meaningful, memorable, and engaging. You want to involve the learners in the story so that they will appreciate the message for their lives. That's the point at which this book becomes an extremely helpful resource. The interactive stories can be used to open, enrich, expand, or conclude any lesson for five or ten minutes.

Or you may be a religious education teacher who is free to select the story you want to tell based on the season of the church year or the focus of a particular program. However, just knowing the focus for a lesson is not enough. Effective teachers know that a lesson has key elements that guide student learning from the introduction of an objective to a meaningful outcome. They accept responsibility for planning each lesson, much like an accomplished cook plans a balanced menu from appetizer to dessert. This book can help you include that key element of a successful lesson. Sift through the stories to find something catchy to introduce the lesson and the objective.

The beauty of this book is that no matter your teaching situation and no matter the lesson assigned, you can use and re-use the contents to find a fresh approach to telling the story—and, ultimately, to help your learners make it their story. Jesus used storytelling as his primary teaching tool. He improvised the lesson based on his listeners and their needs. While none of us can expect to teach like the Master, we can adopt a more flexible approach that allows creativity and innovation to guide our lesson preparation and presentation.

Have fun with these stories—I know you will.

—Phyllis Vos Wezeman



Old Testament



CREATION *Day by Day*

Genesis 1-2:3 ♦ ACTION STORY

On Day One

[Hold up one finger]

God had fun!

[Smile]

Darkness - night!

[Close or cover eyes]

Daytime - light!

[Open or uncover eyes]

Then Day Two

[Hold up two fingers]

skies of blue.

[Cup hand over eyes and look up]

Now Day Three

[Raise three fingers]

earth came to be.

[Extend arms in front of body, making gesture of forming land]

Waters formed seas.

[Move arm up and down like waves]

Fruit filled trees.

[Extend arms overhead and move them like branches]

During Day Four

[Raise four fingers]

God made more!

[Open palm and extend arm from front to side of body]

Daytime - sun.

[Hold arms over head forming large circle]

Moon, just one,

[Form small circle with thumbs and fingertips]

shines at night.

[Point to sky]

Stars are bright!

[Hold up arms, open hands and move fingers in twinkling motion]

Day Five arrived!

[Raise five fingers]



Things came alive!

[Jump in place]

Birds in the air.

[Motion flying birds]

Fish everywhere.

[Motion swimming fish]

Came Day Six

[Hold up six fingers]

quite a mix!

[Roll arms in mixing motion]

Animals galore!

[Make movements of several different animals]

There was more!

[Hold up one hand in waiting or stop gesture]

People came too!

[Extend one hand from top to bottom of body]

Like me and you!

[Point to self and others]

Last - Day Seven.

[Hold up seven fingers]

God in heaven

[Point up]

blessed each one.

[Extend arm in gesture of blessing]

The job was done!

[Clap]



ADAM AND EVE

Creation and Consequences

Genesis 2:4b-3 ♦ RHYTHM STORY

When God made this great, big world,
He formed one special man
to care for the Creation.
It was part of God's plan.

Adam lived in the Garden of Eden
and tended God's creation there.
Lots of animals and trees and flowers,
but no people anywhere.

God could see that Adam was lonely,
and didn't want to live alone.
So God made another person
out of Adam's own rib bone.

God gave Adam and Eve the Garden
to be their very special home.
God said "Eat any fruit that you want,
just leave one certain tree alone."

A snake came to the woman
and tempted her to disobey.
"If you eat the fruit of this tree
you'll be wise as God today."

Eve ate and so did Adam,
although God had told them "No."
They tried to hide from their Maker,
but God found them and told them "Go!"

"Because you disobeyed me,
you must labor all your days.
Your life would have been much better
if you followed all God's ways."



NOAH *Built a Boat*

Genesis 6:1-9:29 ♦ RHYTHM STORY

There was a man named Noah,
he loved and served the Lord.
When God told him to build an ark,
poor Noah, he was floored.

He hammered and he pounded.
His neighbors laughed and jeered.
“There is no rain in sight,” they said.
Noah’s flipped his lid, they feared.

Noah followed God’s instructions.
His family would be spared.
A flood would destroy the rest of the
earth
because people had sinned and erred.

Noah gathered all his family,
and many animals, two by two.
They boarded the ark as God had
planned.
It was a traveling zoo.

The rain came down for forty days.
Water covered all the land.
They stayed aboard for many months,
and were guided by God’s hand.

When the water began receding
Noah wondered how he would know
when it was safe to leave the ark,
to pack his things and go.

Noah sent out a bird, the raven,
to see if dry land could be found.
But since the raven never returned,
it meant there was no dry ground.

Then Noah sent out a special bird,
a dove, so white and pure.
It returned to the ark with an olive
branch.
Noah knew it was safe for sure.

The dove has become the symbol
of peace throughout the land.
The olive branch reminds us
that peace is part of God’s plan.

Peacemaking Creatively through the Arts. Wezeman, Phyllis Vos. Prescott, AZ: Educational Ministries, 1990. Used by permission.



JOSEPH *Rescued to Rule*

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-36; 47:11-12 ♦ SYLLABLE STORY

Ja-cob's
fa-vorite
son was
Jo-seph.

Ja-cob
gave him
a gift
of a
bright-ly
color-ed
gar-ment.

This coat
was red,
and blue
and green.
It was
yel-low,
or-ange,
pur-ple,
char-treuse,
fuch-sia,
and more.

Jo-seph
wore it
proud-ly.

The gift
made his
other
broth-ers
jeal-ous.

One day
they stole
the coat
from Joe.

They sold
Jo-seph
to some
trad-ers.

But God
was with
Jo-seph.

God made
Jo-seph
rul-er
of all
E-gypt.

So Joe
saved his
fam-ily
dur-ing
a great
fa-mine.

Jo-seph's
broth-ers
were so
sor-ry
and he
for-gave
them all.

God helps
those who
love and
trust Him.



SAMSON *Strength and Shame*

Judges 13-16 ♦ ECHO STORY

Samson's special gift from God was **STRENGTH**. (STRENGTH)

When he fought the lion he was **SAVED**. (SAVED)

People tried to learn about the **SOURCE**. (SOURCE)

He did mighty acts 'cause he was **STRONG**. (STRONG)

Delilah tried to figure out his **SECRET**. (SECRET)

Finally Samson told her to use **SCISSORS**. (SCISSORS)

Then she took his hair and made a **SNIP**. (SNIP)

Samson lost his strength and then came **SHAME**. (SHAME)

Since he didn't trust God he had to **SUFFER**. (SUFFER)

Once again he prayed that he might **SERVE**. (SERVE)

And God gave him back some of his **STRENGTH**. (STRENGTH)

Samson pulled a building and it **SHATTERED**. (SHATTERED)

All the wicked folks inside were **SMASHED**. (SMASHED)

Samson's strength showed that God was **SUPREME**. (SUPREME)