
How to Use this Book

The purpose of this book is to teach the Bible as a complete story. There are numerous Bibles and other books that set out to accomplish this same goal. What makes this book different is the use of activities and object lessons to teach the full story. The entire family will learn together as they complete the lessons in this book.

Learning the full story of the Bible will provide “hooks” on which to hang individual stories and scriptures. Knowing the context increases understanding and retention.

“Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet: ‘I will speak to you in parables. I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world.’” {Matthew 13:34 NLT} Children, youth and adults learn more when the process involves visual, hands-on activities.

Reproducible images, graphics and worksheets can be downloaded and printed at: www.famtime.com/godsawesomestory.

Who Should Use this Book?

This book is aimed primarily at three groups. The first group is families with children, youth and teens who have grown up in the church or who have a basic understanding of the Bible. Younger children will benefit from the Storybook activities. The lessons are designed to be completed in 20 minutes and the goal is to complete at least one lesson per week.

Some older teens will be eager to do these fun and challenging lessons with their family. Other older teens may be reluctant. One forum that has been successful in overcoming some of the reluctance is having two or three families do the lessons together. The teens enjoy being with their friends and the parents can share in the leadership.

The second group is Youth and Family Ministry leaders. Consider offering a class for youth AND parents...together. Rob Rienow, founder of Visionary

Family, says “The role of the church is to gently and consistently nudge parents toward their teens and nudge teens toward their parents.” Teaching a class of parents and youth together is a great way to strengthen families.

The idea for this book came from a parent and teen class called Meat N’ Potatoes. For the first 30 minutes, parents would hang out with parents and teens would hang out with teens. During the second 30 minutes, parents and teens would learn together by completing one of the lessons in this book.

The third group includes adults and new believers. This book is excellent for learning and reviewing general Bible knowledge. Too often the Bible has been used as a book of quotations. The reader learns individual scriptures and stories but remains unaware of the context and how the individual scriptures fit within the full story. Everyone will benefit from learning the full story of the Bible.

A New Generation of Teachers

Family Time activities are excellent tools for modeling and preparing youth to become spiritual teachers. It may be hard to imagine now, but some older youth are within 10 years of raising their own children...your grandchildren! Youth raised in homes where parents lead spiritual training are more likely to include spiritual training in their future homes. Youth who lead spiritual lessons with younger children are being trained to lead spiritual lessons with their own children.

Encouraging youth to teach younger children at home or as part of children’s ministry is a great way for them to gain teaching experience. Teens may find a few of the activities in this book too simplistic. Challenge teens to learn and share these simpler activities with younger children in the home, neighborhood or at church.

Parents, consider team teaching with your son or daughter a children’s class at church. Churches will provide curriculum for the class and there are hundreds of Family Time activities {www.famtime.com} which can be used to enhance the lessons.

Parents passing the faith from generation to generation is God’s plan for filling the earth with people who love him. Eight times in Deuteronomy, God instructs us to teach our children. If we, the parents, don’t teach our teens now to share their faith, then who will? How will it happen when they are in their early or late 20’s and out of our homes? Our youth are not too young to learn to share their faith.