

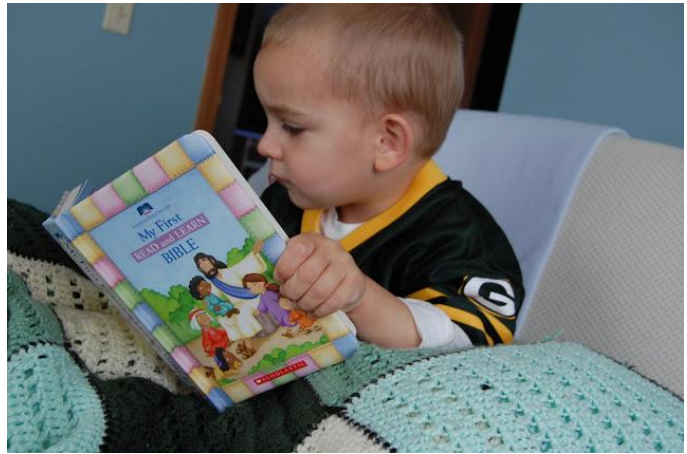
Children's Bible traveling bag

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I have done a traveling Bible with my many first grade classes. I found that most of the children did not have Bibles at home and knew very few stories and lessons from both the Old and New Testaments. They didn't know the stories of Jonah, Joseph, Moses, Lazarus, Zacchaeus, and even Jesus and his apostles.

I wanted the children to read scripture stories at home so their families could be involved and learn with them. I purchased a beautiful children's Bible with gold pages and very colorful illustrations. It was placed in a canvas bag with several pages of white drawing paper and an instruction sheet (addressed to parent and child).

Each week, the Bible went home for the week with a different child. The child could read as many stories as she/he wanted, from either testament. The children were encouraged to read with a parent to strengthen reading skills and have the parent involved in what they were learning in religious education. The child then had to pick his/her favorite story and draw a picture on one page. Some children picked one favorite story from the Old Testament and New Testament.

The following week after opening prayer, the child would come up to the front of class and tell us his/her favorite story, show us his/her picture and tell us what they learned from the story. I would put a sticker on the picture and hand it back to take home for display. Then the child would ceremoniously pass on the Bible to the next student to take home.

The children loved learning the favorite stories of their classmates and it prompted them to want to read stories that they were not familiar with when it was their turn. This also was a wonderful opportunity for the child and parents to read the Bible together and learn to love scripture.