

Instructions for ESL Bible Study or Book Club using The Jesus Storybook Bible

The Jesus Storybook Bible is a great resource for ESL Ministries. If you are inviting Christians to join your group, call it an ESL Bible Study. If you are inviting some non-Christians, then you might want to call it an ESL Book Club and let them know you are using The Jesus Storybook Bible as your book selection. Either way, the format of the class would be basically the same. I want to thank Janet Pryor, ESL Director at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church in Relay, Maryland, for compiling the vocabulary lists to go with The Jesus Story Book Bible. Below is a suggestion of how you could structure the class.

You can either do the whole book, starting with Creation. Or you could start with the birth of Jesus. One of the aspects of The Jesus Story Book Bible that I really like is that in each Old Testament story, it points to the coming Rescuer – Jesus.

Each class you would do just one Chapter. Each student should have their own personal copy of the Jesus Storybook Bible so that they can continue to read it at home. Some classes ask the students to purchase their own copies and others provide them. You can purchase them from Amazon and other on-line book stores for between \$10 to \$15 a piece.

1. Open the class with prayer (in simple easy English in the name of Jesus).
2. Start with an opening question to get the students talking. Each student and teacher should answer this question. It may or may not relate to your chapter content. This is a good way to get to know your students. You could ask questions about their childhood or home countries. You can try to relate it to the chapter material. For instance, in the chapter about John the Baptist, you could start with the question, “What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?”
3. Review the chapter/story from last week. Teacher gives a simple recap. Ask students who were present last week a few simple questions about it.
4. Have a teacher read the entire new chapter out loud (slowly).
5. Go over the vocabulary words for the new chapter.
 - Do repetition drills with each word.
 - Explain the meaning of each word.
 - Is there a visual to go along with it in The Jesus Storybook Bible?
 - Is there a visual/object you could bring to enhance the meaning of the word?
 - Have the students put the words in sentences (if they can).
6. Now read the Chapter again by having each student read a portion of the chapter out loud. According to how many students you have they might read just a sentence at a time or perhaps a paragraph or a whole page.
7. Now go back to the beginning of the chapter and ask simple questions about what they have read. Who, what, when, where, why type questions. Please don't rush and give the answers when the students are slow to answer. Remember triangulation is probably

happening. (The student hears the question in English and then in their mind translates it into their heart language. They then figure out the answer in their heart language and in their head translate that into English. Finally after a bit of time has elapsed they can answer the question in English.) We Americans tend to answer our own questions if a person doesn't respond within 3 seconds. We need to give our students way more time than that!!

- 8. Close in prayer. If you feel comfortable, you can ask if there are any specific prayer requests. Thank them for coming to class and encourage them to read through the chapter again at home many times during the week.**