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**BIBLE BASICS**  
 THE BIBLE IN 200 STORIES  
 BEGINNER'S GUIDE

# Introduction to the material

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATERIAL

This children's service material has been produced by the Bible Society for the Netherlands and Flanders.

We think it is important that both the Bible and the child are taken seriously. That is why we work with the following two principles:

### - Focus on the Bible and the world of the Bible

The stories in the Bible are very powerful. They each tell their own story, which is passed on from generation to generation.

In our material, we remain close to the stories from the Bible. The retellings of the stories for the youngest children remain close to the text. For the group of older children, we advise leaders to use the text from the Good News Translation. Of course, you can also use another translation to read from.

We offer additional information about the story, the time and the culture of the Bible. This is how we let the stories speak to the children.

### - Focus on the child

Children have a good ability to think about stories from the Bible and their meaning themselves. They often have ideas and questions concerning the stories. That is why it is important to really look at and listen to the children: What do they like, or think is beautiful? What are they curious about? What do they think about what happens in the stories?

It is important to take the children seriously when you are talking about the Bible together.

This is why:

- Our material directly fits in with the religious and educational goals within child theology. The child and its way of thinking are given ample space.
- The form and content of the material have been adjusted to fit the language, the level of intelligence and the world of 4-8 and 8-12 year olds.
- We have taken into account the fact that children have different (learning) preferences. The information and the tasks are very diverse, so that children are engaged in different ways.

### Every program consists of the following elements:

- ✓ Explanation and context of the bible passage
- ✓ Overview of the necessary materials
- ✓ Activities for the start of the service
- ✓ The Bible story of the week in two versions: a retelling of the story for age 4-8 and the Bible text for age 8-12
- ✓ Facts
- ✓ Beautiful illustrations
- ✓ Discussion questions to understand the story and to experience the relevance for their own life
- ✓ Puzzles, crafts and experiments
- ✓ A short prayer in plain language
- ✓ Suggestions for songs
- ✓ Suggestions for a children's moment in the regular service

Users can download the material from [biblebasics.nl](http://biblebasics.nl). They can use it digitally or print the material to use it in the church service.

Bible Basics is a work in progress. The first programs will be available in May 2021, the rest is still under development.

# User manual

## Bible Basics consists of:

- ✓ Over 200 essential stories from the Bible
- ✓ Material complementing the stories from the Bible for children aged 4-8 and 8-12 years old

## What makes Bible Basics unique?

- ✓ Faithful to the Bible
- ✓ Attention for the child
- ✓ Freely and digitally available
- ✓ Suitable for both small and large groups

## How does the material work?

Before you start using Bible Basics, it is useful to know how the material is composed. The material for each Sunday consists of three parts:

- Preparation: This is what you need to do at home to be prepared for the children's service.
- Sunday building blocks: This is the material that is used for the children's service.
- Worksheets: You can print these and give them to the children.

## For small and large groups

Each component of the material specified below is called a 'building block'. This means that you can choose which components you want to use for the children's service yourself. In other words, you can completely customize your children's service, so that it fits both small and large groups.

At the heart of it all is the story from the Bible. In addition, you can choose to discuss the questions and do the tasks. Or you can opt for using the 'Warming up', and then pray and do one task.

For several of the building blocks you can find suggestions for variation. For example when you have a bigger or smaller group, when there are more younger or older children, or when you have brief or longer children's services.

## Age groups

The material is devised for two age groups: children 4-8 years old and 8-12 years old. This means that you can choose where you put the 8 year olds, depending on where they will fit best. This will be different in each church and for each child.

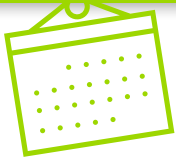
The youngest group is sometimes divided into two smaller groups: 4-6 year olds and 6-8 year olds. Again, you can decide what fits your group best.



# Preparation

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO THIS SUNDAY

A couple of sentences tell you the basic plot of the story and the theme for this Sunday.



## 2. CONTEXT OF THE BIBLE PASSAGE

Here you can find the context of the story from the Bible, or you can read more about the book in which the story can be found. This is how you can find out more about the bigger themes and topics of the book, or about other stories and texts with the same themes.



## 3. EXPLANATION OF THE BIBLE PASSAGE

This text provides more background information to the text from the Bible. It dives a little deeper into the text: What exactly is the story about? What does it want to tell us? How does this story fit within the Bible?



## 4. FROM THE BIBLE

Each Sunday we focus on a specific bibleverse from the biblepassage. You can also find this text on the worksheet with the illustration for the youngest group and on the worksheet for the older group, together with 'Did you know?'.



## 5. WHAT WILL YOU NEED?

Here you can find an overview of all the materials you are going to need for this Sunday. One look at this list tells you whether you have to buy or prepare something beforehand.



*Tip*

Buy some thick paper at the beginning of the season. You can print the illustration with the bibleverse for the younger children and the worksheet with the text for the older children and hand them out on Sunday.



# Building blocks of the Sunday

## During the church service

### 6. CHILDRENS MOMENT IN THE SERVICE

The material provides ideas to take a moment with the children during the church service. That way, the children and their parents find out what the topic of the children's service is going to be. Of course, you can also use these ideas during the children's service if you do not have the time to do it during the church service.



## During the children's service

### 7. TO START OFF

Here you can find an idea to start the children's service. It is intended to raise the children's curiosity about the theme of the service. Of course, you can also use this idea during the church service.



### 8. PRAYER FOR THE START OF THE CHILDRENS SERVICE

Each week we provide an example of a prayer that can be said at the beginning of the children's service.



### 9. BIBLE STORY

Every week, there is a retelling of the text from the Bible with a large illustration for the youngest group. This story can be read to the children, or retold in your own words. You can use the illustration before, during or after telling the story to the children. This way, they will find out even more about the story. You can also print the illustration for the children, so they can take it home with them.

You can read the text from the Bible for the oldest group. This story has been included in the material, but we recommend reading it from a Bible. This way, the children will start to recognize the Bible, and they will be able to see where the story comes from.



#### Tip

The Good News Translation can also be read by the children themselves.

# Building blocks of the Sunday

## 10. FACT FILE



Each Sunday, we provide some facts that explain something about the time of the Bible. These facts can help you prepare for the Sunday service. They are also on the worksheet for the oldest group, so they can reread the information at home.

## 11. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



The Bible Basics material includes questions for both age groups. There are different kinds of questions: 'knowledge questions' and 'thinking questions'. The children can find the answers to the knowledge questions themselves, for example in the story. Together, you can keep thinking about the other questions. There are no wrong answers!

## 12. DOING



For the youngest group, there is at least one task that fits the story and the theme of the Sunday. Sometimes, two different options are given, intended for 4-6 year olds and 6-8 year olds. If necessary, the tasks are on a worksheet that can be printed and given to the children. This way, it is also possible for the children to finish the task at home, or to do the task again.



*Tip*

*Give the children in the oldest group a folder in which they can keep the worksheets. Over time, they will fill this folder with worksheets with facts, texts from the Bible and fun tasks.*

For the oldest group, there are at least two different tasks that you can choose to do. One is usually a puzzle, a short task or a quiz. The other one is often an experiment or a game. These tasks are on the worksheet that the children get to take home with them. The text from the Bible and the facts are also on this worksheet.

## 13. BLESSING



If the groups of children do not return to the church service any more, you can say the blessing together. The blessing is from Numbers 6:24-26, and it is the same (or similar to the) blessing that is pronounced in many churches at the end of a service.

## 14. WORKSHEETS

### 4-8 years old

There is always at least one worksheet for the youngest group:

- The illustration: you can show this to the children on a tablet or laptop computer or using a beamer, or print it at home and take it with you. You can also print one for each child and hand it out for them to take home.
- If you need drawings or other illustrations on paper for this group, you can also find them on a worksheet.

### 8-12 years old

There is always a worksheet for the oldest group. This worksheet often consists of two parts. On the worksheet, you can find:

- Did you know?
- The text from the Bible for this group
- The tasks

# Bible Society for the Netherlands and Flanders

The Bible Society for the Netherlands and Flanders connects the Bible with biblereaders nowadays. We pass on the Bible to the next generations, in different languages and in new shapes. Our main purposes are:

## **The Bible Open:**

Everyone can experience the Bible as a relevant source for their life. We want everyone who is willing, to be able to discover, read and embrace the bible. Whether it is for a first time or daily on a new way. We look at what is necessary; a translation in a language that had no translation, a reading plan or an audioversion of the Bible. Because the Bible is for everyone!

## **Every Child:**

Every child gets the opportunity to discover the Bible before their fifteenth year. We want every child to have the possibility to discover, read and embrace the Bible, whether at home, via the school or the church. In the Netherlands and Flanders we develop material like Bible Basics, worldwide we spread different versions of the Family Bible.

Together with over 150 Bible Societies we translate and spread the Bible all over the world. This is very much necessary, as there are still a lot of people who don't have the Bible in their own language. In the past years we provided audio bibles in Ethiopia and children's Bibles in Ukraine, and we spread a million bibles on Cuba.

The Bible Society for the Netherlands and Flanders brings the Bible close to people thanks to the support of members and donors. Read more about our work and how you can help: [bijbelgenootschap.nl/english](http://bijbelgenootschap.nl/english).

**Bible Basics, the Bible in 200 stories, is our new, fully digital,  
program for children's church services and Sunday school.**

Bible Basics contains 200 essential stories from the Bible. Not only the well-known stories about Abraham, Joseph and Jesus come to pass, but also texts from the Psalms, Ecclesiastes and the letters from Paul.

Do you have any questions or do you want more information?

Please contact us!

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**BIBLE BASICS**