



A snack for the journey: Have a conversation while out and about.

Photocopy these pages, or tear them out, to take with you while "out and about".

You can also download a copy from

www.thegoodbook.co.uk/beginningwithgod

The beginning (Genesis 1)

Point out things like an animal your child likes, a pretty leaf, an interesting stone, a massive tree... and ask your child: **Who made this?** (GOD!) **Yes, God made everything.**

Adam & Eve (Genesis 2)

Point to some children having fun together: **They look like they are good friends. Who did God make to be Adam's special friend?** (EVE)

The sneaky snake (Genesis 3)

Point out a nice garden. **Remember the lovely garden God gave to Adam and Eve? Did they do what God said?** (NO!) **Did that make God happy and pleased or sad and angry?** (SAD AND ANGRY!) **That's right—sad and angry. They had to leave the lovely garden.**

Noah's ark (Genesis 6 – 9)

Comment on the weather. **What was the weather like in our true story about Noah? Was it dry or rainy?** (RAINY!) **The whole world was covered in water—there was no dry land at all! Who did God rescue in the ark?** (NOAH)

The tall tower (Genesis 11)

Point to something impressive (like a tall building) and say something like: **That's a great _____.** **The people who made that were clever. BUT who is the greatest?** (GOD!)

A new home (Genesis 12 – 17)

Make a promise to your child at the start of a journey (one you can keep!). **I promise you that when we get _____** (eg: to the shops), **you can have/have a turn on/go to** (eg: some stickers). **That's a good promise, isn't it? Who makes even greater promises?** (GOD!) **Did Abraham believe God's promises?** (YES!) When you keep your promise, point out that God always keeps His promises.

The visitors (Genesis 18 & 21)

When you see a baby in a buggy, ask your child: **Who promised to give Abraham and Sarah a baby?** (GOD) If this is too easy, you could ask: **Who did God promise to give a baby to?** (ABRAHAM AND SARAH) **Did God keep His promise?** (YES!)

A bride for Isaac (Genesis 24)

Point out someone helping someone else. This should be easy to spot in a playground with smaller children being assisted by older siblings or parents. Ask your child: **Who did Abraham's servant ask for help?** (GOD) **Did God help him?** (YES)

Jacob's blessing (Genesis 27)

Find some things for your child to touch. **Who did Jacob feel like when Isaac touched him?** (ESAU) **Who did God choose to be part of His promise?** (JACOB)

Jacob's dream (Genesis 28)

Point out a sleeping baby. **Was Jacob asleep in our true story last night?** (YES) Or you could ask this the other way round: **Who was asleep in our true story last night?** (JACOB!) **What did God tell Jacob about while he was asleep?** (HIS PROMISE)



Jacob and Esau meet again (Genesis 29 – 33)

Play a more active version of the appetizer game.

I tell you to... run to that tree, find a leaf, go on the slide... Ask them: **Who told Jacob to go home?** (GOD) or **What did God tell Jacob to do?** (GO HOME) **Did Jacob do what God said?** (YES!)

Joseph's colourful robe (Genesis 37)

Look out together for a lovely colourful coat or sweater. Ask your child: **Who had a colourful robe in our true story from the Bible?** (JOSEPH) **Were his brothers kind or nasty to him?** (NASTY) **Who was in control and looking after Joseph?** (GOD!)

Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 39 – 41)

Point out some food in a shop or café. Ask your child: **Who had a dream about food?** (PHARAOH) **Who helped Joseph to understand the dream?** (GOD) **Yes, God was looking after Joseph.**

Joseph saves his family (Genesis 42 – 43)

Have some of your snack together while out and about, but save some for later in the walk. Ask your child: **Who helped save up food in Egypt?** (JOSEPH) **Who was in control and looking after Joseph and his family?** (GOD!) Don't forget to enjoy the rest of your snack later!

An angel visits Mary (Luke 1 v 26-38)

Point out a pregnant lady or a mum with a young baby. **That lady is going to have a baby/has just had a baby. Who was going to have a baby in our true story from the Bible?** (MARY) **Yes—God told her she would have a very special baby boy called Jesus and He would be God's Son.**

Baby Jesus is born (Luke 2 v 1-7)

Point out a young baby in a buggy. **That's a cosy place to sleep! Where did Mary lay baby Jesus in our true story from the Bible?** (A MANGER) **Yes, even though He was God's Son, baby Jesus lay in a manger where the animals normally ate!**

Shepherds visit (Luke 2 v 8-20)

Point out people who look excited. **They look excited** (eg: about being in the park). **Who was excited about Jesus in our true story from the Bible?** (ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS) **Yes, it was so exciting that Jesus was born that angels sang in the sky and the shepherds told everyone the good news.**

Simeon and Anna meet baby Jesus (Luke 2 v 25-38)

Point out rescue related things (eg: an ambulance, a hospital, the doctors, or a fire station) and/or ask questions like: **Who could help you if you hurt yourself? Who could help us if we couldn't find our way home?** Then ask: **Who did Simeon and Anna say would save people?** (JESUS) **Yes. We need help to be God's friends and Jesus can help us.**

The bright star and three visitors (Matthew 2 v 1-12)

Take a look at the sky. Ask your child what they can see in the sky. Point out things like clouds, the sun, an airplane etc. **What did the wise men see in the sky?** (A STAR) **Yes, a star that led them to Jesus—the King of everyone.**

An angry king (Matthew 2 v 13-23)

Point out something that keeps your child (or people in general) safe (eg: straps in the pushchair, reins, a cycle helmet, a seatbelt or car seat). Ask your child: **Who did God keep safe from the angry king?** (JESUS) To make it harder for older children, ask: **Who tried to hurt Jesus?** (THE ANGRY KING/KING HEROD) **Did God keep Jesus safe?** (YES)

Jesus is lost (Luke 2 v 41-52)

Point out a little boy with his father. Ask your child if they can remember the true story from the Bible about Jesus when He was a young boy. Jesus was in the temple teaching people about His Father. **Is God Jesus' Father?** (YES)

John baptises Jesus (Matthew 3 v 1-17))

Let's try and spot someone who looks happy and pleased. Was God pleased with His Son, Jesus? (YES) Alternatively, you could ask: **Who was God pleased with?** (JESUS) **Yes! His Son, Jesus.**

Jesus chooses His disciples (Matthew 4, 9, 10)

Play another game of following the leader—perhaps this time you'll have more space and can vary the game a little. Ask your child: **How many people followed Jesus in our true story from the Bible?** (TWELVE) **Yes, Jesus had twelve special friends. He taught them all about who He was and the special thing He was going to do.**

Jesus' first miracle (John 2 v 1-11)

Talk with your child while they are having a drink (preferably of water). **This is nice. Are you enjoying that drink? Who changed water into wine at a wedding in our true story from the Bible?** (KING JESUS)

To make it harder: **What happened to the water in our true story from the Bible? Who made that happen?**

Jesus teaches on a mountain (Matthew 5 – 6)

See if you can spot any flowers and birds. Ask your child who makes the flowers pretty and who takes care of the birds. Talk about different types of flowers and birds and that God made them all. If there are no flowers to talk about, look forward to them coming out and talk about missing the lovely colours. Look out for florists, as they always have flowers!

Jesus calms the storm (Matthew 8 v 23-27)

Look out for some water. Have some fun trying to tell the water you have found to do things. Ask your child what the water was like when Jesus and the disciples went out on the lake in a boat. (STORMY AND WAVY!) Then ask your child: **Who told the waves to stop in our true story from the Bible?** (JESUS) **And they did! Wow! That's because Jesus is God.**

The Lord's prayer (Matthew 6 v 9-13)

Spot some people talking. You could try and spot some people shouting, some people cheering etc. Ask your child: **Who do we talk to when we pray?** (GOD) **Yes, our Father God.** Consider asking: **Can you remember what we say when we pray?** Either talk through the prayer you said together earlier, or just remind your child that we say "Wow!" first and then "Please".

A captain's faith (Matthew 8 v 5-13)

Point out something medical (*an ambulance, hospital, chemist/pharmacy*). Say something like: **The doctors are very clever at making us better** or **This medicine is great—it really helps when you are not feeling well.**

Ask your child: **Who made the captain's servant better in our true story from the Bible?** (JESUS) **Jesus is much more amazing and powerful than a doctor or some medicine. He made the captain's servant better just by speaking—because He is God!**

A hole in the roof (Mark 2 v 1-12)

When your child does something wrong, as well as dealing with it in your usual way*, ask your child some of the following questions:

- 1. What it is called when we don't do what God says?** (SIN!)
- 2. Who did Jesus forgive in our true story from the Bible?** (The man who could not walk.)

Wow! Jesus can forgive us because He is God. When we say sorry and ask Him to forgive us—He does. It is all done and we can still be God's friends. We'll find out more as we keep reading about Jesus.

* see page 68 for further ideas.

