

A PARENT'S GUIDE

to Making Faith Connections Pairing *The Holy Moly Story Bible* with *The Holy Moly Bible Stories DVD Collection*



Welcome to Holy Moly!

Created in partnership, the hilarious Holy Moly videos and *The Holy Moly Story Bible* use humor, childlike art, and responsive activities to engage kids as they look, listen, and read. Each story in the story Bible invites readers to enjoy a creative retelling, plus respond to the story with a coloring or drawing activity.

Pairing *The Holy Moly Story Bible* with the Holy Moly DVDs

The Bible communicates in a huge variety of ways. It includes parables, psalms, lists, and dramatic narratives. This beautifully reflects the fact that we all experience God and the Bible differently, which is why pairing *The Holy Moly Story Bible* with the Holy Moly DVDs can be such an effective faith development tool for your whole family. It allows people with different learning styles to experience God's Word in different ways.

Activities

A great exercise when pairing the Holy Moly Bible stories with the DVD episodes is the contemplative practice of *lectio divina*. It's been said this ancient style of "divine reading" is more about the Word of God reading us than about us reading it. *Lectio divina* invites the stories to speak in our lives and helps us discern what God is saying to us through them.

TO PAIR THE STORIES 'LECTIO' STYLE

Tell your child you'd like him or her to listen with an open, relaxed mind. (Closing your eyes can help with this.) As you read a story from *The Holy Moly Story Bible*, ask your child to pay attention to any words, phrases, or images that pop out from the story.

Next, play a related video episode. Once again, ask your child to pay attention to what images, actions, or sounds jump out from the story (are they similar to what jumped out from the story Bible?).

Finally, as you reread the story from the Bible, again be mindful of what words, phrases, or images stand out.

Ask the following questions, and let everyone answer before moving on the next question:

- What are the words, phrases, or images that struck you during the reading?
- Which images, actions, or sounds stood out during the video episode?
- Are they connected? Related?
- Why might these things have stood out for you?

- What might God be trying to say through them?
- What does this give you to think about?

Then close with a prayer, thanking God for the great variety of ways God speaks to us and teaches us.

VARIATION

Another option is to aim for something less contemplative and more inquisitive. Since the whole Bible is the story of God's love for and redemption of his people, look for clues that speak to God's love and to God's redemption of us.

After reading a selection from the Bible and watching a video, ask the following questions:

- How do these stories relate?
- In what ways are they different?
- What do these stories say about God's love for us?
- What do they say about how God reaches toward us?
- How do they help us know how to love others?

Once again, end your session with prayer, thanking God for the variety of ways God speaks to us and engages us with Scripture.

Bonus: Family Retreat

You can take the lectio experience even further by creating a mini family "retreat." Block off a one- to two-hour window in which your family can unplug from the outside world and connect. Choose one or two of the activities in this guide and set out the materials for them.

In the room where you'll read and watch the DVD, set out snacks and drinks, pillows and blankets. Dim the lights. If appropriate, set out candles. Have the story episode chosen and ready to go.

Invite your family into the space. If your children are old enough, invite them to light a candle. Otherwise, you can do this. After the candle is lit, open with prayer. Ask God to make God's presence known, to guide conversation, and to open your hearts and minds to learn and experience God.

Then begin the lectio divina. After your initial discussion, blow out the candles, close in prayer, and move to your regular activities! But don't stop talking. Pepper the rest of the day with some of the discussion questions provided in this guide.

Discussion Questions

If you'd like continued conversation about the episode you watched and the story you read, consider the following questions and discuss them. You can discuss these questions as you're winding down the day, or at another quiet time, or even in the car or at the dinner table. You can use any or all of these questions to spark conversations.

- Which is your favorite story? Why?
- Who are the people in that story?
- Who is your favorite person? Why?

- Who is your least favorite person? Why?
- What happens in the story?
- What's the main problem people in the story have to overcome?
- How did they solve the problem?
- What values did they use when they solved the problem?
- How does this connect to you or to our family?
- What does this story tell us about how God works in our lives?

Other Activities

MIME-O-RAMA

The Holy Moly videos present stories using an animated form of pantomime, with minimal narration. Pantomime compels us to follow stories without relying wholly on language, instead using visual elements to interpret and understand stories in whole new ways.

Try this activity to extend your experience with the videos. Choose one of the stories from a DVD or choose another favorite story from the story Bible and work out a family pantomime. Assign each person a character, then act out the Bible story using only your body and some grunts or oohs or Holy Moly-like sounds. If you like you can use just a little bit of narration—just as the Holy Moly videos do. Don't take yourselves too seriously, and do pay attention to what you discover about the story—or about the ways we tell stories.

Share:

What new things do you notice about the stories from this experience? How did it feel to act out the actions of the person whose role you played?

WORDLESS STORIES

The Holy Moly episodes show you don't need lots of words to share a great story or message. Why not share the joy of wordless messages? Choose a person—or people—who might need a message of encouragement or love and create a handmade, homemade card to send them. You can use legal paper, copy paper, or heavier card stock. Fold it up nicely or tear some rough edges. Cut shapes or draw pictures. But hold the words! Let the episodes inspire you as you create a card to send a message of love or appreciation.

Share:

How do images help tell stories or tell someone what you love about them? How does not using words help you appreciate what words can do?

Variation: Go ahead and write a “real” letter, words and all! Still think of a person who needs to hear words of love or affirmation. Not sure what to write? Think back to your favorite episode. What was your favorite takeaway from it? How might you share the message of that episode in a thoughtful card?

HOLY HAPPENS

By suggesting that we “see how God is at work in the story of _____” at the beginning of each video episode, the Holy Moly stories reinforce the idea that God is at work all around us—even in something as ordinary as a woman getting water for animals, as we saw in “Rebekah and Isaac.”

So how about a Holy Quest? Plan an outing (to the park, your downtown area, the library, wherever!) or use your own home and yard. As you walk around, keep your eyes peeled for both the unusual and mundane. Point them out and let your minds wander and wonder: How do these everyday things speak of God’s holiness? How do they let us know God is at work in the world? If you can (don’t steal!), keep a memento from your Holy Quest to remind you of God’s holy presence in the everyday.

Share:

What helps you notice God with you in the everyday?

GUESS A SKETCH

Grab some sheets of plain white paper and pencils, pens, crayons, or markers. Have your child choose a favorite Holy Moly story and sketch a scene from it. But make sure they keep the story a secret! Then see if other members of your family can guess the story from the sketch alone. If no one can guess, your child can give clues or you can ask questions.

SHARE A SKETCH

Coloring has been shown to be a great way to relax and have fun—even for grown-ups! So ask your child to think of someone you know who could use less stress and more fun in their lives. Then have your child sketch a black-and-white depiction of one of the Bible stories. It can be a favorite story—or simply one that’s fun (or easy) to draw. Pack the sketch up with a box of crayons and a nice note (it can be anonymous!) and drop off or mail to the person who needs a little extra love.

SING A SONG

Turn a short line (a favorite or particularly compelling one) from *The Holy Moly Story Bible* into a song. You might need to tweak the words or rhythm a bit. Having trouble coming up with a tune? Try “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” If it’s good enough for the alphabet. . .

Share:

How does singing help words sink into our spirits?

Appendix

Bible Story	Corresponding DVD
Creation	Creation, Noah's Ark, and Other Bible Stories: Volume 1
Adam and Eve	
Noah	
Abraham	
Sarah and Abraham	
Rebekah and Isaac	
Jacob and Esau	
Jacob Becomes Israel	
Joseph and His Brothers	
Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream	
Joseph Forgives	
Baby Moses	
Crossing the Red Sea	
The Ten Commandments	
Brave Deborah	
Naomi and Ruth	
Queen Esther	
God Calls Samuel	
Samuel Anoints David	
David and Goliath	
Daniel and the Lions	
Jonah and the Big Fish	
The Angel Speaks to Mary	The Holy Moly Christmas Story Collection
Mary and Elizabeth	
Jesus Is Born	
The Wise Men Follow the Star	

Jesus at the Temple	Jesus at the Temple, the Good Samaritan, and Other Bible Stories: Volume 3
John the Baptist	
Jesus Calls the Disciples	
Jesus Changes Water to Wine	
Jesus Calms the Storm	
The Parable of the House on the Rock	
The Parable of the Sower	
The Parable of the Mustard Seed	
The Parable of the Good Samaritan	
The Parable of the Prodigal Son	
Jesus Walks on Water	
A Man through the Roof	
The Ten Outcasts	
Jesus Feeds 5,000	
Lazarus	
The Lord's Prayer/Teach Us to Pray	
Jesus and the Children	
The Widow's Offering	
Mary and Martha	
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector	
Jesus Enters Jerusalem	The Holy Moly Easter Story Collection
The Last Supper	
Jesus and the Cross	
The Empty Tomb	
Thomas Believes	Jesus Ascends, Saul Meets Jesus, and Other Bible Stories: Volume 5
Breakfast with Jesus	
The Road to Emmaus	
The Great Call	
Jesus Ascends	
The Holy Spirit	
Philip and the Ethiopian	
Saul Meets Jesus	
Peter Raises Tabitha	
Paul and Silas	