

A PARENT'S GUIDE

to Making Faith Connections Pairing
the Holy Moly Bible Storybooks and
The Holy Moly Bible Stories DVD Collection



Welcome to Holy Moly!

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

Pairing the Holy Moly Bible Storybooks and 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 written Holy Moly Bible Storybooks 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

One great exercise for pairing the Bible stories with the DVDs 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 it is 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

Sit somewhere comfortable—within view of the device that will play the DVD—with your child. Explain to your child that you are going to first read the story, then watch the episode, then read the story once again. Keep in mind that the video and the storybook may not match exactly. Each will bring a unique perspective to the Bible story.

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 from the storybook, ask your child to pay attention to any words, phrases, or images that pop out from the story.

Next, play a 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 storybook?).

Finally, as you reread the story from the storybook, 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 story in a storybook 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.

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 a pairing of an episode and a story from a storybook, consider the following questions:

- Which is your favorite story? Why?
- Which was your favorite story? Why?
- Who are the people in that story?
- Who is your favorite person in the story? Why?
- Who is your least favorite person in the story? Why?
- What happens in the story?
- What's the main problem the 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 who God is?

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 a Bible storybook and work out a family pantomime. Assign each person a character, then act out a 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—and 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

Bible stories aren't meant to be read and forgotten. God wants us to incorporate his words into our everyday moments—even our silliest fun times. To get some practice at this, create skipping or jump-rope rhymes based on your favorite Holy Moly story. Not sure where to start? Look up some existing rhymes and mimic the cadence and rhyme structure. Or go with a classic da-DUM, da-DUM, da-DUM, da-DUM and every-other-line rhyme scheme. (You don't need to tell the whole story—just capture the essence of the story.) Then grab a jump rope and put your poems to the test.

Share:

What happens when you bring movement into your experience of Bible stories?

NOTE THE NEW

People read and reread the Bible because every time they do, they discover something new. The Holy Moly Bible Storybooks are no different. From the illustrations to the stories to the activities, we can discover something new every time we open the book. So try reading a story and keeping an eye out for something new. Have your child note any new things they haven't noticed before. See if they can then talk about what that new thing means in the story and why it stood out.

Share:

How does God use the "new" to speak to us?

Appendix: Bible passages referenced

Holy Moly Bible Storybook	Story	Holy Moly DVD
Noah's Ark and Other Bible Stories	Creation	Creation, Noah's Ark, and Other Bible Stories: Volume 1
	Adam and Eve	
	Noah	
	Abraham	
	Sarah and Abraham	
	Rebekah and Isaac	
Joseph and His Brothers and Other Bible Stories	Jacob and Esau	
	Jacob Becomes Israel	
	Joseph and His Brothers	
	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream	
	Joseph Forgives	

Baby Moses and Other Bible Stories	Baby Moses	Baby Moses, Jonah, and Other Bible Stories: Volume 2
	Crossing the Red Sea	
	The Ten Commandments	
	Brave Deborah	
	Naomi and Ruth	
	Queen Esther	
Jonah and the Big Fish and Other Bible Stories	God Calls Samuel	
	Samuel Anoints David	
	David and Goliath	
	Daniel and the Lions	
	Jonah and the Big Fish	
The Holy Moly Christmas Story	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 and Other Bible Stories	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 Good Samaritan and Other Bible Stories	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 Feeds 5,000 and Other Bible Stories	Jesus Walks on Water	Jesus Feeds 5,000, Mary and Martha, and Other Bible Stories: Volume 4
	The Ten Outcasts	
	A Man through the Roof	
	Jesus Feeds 5,000	
	Lazarus	
Mary and Martha and Other Bible Stories	The Lord's Prayer / Teach Us to Pray	
	Jesus and the Children	
	The Widow's Offering	
	Mary and Martha	
	Zacchaeus the Tax Collector	
The Holy Moly Easter Story	Jesus Enters Jerusalem	The Holy Moly Easter Story Collection
	The Last Supper	
	Jesus and the Cross	
	The Empty Tomb	
Jesus Ascends and Other Bible Stories	Thomas Believes	Jesus Ascends, Saul Meets Jesus, and Other Bible Stories: Volume 5
	Breakfast with Jesus	
	The Great Call	
	Jesus Ascends	
	The Road to Emmaus	
Saul Meets Jesus and Other Bible Stories	The Holy Spirit	
	Philip and the Ethiopian	
	Peter Raises Tabitha	
	Saul Meets Jesus	
	Paul and Silas	