

Bible Phonics

The Narrative Approach to Initial Sounds

For introductory phonics - short vowel sounds only

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To introduce initial sounds, the following stories can be read or told **to** the students. Students will not be able to read these stories for themselves yet. But they can memorize the rhymes. The story and rhyme associated with each initial sound acts as a memory aid. For each story, show the student the picture in the *Bible Phonics Picture Chart*.

a for ant

from Proverbs 6:6-8

Ants are wise little creatures

God is Wise

In the Bible, God tells us about the small creatures He made. He tells us to look at the ants, because they can teach us many things. (Say 'a' ant.)

Ants live together in colonies. A colony is a family of ants living together in a home that they build. Sometimes they build their home underground, with many tunnels. Sometimes they build a hill and make tunnels inside the hill.

The Bible tells us to look at how hard they work. They do not have anyone telling them what to do. They just get on with doing their work. They work together to help each other. Every ant has a job to do. The queen ant is the biggest ant. She lays the eggs. The eggs hatch and baby ants are born. Some of the ants have the job of looking after the babies. Other ants take care of cleaning the tunnels in the home. Some build new tunnels as the babies grow and more ants are added to the colony.

Some ants go out and get food. They bring it back for the other ants to eat. Have you ever seen a little ant carrying some food? They can carry food that is quite big for their size. The Bible tells us to watch these ants. These are the ones that get the food when there is plenty, and store it up for times when there could be no food. This is a very wise thing to do.

We can be wise if we look at the ants and learn from them. We can learn to get on with our jobs, without being asked to. We can learn to work together to help others in our family. We can learn to plan ahead. Just as the ants think about getting food for times when there might be none, we can think about doing our best when we are young, so that we will know what to do when we get older. If we work hard to learn as much as we can when we are young, then we will grow to do great things for God when we are older.

A rhyme to learn:

a for ant

Ants go here, ants go there
Ants are busy everywhere.
Getting food for when there's none
There's so much work to be done.

b for boat

in the story of Jesus calms the storm (Matthew 8, Mark 4, Luke 8)

Jesus in the boat **God is Lord and King**

Jesus had been busy with the crowd all day. He taught them about Father God. He healed the sick people, gave sight to blind people. Lame people could walk when Jesus prayed for them.

But now it was evening and He was very tired.
“Let us go across to the other side of the lake,” He said.
He climbed into the **boat** with the disciples. (*Say ‘b’ boat*). He was so tired He soon went fast asleep.

Suddenly the wind began to blow. It blew harder and harder. The waves grew higher and higher until they began to spill over into the boat.

The disciples were so afraid.
“What shall we do?” they shouted.
“Come, let us wake Jesus! How could He sleep in such a storm?”
They called out to Him and woke Him.
“Jesus!” they cried, “Don’t you care that we are nearly drowned? Please help us. Please wake up.”

Jesus opened His eyes. “Save us Lord,” they cried, “We are going to die.”
“Why are you so frightened?” asked Jesus. “What little faith you have.”
Jesus stood up in the rocking boat.
“Wind, be quiet,” He cried.
“Waves, be still!”

At once the storm stopped and the waves died down. There was a great calm.

The disciples were amazed. They looked at each other.
“What a wonderful man Jesus is,” they said, “Even the winds and the waves obey Him.”

A rhyme to learn:

b for boat
Big waves all around
But friends of Jesus
Are safe and sound.

C for camel

in the story of the three wise men (Matthew 2)

The Wise Men came on camels

God is Protector / Our Saviour

Three men lived far away in the east. They were very wise. Every night they looked at the stars.

One night they saw a new star. It was very big. It was very, very shiny. They knew a king had been born. They got ready and started out on their camels. (*Say 'c' camel*). They were going to look for the new king. They rode and rode for many nights and days. They followed the big star.

At last they came to King Herod's palace.

They said, "Where is the new king?"

"There is no new king here," said Herod, "do tell me if you find him."

The wise men went to look in Bethlehem. They saw the star had stopped. It had stopped above a stable in Bethlehem.

The wise men went into the stable and found a baby with his mother Mary and Joseph. They knelt down to worship the baby and they gave him some lovely gifts. They knew that this baby was the new king.

Then God spoke to them in a dream. He said, "Do not go back to Herod. Go back home another way."

So they didn't go back to Herod. They didn't tell him where to find the baby.

Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to Egypt. God kept him safe there until King Herod died. Then they came back to Nazareth to live.

A rhyme to learn:

c for the camels

They traveled so far,

The riders were wise men

Following the star.

d for donkey

in the Palm Sunday story (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12)

Jesus rides on a donkey

God is humble

It was soon to be the time of the Feast of Passover. This was the time when the Jews remembered how God saved their people. He helped Moses lead them all out of Egypt to the land of Israel where they now lived. Every year the families had a big feast to remember this time.

People were looking around for Jesus. "Do you think He will come to the Passover in Jerusalem?"

"I don't know. He may not come this year. Some men want to get rid of Him. They don't like what He says about them so they hate Him."

But Jesus and His disciples were just down the road a little way from Jerusalem, at a village called Bethphage.

Jesus stopped and spoke to His disciples.

"Will two of you please go ahead to that village...You will find a donkey tied there with her colt beside her. (*Say 'd' donkey*). Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell them, 'The Master needs them' and he will let them go at once."

Jesus knew that, long before, a prophet had said, "Tell the city of Zion, 'Look, your king is coming to you. He is humble and rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

So the two disciples went ahead and did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the donkey and the colt, threw their cloaks over them. Jesus got up on the donkey.

Crowds of people heard that Jesus was coming. They quickly spread their cloaks on the road. Others cut branches from trees and spread them on the road, too.

"Praise God! Praise God!"

"Hosanna! Hosanna!"

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

"Praise to the Son of David!"

The people shouted loudly to welcome Jesus. Some Pharisees in the crowd heard what the people said, they cried out to Jesus,

"Teacher, tell your disciples to be quiet!"

"I tell you," Jesus said, "that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting."

Jesus rode on into Jerusalem and looked around at everything. Then He went out of Jerusalem to Bethany where He and the disciples spent the night.

A rhyme to learn:

d is for donkey

“Hosanna,” the people sing.

The rider is Jesus,

Jesus the King.

e for every

Jesus loves EVERY boy and girl in the story of "Let the children come" (Mark 10:13 – 18)

Jesus loves every girl and boy God is Love

The children were happy. Jesus had come to their town. They wanted to see Jesus. "Hurry, Mum," said the children. "We want to see Jesus. Please take us to see Him."

The Mums took their children to see Jesus. There was a big crowd.

The children wanted to go to the front of the crowd.

"Get back! Get back!" said the friends of Jesus. "There are grown ups here who want to be at the front!"

"No!" said Jesus. "I want the children here. Bring them to me."

The Mums brought the children to Jesus.

Jesus sat the children on His knee.

"I love children," He said. "I love every girl and boy." (*Say 'e' every*).

"Children are very special, He said. "If grown ups want to be my friends, then they must be like these children."

Children can love Jesus with a special love. Jesus wants you to love Him. He loves you with a special love too. Jesus loves every boy and girl.

A rhyme to learn:

e is for every,

Every girl and boy.

Jesus loves children,

Children bring joy.

f for fish

in the story of Jesus feeds 5000 people (Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6)

Five loaves and two fish **God is Provider / God is a Servant**

The disciples looked at Jesus. He looked very tired.

“Jesus, you have healed many people. You must be so tired and hungry. Send the people away to get some food.”

But Jesus said, “They do not need to go away.
You give them something to eat.”

“But Jesus,” they said, “we have only five loaves of bread and two small fish. (*Say ‘f’ fish*). That will never feed all these people.”

“Bring me what you have,” said Jesus.

Jesus turned and spoke to the crowd of people.

“Will you all please sit down on the grass,”

They sat down in groups as Jesus told them to. Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and prayed to His Father God. He blessed the food.

He broke the loaves.....

and He broke the loaves.....

and He broke the loaves.....

and He broke the fish.....

and He broke the fish.....

All the people had plenty of food to eat. There were twelve baskets of scraps left.

The disciples picked them up and left the grass clean and tidy.

There were five thousand men there with their women and children. They all had enough food to eat.

A rhyme to learn:

f for fish

With two little fish

And five loaves of bread,

Jesus did a miracle,

And 5000 people were fed.

g for garden

in the story of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2)

The Garden of Eden God is Creator

God wanted to make a beautiful world. Before He made people, he had to make a beautiful place for them to live in.

In the beginning there was just an empty space. Darkness covered everything. Then God said, "Let there be light!" and light shone all around. God called the light 'day'.

Next God made water and the sky. This was the second day.

Then He made the land and a beautiful garden of plants to grow on the land. This was the third day.

Next, he made fish to swim in the water and birds to fly in the sky. This was the fifth day.

Then he made animals of all kinds, big and small, to go on the land. God's garden was finished. It was called the Garden of Eden. (*Say 'g' garden*).

But one thing was missing. Yes, He made two people to live in the garden, to be His friends. Their names were Adam and Eve.

A rhyme to learn:

g for garden

God made a garden

when the world first began.

God made a perfect garden

For a woman and a man.

h for house

in the story of the wise man who build his house on the rock (Luke 6:48-49)

The house on the rock

God is Wise

Jesus told a story about two men who built **h**ouses for themselves. (*Say 'h' house*). The first man chose a good place on solid rock. Although it was harder to build on rock, the man knew it was worth the extra work. Before long, there was a terrific storm. The wind blew furiously and the rain teemed down. Soon there was a great flood, but the house did not fall for it was built on rock.

The other man was foolish for he chose an easy place on low, sandy ground. His house did not have a solid foundation. When the storm and floods came, it fell down with a loud crash.

Jesus then said this to the people who were listening to the story: "Everyone who comes and listens to Me, and obeys Me, is like a man who built on a strong foundation." We can know a lot about Jesus, but we are not wise unless we do what He says to do. Jesus wants to live in our hearts and lives. Then our lives will be built like the house on the rock.

A rhyme to learn:

h is for house

On the rock firm and strong,

But the house on the sand

Didn't stay up for long. (*crash!*)

i for inn

There was no room in the inn (Luke 2)

No room in the inn **God is our Father / God is our Saviour**

It was time for Baby Jesus to be born. Mary and Joseph had come a long way. They came to Bethlehem. There were many people there. They looked for a place to sleep. They went to an inn, which is a place where people can stay. (*Say 'I' inn*). Joseph spoke to the inn-keeper, "Have you a room for us, Mr. Inn-keeper? We are so tired."

"I'm sorry," said the inn-keeper, "many people have come to pay their tax. I have no room for you. But wait. If you would not mind, I can make a place for you in the stable."

He gave Joseph a broom. He gave Joseph some hay. Joseph quickly swept the stable. He put the cows outside. He put his donkey outside also. He put clean hay into the manger. He put clean hay over the floor.

Now Mary and Joseph could lie down.
They said, "Thank you, Lord for this good place to rest."

That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary put baby clothes on him and laid him close by in the manger.
"Thank you, Lord, for your son, Baby Jesus."

A rhyme to learn:

i is for inn - a place to stay
But for Joseph and Mary there was nowhere to stay.
So they stayed in a stable under a star so bright,
And baby Jesus was born on the first Christmas night.

j for jar and jug

in the story of multiplication of oil and meal for the woman of Shunem (2 Kings 4)

Elisha and the jars of oil

God is Provider

Elisha was a servant of God. One day a woman came to Elisha for help. She had no money to pay for food. And she owed money to a man who was very angry at her for not paying.

Elisha asked, "What do you have in your house?"

"I only have a little oil in a jug," said the woman. (*Say 'j' jug*).

Go and ask your neighbours for empty jars," said Elisha. (*Say 'j' jars*).

She went to her neighbours and got as many jars as she could. She lined them up on the kitchen bench.

"Now start pouring the oil from your jug into the jars," said Elisha.

The woman did as Elisha said.

She poured and poured. Her oil did not run out.

Her oil did not run out until she filled all of the jars.

She told Elisha, "All the jars are full."

"Go and sell the oil," said Elisha. "Use the money to pay the man you owe. You can keep the rest of the money to buy food."

A rhyme to learn:

j is for jar and **j** is for jug

The woman had only a little oil in her jug.

She got lots of jars and set them all out,

And the oil kept on pouring. It didn't run out.

k for king

in the story of King Solomon who asked God for wisdom instead of riches (1 Kings 2,3; 1 Chronicles 22, 28; 2 Chronicles 1)

King Solomon God is Wise

Do you remember the story of David and Goliath? When David grew up he became king of Israel. David's youngest son was called Solomon. The Lord chose Solomon to be the new king when David died. (*Say 'k' king*).

When Solomon was crowned king, he promised that he would always obey God. One day God said to him, "Solomon, you can ask me for anything you like. What will you ask me for?"

Solomon could have asked for lots of money, but instead he chose wisdom. Wisdom is 'knowing the right thing to do'.

Solomon needed wisdom, because as king he had a lot of responsibility, and had to make a lot of decisions. He needed special wisdom in organizing the building of the temple.

There was a time when Solomon showed great wisdom in sorting out a quarrel between two women. The two women came to Solomon. One had a baby in her arms. The other woman wanted the baby. The woman without the baby started to explain, "I gave birth to a baby, and three days later, this woman had a baby also. But she lay on the baby while she was sleeping and the baby died. She came to my house and stole my baby. Now she says that the baby is hers."

"No!" cried the woman with the baby. "You are lying. The dead baby is yours and the living baby is mine."

How was Solomon to know who the real mother of the baby was? God gave him wisdom.

"Bring me a sword," said Solomon. "I will divide the baby in two."
(Solomon wasn't really going to harm the baby. He just said this to see what the women would say.)

"No!" cried the woman who was the real mother of the baby. "Let this woman have the baby! Don't kill him!"

King Solomon now knew who the real mother was.

"Give the baby to this woman," said the king. "She is the mother."

Soon all of Israel knew of Solomon's wisdom. God gave him wisdom because he chose God above everything else. He could have chosen to be the richest man in the world, but instead he chose to have the wisdom of God.

A rhyme to learn:

k for King Solomon

a very wise king.

He chose wisdom and not money,

Though he could have asked for anything.

I for lion

in the story of Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6)

Daniel in the lion's den God is Protector

One day some enemies of Israel came to take things from God's temple. They also took some young men as prisoners. One of these men was Daniel.

Now Daniel was in a new land called Babylon. Here they did not worship the true God. But Daniel did.

Daniel always prayed to God and obeyed God.

There were some wicked men who wanted to get rid of Daniel. They went to the king.

They said, "Let's make a new law. Let's say that everyone has to pray to you. If they don't we will throw them in the lion's den." (*Say 'I' lion*).

The king liked the idea. He made the new law.

Daniel heard about the new law. But he did not pray to the king. God says that we must never pray to anyone but the true God.

Daniel kept on praying to God our heavenly Father.

The wicked men saw Daniel praying. They said, "Let's throw Daniel into the lion's den."

The king was now sorry he had made the law because he liked Daniel. But he could not change the law.

The wicked men were happy. They threw Daniel into the den with lions.

The next morning the king got up early. He ran to the lion's den.

He called to Daniel, "Are you all right? Did your God protect you?"

"Yes," said Daniel. "God sent an angel to close the lion's mouths."

The king was happy. He took Daniel out of the lion's den. He knew that only the true God could do a miracle like that!

A rhyme to learn:

I is for lions in the lion's den.

Daniel was taken there by the king's men.

But they couldn't eat Daniel if they tried

Because the Lord was on his side.

m for money

in the story of “money from the mouth of a fish” (Matthew 17)

Money from a fish **God is Provider**

In Israel, everyone had to pay money to the king. This money was called tax. The men who collected the money were called tax collectors.

One day the tax collectors came to Peter, a friend of Jesus.

“Does Jesus pay tax money?” they asked.

“Yes,” said Peter, “He does.”

Peter went to find Jesus.

But Jesus already knew what to do.

“Go fishing in the lake,” said Jesus. “Take the first fish you catch and open up its mouth.”

So Peter went fishing. He looked inside the mouth of the first fish he caught.

Can you guess what was inside the fish?

It was **money!** (*Say ‘m’ money.*) Now they had money to pay the tax.

A rhyme to learn:

m is for money

That was owed to the king

But the friends of Jesus had nothing to bring.

Jesus said, “Go, catch a fish today,

God will provide the money. You just have to pray.”

n for nets

in the story of the Great Catch (John 21)

The miracle of the fishing nets

God is Provider

One day, Peter, James and John decided to go fishing.
They sailed out on the Sea of Galilee in their boat.
They threw their nets into the water.
They waited and waited.
They pulled up their net, but there were no fish in the net. (*Say 'n' net*).
They kept trying all night but they caught nothing!
Then early in the morning they saw Jesus standing on the seashore.
Jesus called out, "Have you caught any fish?"
"No," they called back.
"Throw your net over on the other side of the boat," Jesus called out.
So they did.
All at once the nets were filled with fish.
They pulled in the fish. There were so many, the nets were breaking!
The friends knew that only Jesus could make this happen. He has power over all creation.

A rhyme to learn:

n is for nets
The friends fished all night
But there was not one little fish in sight
Then along came Jesus who said
"Try the other side."
So the friends saw again how God can provide.

o for olive branch

in the story of Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-8)

Noah's ark

God is Truth

God looked at the world that He had made. People did bad things. It made Him sad. "I will send lots of rain," He said.

God looked for a good man. There was Noah.

God said to Noah, "Make a big, big boat. I am going to send lots of rain."

"How big?" asked Noah.

God said, "Make it very big. It will be for your family, and two of every kind of animal."

Noah made the boat. It took him a long time. People laughed. "Why are you making a boat?" they laughed. "There will be no flood!"

Noah finished the boat. His family got in. Then God sent two of every kind of animal...

two dinosaurs...two kangaroos...two Tasmanian tigers...two giraffes...two elephants...two zebras...two cows...two dogs....two cats...

And lots and lots more. God shut the door of the big boat. It began to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights.

There was a big flood. The bad people were drowned, but Noah and his family and the animals were safe.

They stayed in the boat for one year. When the rain stopped Noah sent out a dove to fly around and look for land. But the dove came right back. The next time he sent out the dove, it brought back an olive leaf. (*Say 'o' olive branch.*) That was a sign that the water was going down. The tree tops were now standing out above the water. The next time, the dove did not come back. It was time to leave the ark. Then they all got out on to dry land.

God said, "I will never send such a big flood again. This is my promise. I will send a rainbow."

A rhyme to learn:

o is for olive branch

Brought by the dove

Back to Noah's ark

After the big, big flood.

p for pig

in the story of the son who left home and had to work at a pig farm (Luke 15).

The two sons God is a forgiving father

Once a man had two sons. They helped their father work with their sheep and cattle. One day the second son said to his father, "Father, may I please have my share of your money? I want to go and work in the town."

His father was sad to see his son go away, but he gave him the money and let him go. When the son got to the town he made many friends. He spent his money on parties. The friends came to all the parties. They had a merry time.

Soon all the money was gone. Now no-one was his friend. The young man had no bed, no food, nowhere to sleep. He had to look for work.

A farmer said, "Yes, I have work for you. You can feed the pigs." (*Say 'p' pig*). The young man did not want to feed the pigs, but he had to do it. He was even glad to eat some of the pig's food.

At last he was so unhappy he thought,
"This is an unhappy life here. I wish I was back at home with my father. I'm sorry I left home."

He left the pigs and walked all the long way home. When he was near his home his father saw him coming. He ran with open arms to welcome his son back home. He was glad to see his son come back.

He hugged and kissed his son. He told the servants to kill a calf for meat. They would have a big party because the lost son was found.

"I'm sorry for spending your money. I'm sorry I went away from you. I'll work for you as a servant if you will let me come home," cried the son.

"My son, I forgive you. You will come home with us and help me like you did before. You were lost but now we have found you again."
They all had a happy time together at the party.

A rhyme to learn:

p is for pig
in the farmer's yard
Where the younger son had to work very hard
When the son left home the father was sad
But when the son came back he was very glad.

qu for queen

in the story of Queen Esther (Esther 1-10)

Esther, the beautiful queen

God is Protector

In the olden days, before Jesus came to live on earth, God chose the people of the country of Israel to be His special servants. They were special, because one day Jesus would be born in Israel and live in their country.

It was important that the people of Israel were strong, and not destroyed by enemies, because God had a plan for them. This is a story of how God protected the people of Israel.

Once there was a beautiful lady who was born in Israel, but at the time of this story, was living in a near-by country called Babylon.

The King of Babylon needed to find a new queen. He was not pleased with his queen so had sent her away. Esther was very beautiful and very kind, so the king chose Esther to be his new queen. *(Say 'qu' queen)*

One day Esther's father heard about a plot to kill the king. He told Esther and Esther told the king. The king was very pleased with Esther's father, whose name was Mordecai. Mordecai was special to the king.

There was at that time, a very proud man in the king's palace. His name was Haaman. He made a rule. "Everyone must bow to me when they meet me," he said.

But Mordecai would not bow to Haaman. This made Haaman very angry. He thought of a plot to get rid of Mordecai and all the Israelites living in Babylon.

"O king," said Haaman, "There are certain people, the Israelites, who live in your land, who do not obey your rules. They are of no use to you. Why don't you have them all killed?"

So the king agreed. But no one in the palace knew that Esther was from the country of Israel – not even the king!"

All the Israelites in the country prayed to God. They did not eat or drink. They cried out to God.

Mordecai said to his daughter Esther, "You must go to the king and ask him to save the lives of your people."

“But I cannot go to the king unless he calls for me,” said Esther. This is the palace rule. If I break the palace rule the king may have me killed!”

“God has made you queen in order to save us,” said Mordecai. “You must go.”

All the people of Israel prayed for three days. On the third day Esther put on her beautiful clothes and went to the king. The king was pleased to see Esther. Esther put on a banquet and asked the king and Haaman to come. At the banquet, the king said to Esther, “I will give you anything you ask for. What would you like?”

“Come tomorrow night for another banquet and I will tell you,” said Esther. And so, at the second banquet, Esther told the king:

“The thing that I ask for is this: I want you to save my life and the lives of all my people, the Israelites.”

The king was shocked that Esther was an Israelite, about to be killed. He stopped the wicked plan, and instead of killing the Israelites, he sent Mordecai to be killed instead. This is how God saved all the Israelites living in the land of Babylon.

A rhyme to learn:

q for Queen Esther, so very brave
She listened to God and always obeyed.

r for raven

in the story of Elijah who was fed by Ravens (1 Kings 17:1-6).

Elijah and the ravens

God is Provider

God spoke to Elijah. "Elijah, go to the brook named Cherith. The ravens will bring you food there." (*Say 'r' raven*).

So Elijah went to the brook. When he got there he lay down to rest. In the morning Elijah looked up at the sky. He could see little black specks in the sky, far off. As they drew nearer he smiled and said, "Here they come!"

Down flew some ravens. Some carried meat in their beaks and others carried bread. They dropped the food on the ground beside Elijah and flew off. Elijah ate the food and drank water from the brook.

In the evening the ravens came back with more food. For many days the ravens brought food every morning and night for Elijah and he drank water from the brook. "Thank you Lord for food and water," he prayed.

A rhyme to learn:

r for raven

r is for raven, a black bird like a crow
It brought food to Elijah
Many years ago.

s for snake

in the story of the snake's deception in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3)

Satan the wicked snake

God is Creator

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. They were very happy. God told Adam and Eve that they must obey Him. He told them that they could eat any food from the garden, but they must never eat the fruit from one tree.

There was an angel who was a wicked angel. His name was Satan. When he became wicked, he became like a snake. (*Say 's' snake*). Satan said to Adam and Eve, "Go on. Eat the fruit. It will not hurt you."

So Eve ate the fruit. She gave some to Adam. At once they knew that they had done something very wrong.

They were sad. God said, "Now that you have done wrong, you cannot be in my beautiful garden. You must go from here. You will not be so happy. This is because you did not obey me.

God sent a good angel to the garden. The angel had a sword. No one could go into the garden from now on. This was a very sad day. The world was now a place of sadness and sin. Adam and Eve were not happy. The animals were not happy.

God was very sad because people could no longer be with Him. God made a plan. He planned to send His Son Jesus, to die on the cross and to forgive us for our sin. If we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sin, and if we ask Him to be our friend, then we can be with God, just like Adam and Eve were once with God in the Garden of Eden.

A rhyme to learn:

s is for snake

The sneaky snake

Who said to Eve, "Here's some fruit to take.

God had said, "Don't eat from that tree."

Now Adam and Eve were as sad as could be.

t for treasure

in the story of the Pearl of great price (Matthew 13:45-46 and treasures in Heaven Matthew 6:19-21)

Treasure in Heaven God is Truth

Do you like treasure hunts?

You may have played the treasure hunt game at a party. You have to look everywhere for the hidden treasure.

Do you like to play hide and seek?

Jesus said that we have to seek for God. That doesn't mean that God is hiding, but it means that we have to keep on praying to understand more about Him

As we find out more and more about God, it's like finding hidden treasure. The Bible is full of treasures.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field. (*Say 't' treasure*). If you are digging in the field, and you suddenly find a treasure box, you would be very excited. You would dust off the box, open it up and there is the treasure!

Jesus said that once a man found treasure hidden in a field. He did not own the field. In fact the field was for sale. So the man quickly buried the treasure again. Then he sold everything he had to get money to buy the field. He bought the field and the treasure was his!

Jesus told this story to show us how valuable it is to be a Christian. When you know Jesus, you have a treasure that is more valuable than anything in the world!

Jesus also told the story of a beautiful pearl. Pearls grow inside oyster shells. This pearl was more beautiful than all the other pearls. It cost a lot of money. But there was a man who wanted this pearl more than anything. He sold everything he had to buy the pearl.

Jesus is very valuable, like a pearl. It is more important to have Jesus in your life, than anything else.

A rhyme to learn:

t is for treasure

More precious than gold

The Bible is a treasure chest

For young and old.

u for under

in the story of Nathanael who Jesus saw sitting **under** the fig tree (John 1: 40-51)

Nathanael under the fig tree

God is all-knowing / God is love

When it was time for Jesus to start His special work on earth, he chose twelve friends to help him. These friends were called the disciples. They traveled around with Jesus and learned as Jesus taught them about God. They watched Jesus do miracles, like healing sick people.

When Jesus first called the disciples, he called them one by one. Peter, James, Andrew and John were fishermen. They left their fishing nets and followed Jesus. Matthew was a tax collector. He left his job of collecting money, and followed Jesus.

Another person to follow Jesus was Philip. He had a friend called Nathanael. When Philip found out how wonderful Jesus was, he went to Nathanael and said, "You must come and see Jesus!"

Nathanael said, "How can anyone so special come from a little town like Nazareth? (That was the town where Jesus lived). But Philip talked Nathanael into coming to see Jesus.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him. Jesus said, "Nathanael, I know you are a kind man."

Nathanael was surprised.

"How do you know my name, and how do you know all about me?" he asked.

Jesus said, "Before Philip told you about me, I saw you sitting **under** the fig tree. (*Say 'u' under*).

Jesus knew about Nathanael before he met him, because Jesus knows all about everyone. He knows all about you. He even knows how many hairs are on your head!

A rhyme to learn:

u is for under

Under a tree

Sat a man called Nathanael

Jesus said, "Follow me."

v for vine

Jesus is the vine – stay connected to Him (John 15)

Jesus is the Vine God is Life

Jesus used everyday things to tell people about Himself and God. He talked about the things around Him in the country of Israel.

Many farmers in Israel grew grapes, because it was hot and dry. Grapes like to grow in hot, dry places. Grapes grow on a vine. (*Say 'v' vine*).

One day, He told this story about Himself:

“I am the true vine. My Father is the gardener.” said Jesus. “Stay connected to me and you will do great things for God.”

Jesus meant that you will do great things for God when you ask Him to be with you every day in whatever you do. And God, the Father looks after you, just as a gardener looks after a garden.

What are some of the great things we can do for God?

We can share with others about Jesus. We can help others. We can show love, joy, peace, patience.....

These are called the fruit of the Spirit.

Just as a grape vine can grow delicious grapes, we can have good fruit – not apples and bananas and pears – but love, joy and peace. These are the fruit of the spirit.

We can only do good things when we stay connected to Jesus, because Jesus says, “If you are not connected to me you can do nothing!”

How do we stay connected to Jesus?

- Listen to what the Bible says
- Obey the words of Jesus
- Pray
- Sing songs to God

A rhyme to learn:

v is for vine, Jesus the vine
We are the branches
Stay with Jesus and shine.

w for whale

in the story of Jonah (The book of Jonah)

Jonah and the whale

God is Protector

God spoke to Jonah, a prophet of God.

“Jonah, go to Nineveh and tell the people to turn and obey Me.”

“Lord,” replied Jonah, “I don’t want to go. I won’t go.”

So Jonah went off to the coast and hid in a sailing ship. It was sailing away from Nineveh. God sent a big storm. The ship was tossed about on the big waves. The sailors and Jonah were afraid.

The sailors threw Jonah into the sea.

God sent a big **w**hale. (*Say ‘w’ whale*). He made Jonah go into the fish. He was in the fish for three days. Jonah prayed to God,

“God, I’m sorry I didn’t do as you told me to.

Please get me out of this big fish and I’ll go to Nineveh to tell the people to turn to you.”

The big fish spat Jonah out and he landed on the sandy beach. Jonah went to Nineveh and spoke to the people. They listened to him and turned to God.

A rhyme to learn:

w is for whale, Jonah and the whale -

A true story in the Bible, not a fairy tale

God said “Go to Nineveh and tell the people there,

Not to break my commandments but to turn to me in prayer.

x in six

in the story of the six-day creation (Genesis 1)

In six days God is Creator

Who made the world?
God did.

At one time there was no world.
There was no sun and no moon.

Then God said, "Let there be light."
And there was. This was day one.

Then God said, "Let there be a sky.
Let there be water and land.
This was day two.

Then God said, "Let there be plants." This was day three.

Then God said, "Let there be a sun, a moon and stars." This was day four.

Then God said, "Let there be fish in the water and birds in the sky." This was day five.

Then God said, "Let there be animals on the land. Let there be people too." This was day six. (*Say 'x' in six*).

God made the world in six days.
Then God said, "Everything I have made is very good. I will rest." This was day seven.

A rhyme to learn:

x is in six
Six days, it took
For God to make the world,
It's written in His book.

y for yellow flower

God clothes the flowers of the field (Matthew 6)

Look at the flowers

God is Provider

Jesus was sitting on the side of a hill.

People were coming to see him. People loved to hear Jesus tell stories about God.

Jesus told the people about God, our Heavenly Father.

“Look at the birds,” He said. “They do not have a shed to store food in. No, God feeds them.”

Look at the flowers,” He said. “They do not work to make clothes. They do not knit or sew. But God dresses them in beautiful colours... yellow, (*say ‘y’ yellow*), red, blue, orange and purple.

You are more important than birds.

You are more important than flowers.

If God takes care of them, He will take care of you.

A rhyme to learn:

y for yellow

Yellow flowers that grow,

But God cares for you

More than the flowers you know.

Z for Zacchaeus

in the story of the small man (Luke 19:1-19)

Zacchaeus

God is Pure / God is forgiving

Zacchaeus was a small man. (*Say 'z' Zacchaeus*). Zacchaeus was very rich. He loved money.

Zacchaeus took money that was not his.

One day Jesus came by. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. Zacchaeus could not see Jesus because there were too many people.

"I will climb up that tree," said Zacchaeus. Then I can see Jesus.

Zacchaeus climbed the tree. He could see Jesus very well up the tree.

Jesus saw Zacchaeus. "Come down," said Jesus. "I want to go to your house for tea."

A rhyme to learn:

z for Zacchaeus

z is for Zacchaeus

Who took money every day

Until he met Jesus

Who said, "This is not the way."