

# Gathering with Children: Bushfire Response Resource

## What kind of Stories?

This week our news has been full of stories.  
Stories of tears and disaster, fears and sadness and shocks.  
And other stories - of bravery, and helping and caring,  
stories of sharing and giving.

The Bible is full of stories too. What kind of Stories are in the Bible?

The Stories of the Bible are stories of God and People,  
and they are stories of tears and disaster,  
fears and sadness and shocks.

And other stories, of bravery and helping and caring,  
stories of sharing and giving.

There's story where a huge flood comes and flattens everything,  
and in that story, God provides a way of escape.

Here's a story where every one has been made a slave...  
and God is with them struggling for freedom

And a story where a huge army is coming

A story where there's a terrible drought

A Story where the city is destroyed

A story where people are scared

And in all of these stories, God is there.  
God never abandons the people, or the animals or the earth.

The Bible has more than stories: it has poems and songs too...

Listen to this little bit of a song from the Bible:

"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it." Psalm

God never abandons the earth, God loves it because it's his.

So God never abandons the earth, it's people or its living creatures.

Hold up a Newspaper

Hold up a Bible

Make a large tidal wave with one arm, and cup your other hand as a little boat

Mime hammering rocks, bent over, hold your back in pain....then straighten up and open your arms wide (As the red sea)

Put one hand shading your eyes and point to the distance with the other.

Move more quickly through these 3 lines

Open up the Bible

Display Picture of Koala

He sticks by us, stays with us, struggles with us.

So our Stories are God stories

The Bible has more than stories: it shows us God's ways  
It shows us the ways past blaming others or ourselves,  
because God isn't into blaming, but forgiving and encouraging

It shows us the ways past despair, and giving up  
because God is a big big giver.

It shows us the ways of caring and sharing what we have with others,  
because God is the father of us all, making us one family,  
and who wouldn't share with a brother or a sister?

It shows us the way to life, when death is all we think we can see

Display Picture of Struggles

Display Picture of Signposts

Display Picture of Donations

Display Picture of sharing

Display picture of Cross