For babies, place pictures in cribs or on the floor for easy access. Mount pictures on cardboard and cover with clear contact paper or zip-lock bags. Picture holders can be made from clear contact plastic or zip-lock bags. For older preschoolers, cut cardboard the size of the picture. Then cut four 6-by-4-inch construction paper rectangles for each corner. Place a rectangle diagonally across each corner, fold it over the back of the cardboard, and tape it in place. For added durability, laminate the construction paper rectangles before placing them on the back of the cardboard. For older preschoolers, cut cardboard the size of the picture. Then cut four 6-by-4-inch construction paper rectangles for each corner. Place a rectangle diagonally across each corner, fold it over the back of the cardboard, and tape it in place. For added durability, laminate the construction paper rectangles before placing them on the back of the cardboard.

Where to Find Pictures

- Postcards
- Photographs
- Leader packs
- Cereal boxes
- Outdated leader guides and calendars
- Coupons
- Magazines
- Grocery store displays
- Newspapers
- Junk mail

"Reading a Picture" is an active experience in which a child may see past experiences, or consider what could happen in another situation.
Values of Using Pictures

Pictures are indispensable for enriching experiences for young children about the Bible, God’s creation, self, community, God, Jesus, church, family and the world.

- **Pictures** give children the opportunity to recognize things that are familiar to them.
- **Pictures** allow children to identify with situations and scenes common to their environment.
- **Pictures** can provide valuable substitute experiences for children when it is impossible to provide direct experiences.
- **Pictures** may stimulate conversations, which can give insight into the child’s concept of the world around him.
- **Pictures** provide children with the opportunity to see others doing things which they also have done.
- **Pictures** can provide an atmosphere of worship and increase a child’s awareness of God.
- **Pictures** provide 3’s – kindergarten children with an opportunity to create stories related to the “Life Impact” for the session.
- **Pictures** can encourage acceptable behavior as the child observes other preschoolers doing kind and helpful things.
- **Pictures** can help children strengthen their ability to classify and put things in sequential order.
- **Pictures** stimulate a child’s curiosity.

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Using Pictures to Teach

Read a Bible phrase/verse and let a child choose from a group of pictures one he thinks matches the verse.

- Place family pictures around the room.
- Sing a song about families. Ask one or two children in your area to find pictures about activities in which they can participate at home.
- Use simple terms to explain customs of Bible days while children look at a Bible picture.
- Sing a song and let a child choose from a group of pictures one that matches the song.
- Arrange a series of pictures of different scenes in a Bible story. Let the children recall the story by telling about the pictures.
- Play appropriate music as the preschoolers walk around and look at the pictures that have been placed in various parts of the room. Describe the picture and ask a child to locate the picture.
- Make a matching set of picture cards. Use the cards to play a memory game.
- Create a Bible story puzzle by cutting the Bible story picture in pieces (appropriate for the age). Glue small strips of magnetic tape to the puzzle pieces. Use a magnetic board or metal cookie sheet to complete the picture puzzle.
- Place a Bible story or present-day picture on the floor. Encourage children to draw or dictate something they know about the picture or story on a strip of paper. Allow each child to place his strip of paper on the floor around the picture and connect it to the picture with a piece of yarn or ribbon. (appropriate for kindergartners)