



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

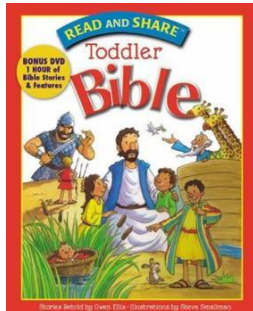
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bibles and Storybook Bibles.....	2
For Parents.....	6
Family Devotionals and Read-Alouds.....	12
Family Connection and Fun.....	16
For Babies and Preschool Kids.....	17
For Elementary Kids.....	22
Music.....	27
Media.....	29
Christmas.....	31
Easter.....	34
Grief.....	35
Sexuality.....	36

BIBLES AND STORYBOOK BIBLES:

READ AND SHARE TODDLER BIBLE

Stories retold by: Gwen Ellis, Illustrated by: Steve Smallman

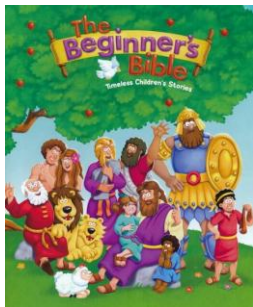


Our favorite Bible storybook for preschoolers is *The Beginner's Bible*, but if you find yourself looking for something a bit simpler for your toddler, the *Read and Share Toddler Bible* is our recommendation. Of all the Bible storybooks I owned, my toddlers asked for this one again and again. Below you'll find some of the highlights of this storybook Bible.

- Perfect for ages 1 to 3
- Includes 40 Bible stories
- Uses short yet engaging sentences
- Communicates clearly using toddler-friendly language
- Filled with colorful, interesting illustrations
- Provides a simple activity after each story which encourages interactive learning as well as parent-child together time
- Not too big and bulky to handle for little hands

THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE

By: Zondervan, Illustrated by: Kelly Pulley

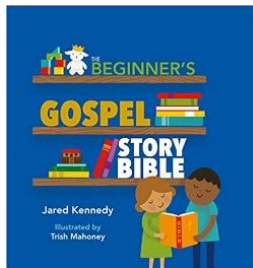


This is our top pick for your preschooler, tried and true by members of the CVCKids staff over many years of parenting. *The Beginner's Bible* includes a vast number of stories compared to other storybook Bibles, and the stories are told in an easy-to-read, straightforward way that remains true to the biblical text. That's why we love it! Here are the highlights...

- Good for ages 2 to 8
- Includes over 90 Bible stories
- Written in child-friendly language
- Has only a few sentences per page to aid short attention spans
- Works well for early-readers
- Contains bright, cheerful illustrations on every page
- Gives a basic retelling of the stories without commentary

THE BEGINNER'S GOSPEL STORY BIBLE

By: Jared Kennedy, Illustrated by: Trish Mahoney

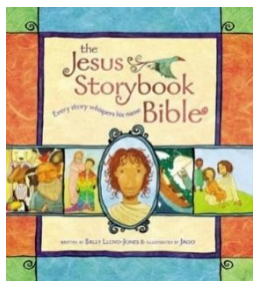


The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible is a great transition Bible from preschool to elementary. It also works well if you have both little and big kids in your home. That's because you can read the stories aloud to your littlest ones, let your early-reader read to you, or let your older child look up the Bible passages that are listed under each story title. There's something for everyone! This wonderful Bible storybook focuses on God's promises, made and kept. Some of the features are listed below.

- Good for ages 2 to 8
- Includes 52 Bible stories, perfect for weekly readings
- Uses simple, engaging sentences
- Contains large, bold, colorful illustrations
- Includes teaching elements like opposites, counting, etc.
- Dives beneath the surface to access deeper biblical meaning
- Highlights a main truth each day in large print
- Provides a discussion question to reinforce the key truth
- Lists the addresses for all associated Bible passages

THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

By: Sally Lloyd-Jones, Illustrated by: Jago

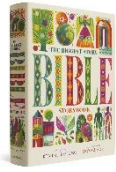


This book is an absolute delight. It constantly points the reader to the bigger, overarching reality of God's love. It highlights how every story in the Bible is pointing to Jesus. The incredible illustrations are just as top-notch as the lyrical and touching writing. I truly cherished reading these stories again and again with my children.

- Good for ages 4 to 10, and beyond!
- Includes 44 Bible stories
- Has charming writing with longer sentences and more words per illustration than other storybook Bibles on our list
- Draws attention to important biblical themes
- Has captivating and unique illustrations
- Meaningful and enjoyable for both children and adults alike

THE BIGGEST STORY BIBLE STORYBOOK

By: Kevin DeYoung, Illustrated by: Don Clark



What a wonderful storybook Bible this is! And there are so many accompanying resources that go with it, too. But let's start with the Bible storybook itself. It is written in a way that lends itself to being read aloud, and often draws attention to the bigger story of the Bible and points forward to Jesus, more like *The Jesus Storybook Bible* in style than *The Beginner's Bible*. The illustrations are quite stunning, with rich colors and graphic design, pleasing for both kids and adults. It is divided into seven parts: The Pentateuch, History, Poetry, The Prophets, The Gospels, Acts and Epistles, and Revelation.

The companion products include:

The Biggest Story ABC (see the Preschool section of our resources for more details)

The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden (see the Elementary section)

The Biggest Story Family Devotional (see the Family Devotionals and Read-Alouds section)

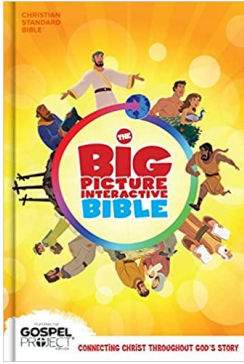
The Biggest Story podcast (see the Media section)

Free and wonderful videos of each Bible story at www.thebiggeststory.com/videos/ (see the Media section)

- Good for ages 4 to 10, and beyond!
- Includes 104 Bible stories
- Each Bible story ends with a prayer
- Is written in a way that is conducive for reading aloud
- Has longer sentences and more words per illustration than other storybook Bibles on our list
- Includes Bible stories often skipped in children's storybook Bibles
- Connects each individual Bible story to the larger story of the whole Bible, pointing to God's big plan and His wonderful character
- Illustrated in a very pleasing, richly colored style.
- Meaningful and enjoyable for both children and adults alike
- Has companion products, (some free!), that enhance the stories

THE CSB BIG PICTURE INTERACTIVE BIBLE

By: B&H Publishing

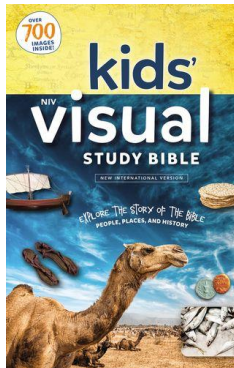


As a parent of a preschooler, you are likely reading to your child from a storybook Bible, but the time will come when you want to purchase an actual Bible for him or her. The great thing about the *CSB Big Picture Interactive Bible* is that there are some user-friendly elements for early readers. This Bible includes “Digital Pop-up Pictures,” which when used in conjunction with a downloadable app on your phone, create an augmented reality effect. In other words, the picture appears 3-D, jumping off the page, while a short audio narration is read aloud. This is so nice for the children who want a Bible but can’t yet read all those big words. As they learn to read, they can grow into this Bible. Below are some more details.

- Good for ages 5 to 10
- Includes the complete text of the Christian Standard Bible translation
- Features 146 full-page, illustrated “Digital Pop-up Pictures”
- “Christ Connection” sections show how a story points to Christ
- “100 Top Memory Verses” featured where they occur in the Bible
- Highlights “Big Words,” which is like a Bible dictionary, aiding children’s comprehension

NIV Kid’s Visual Study Bible

By: B&H Publishing



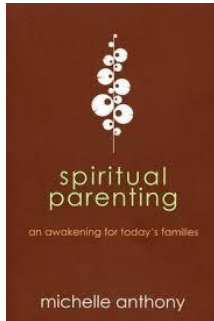
For your elementary-aged child who has become a strong reader, we recommend the *NIV Kid’s Visual Study Bible*. Not only do our own children use this Bible, but some adults on the CVCKids team have been enjoying it as well! The scriptures are formatted in one column on each page, with the study notes included in a side bar. These notes are very helpful for young children as they try to understand what they are reading. In addition to the study notes, there are photographs, illustrations, infographics, and maps. There are not, however, any typical storybook illustrations, which we actually consider to be a benefit because many older elementary children don’t want a “baby” Bible but still need the visuals to help them learn. Below is a list of the features you’ll find in this Bible.

- Good for ages 8 to 12, and beyond!
- Uses the complete text of the New International Version translation
- Provides introductions for each book of the Bible
- Contains study notes to help children understand the text
- Includes over 700 colorful visuals to engage children

FOR PARENTS:

SPIRITUAL PARENTING

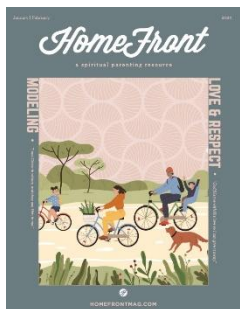
By: Michelle Anthony



CVCKids highly recommends this wonderful resource. Michelle Anthony encourages parents to be the primary spiritual leaders of their children by creating ten environments in their homes, things like “storytelling,” “identity,” and “course correction.” These environments are meant to maximize spiritual growth and allow for God to do the work of reaching their children by the power of the Holy Spirit. Michelle Anthony’s writing style is very relatable and mixes practical tips, biblical truths, and strong narratives of personal, real-life examples. Her writing is both encouraging and convicting, leading parents to better align their child-rearing ideas with those found in the Bible.

HOMEFRONT MAGAZINE

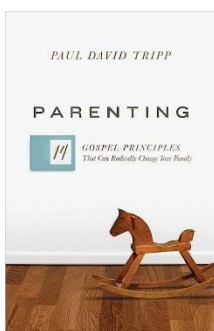
Editor in Chief: Cristi Thomas



HomeFront magazine, produced by New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is a bi-monthly digital publication that is free to download and read. The older issues are arranged around the ten environments from the book *Spiritual Parenting* by Dr. Michelle Anthony, and they are chock full of articles on a variety of subjects like prayer, tough topics, and seasonal family activities. The newer issues have a different structure and focus, and can be used as a family devotional time with or without other families. There are eight lessons in each issue. The lessons have four parts: God’s Word, Create or Game, Worship Response, and Blessing. Give this free resource a try at homefrontmag.com.

PARENTING

By: Paul David Tripp



The subtitle of this helpful read is “14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family.” Paul David Tripp is faithful to address these fourteen principles, including topics such as “Identity,” “Control,” and “Mercy.” My biggest takeaways from the book, however, were the big-picture views of the job of a parent. Parenting is a calling to faithfully be an ambassador for Christ in the life of your child. It requires that you notice the way God parents you, and that you use that as the example of how to parent your child. Just like our Heavenly Father shows us much grace, parenting requires much grace, for your child and for yourself. Read through this book to re-focus, or even gain a different more accurate focus, on the purpose, heart, and calling of a parent.

PARENT CUE

By: Parent Cue



PARENT CUE

Parent Cue may sound familiar to you because Parent Cue is related to the Sunday School curriculum we use in CVCKids. In fact, the take home paper that we give to parents in both preschool and elementary classrooms is also called Parent Cue. Today, we're highlighting the website and app where you can find a wealth of wonderful articles, podcasts, and resources from a group of family experts and everyday parents. Even though another email in your inbox might feel overwhelming, this one is worth it! We recommend signing up for the weekly email, which curates a great selection of articles for you to peruse. Check it out at theparentcue.org.

PARENTING THROUGH THE PHASES

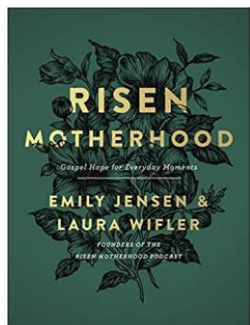
By: The Phase Project



The new school year is beginning, and you have planned out school lunches and school supplies, bought new clothing and bookbags, taken pictures and filled out forms. Have you, however, considered how you will parent your child in this new phase of his or her life? *Parenting Through the Phases* may be just what you need to start that process. Rather than giving you all the answers of everything you need to do for your child, it has an interesting format that is part guide, part journal. It asks questions, gives ideas, and highlights important areas to consider in your child's life, and then gives you space to pray and plan and write down your thoughts, so that you will be an intentional parent this year, getting ready for things before they come rather than dealing with everything moment by moment as it gets thrown at you. Each phase guide informs you of how many more weeks you have left with your child until he or she is officially considered an adult, an overview of what's changing about your child over the next fifty-two weeks, six things your child needs most, and four conversations to have in this phase. There is a different parenting guide for every year from newborn to twelfth grade, eighteen in total. You can buy a copy at orange.com or christianbook.com.

RISEN MOTHERHOOD: GOSPEL HOPE FOR EVERYDAY MOMENTS

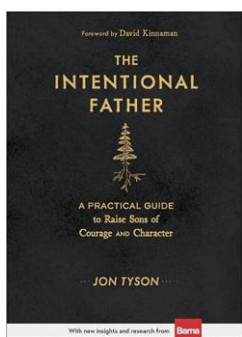
By: Emily Jensen and Laura Wifler



Sometimes it's hard to see how God's good news of salvation affects the small, mundane, annoying, frustrating, and seemingly unspiritual circumstances and experiences of our lives. Emily Jensen and Laura Wifler are determined to help us see that the gospel truly does affect every single part of daily living. They host a podcast called "Risen Motherhood," in which they choose an ordinary motherhood topic and discuss how to apply the gospel to it. The success of the podcast led them to write a book by the same name. In the book, Wifler and Jensen begin with an overview of the Bible's basic storyline, a storyline that is both the overarching narrative of the entire Bible, as well as the narrative that occurs repeatedly on a smaller scale in the stories and books that make up the Bible. They use these four words to describe it: creation, fall, redemption, consummation. After the introductory chapters, the rest of the book gives examples of how to apply the "creation, fall, redemption, and consummation" message that the Bible preaches to a variety of topics that mothers typically face. These chapters do not need to be read in order, and you can actually pick and choose the ones that seem relevant to you. The hope is that, by reading several examples, the reader will then learn to apply the gospel message to any circumstance or conundrum that comes her way. We recommend giving the podcast a try and/or getting a copy of the book to read.

THE INTENTIONAL FATHER: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO RAISE SONS OF COURAGE AND CHARACTER

By: Jon Tyson



We know that all parents are very busy people, but CVCKids highly recommends that every father, especially fathers who have sons, take the time to read *The Intentional Father: A Practical Guide to Raise Sons of Courage and Character*. This fabulous book encourages fathers to rise above the categories of "irresponsible father, ignorant father, inconsistent father, and involved father," to the level of being an "intentional father." Hopefully after you have finished reading it, you will be inspired and highly motivated to make a detailed and personalized plan to walk your son through the teenage years and into adulthood. Having and implementing such a plan will give your son an advantage in knowing who he is, what he believes, and which way to go in life. Tyson gives plenty of ideas, thoughtful questions, and prompts to help you prepare an initiation into the teenage years, a formation process to teach and train, and a recognition of the entrance into manhood for your son. Because Tyson actually completed this process successfully with his own son, his writing holds much weight. We recommend getting a copy no matter the age of your child, and, in fact, the earlier you start to prepare, the better off you'll be. This book is also a great read if you have daughters or if you are a single mom or a grandparent. Many of the principles can be applied in all sorts of situations.

HABITS OF THE HOUSEHOLD: PRACTICING THE STORY OF GOD IN EVERYDAY FAMILY RHYTHMS

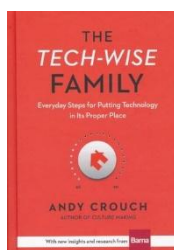
By: Justin Whitmel Earley



In *Habits of the Household*, Justin Whitmel Earley writes, “One of the central themes of this book is that we become our habits, and our kids become us...The most Christian way to think about our households is that they are little ‘schools of love,’ places where we have one vocation, one calling: to form all who live here into lovers of God and neighbor.” Christian formation in a household takes on many forms, and this book focuses on the simple, daily habits that we can shift ever so slightly to make them intentional in our spiritual growth. The book unfolds like a day in our lives might unfold. It begins with a chapter on the habits surrounding “waking” and ends with a chapter titled “bedtime.” In between, you’ll find discussions on “mealtimes,” “family devotions,” and “play,” among other topics. At the end of each chapter is a helpful summary of its contents. Give this book a read and your eyes will be opened to see how your habits are contributing to your formation. Then, start somewhere small, and make a change to ensure those habits are forming you and your family toward godliness.

THE TECH-WISE FAMILY

By: Andy Crouch



The Tech-Wise Family is a fascinating and inspiring read that centers around putting technology in its proper place. The “easy everywhere” aspect of technology is taking something important away from us as human beings. We need to see technology with a biblical perspective and set boundaries in our families so that precious things are not lost. Although author Andy Crouch does not condemn technology as a whole, he does give ten tech-wise commitments that encourage parents to foster wisdom and courage in their home, examine what true work and rest look like, and create environments that promote creativity over consumerism, among other topics. So, if you’ve been wondering how technology is leaving its mark on you and your children and what to do about it, then I recommend reading this book.

TRIGGERS: EXCHANGING PARENTS’ ANGRY REACTIONS FOR GENTLE BIBLICAL RESPONSES

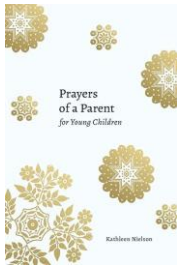
By: Amber Lia and Wendy Speake



This is a great book for any parent who has lost their temper or found that the conversation in their home isn’t what they hope for it to be. Lia and Speake remind us of God’s wonderful truths, giving convicting reasons why we should choose gentle responses. This book gets to the heart of the matter and to the results of the biblical responses. The format is helpful because it is 31 short chapters, which fit perfectly as a month’s worth of devotions. What an encouragement to start the day with a reminder of God’s heart and where He wants your heart to be as a parent!

PRAYERS OF A PARENT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

By: Kathleen Nielson



Do you find yourself praying the same prayers for your children again and again? There's absolutely nothing wrong with that, (and you should keep up those petitions!), but sometimes it's nice to be inspired to pray for things you hadn't thought of yet. It's also nice to hear how others use different words or phrases to pray for the same things that are in your heart already. This simple book helps with just that. Included are 31 prayers that are based on Scripture and filled with gospel truth and hope. They are short, beautiful, and inspiring. Nielson also has versions for teenagers, young adults, and adult sons and daughters. Pick up a copy and add a spark of newness to your intercessions for your child.

5 THINGS TO PRAY FOR YOUR KIDS: PRAYERS THAT CHANGE THINGS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

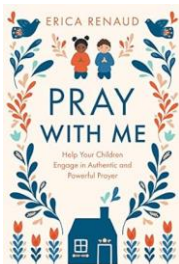
By: Melissa B. Kruger



Contrary to its title, the book *5 Things to Pray for Your Kids* has more than five things to pray for your kids! That's because the book is divided into twenty-one areas of prayer (each based on a specific verse or Bible passage.) For each of the twenty-one prayer topics, there are five prayer prompts (again, based on that same specific Bible passage.) This is not a thick chapter book with anecdotes and verbose philosophies on prayer. This is not a book of eloquently written prayers. Rather, this is a simple, yet valuable, guide that nudges you toward Scripture-based prayers for your child. Because this book is close to pocket-size, I like to keep it in the console of my vehicle and pray through the prompts while I am waiting in the car before soccer games or school pick-up. Whether you use it in the car or elsewhere, try adding it to your prayer habits!

PRAY WITH ME: HELP YOUR CHILDREN ENGAGE IN AUTHENTIC AND POWERFUL PRAYER

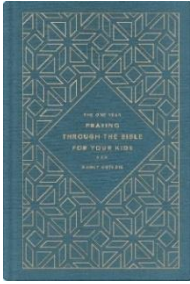
By: Erica Renaud



Simply by sharing her testimony, Erica Renaud makes a very strong case for the importance of guiding our children to build prayer lives of their own. We want our children to have an actual relationship with God, not just learn about Him, and prayer is a key component to encourage that to happen. After her compelling plea for adults to take this seriously, Renaud then gently encourages them to be guides for their kids. She also presents a wealth of practical, simple, and brilliant ideas for the nuts and bolts of how to teach your children to pray. She gives examples, tips, stories from her own life, and even words that you can use to explain difficult concepts to a child. I especially liked her testimony at the start of the book, as well as the chapters about “preparing to pray” and “helping them to pray on their own.” We recommend the book as an inspiration to not only deepen your own prayerfulness, but also to teach your kids to deepen theirs, too!

THE ONE YEAR PRAYING THROUGH THE BIBLE FOR YOUR KIDS

By: Nancy Guthrie

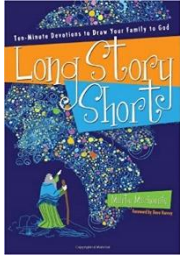


The One Year Praying Through the Bible for Your Kids devotional from Nancy Guthrie covers a lot of bases. First of all, Nancy insists that you don't have to search out passages that are specific to parenting in order to pray the Scriptures over your children. Working with the popular "One Year Bible Reading Plan," which takes you through the entire Bible in one year, Nancy pulls a few verses from each daily reading, followed by a beautifully written and wonderfully thoughtful devotion full of insights for parents, and finally a prayer for your children with blank spaces which can be personalized with their names. So, you are not only covering your children in prayer each day, you are also reading through the Bible in one year, *and* spending time meditating on a deep truth from a portion of what you read! I have found that praying God's Word for my children is the absolute best thing I can do for them, and it also softens my own heart toward them because God's Word is alive and will do its superb, convicting work within me when I immerse myself in it. You won't regret adding this book to your home library.

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS & READ-ALOUDS:

LONG STORY SHORT

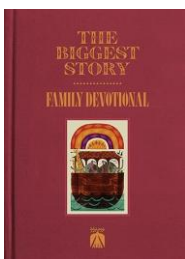
By: Marty Machowski



Long Story Short was an ECPA Christian Book Award Finalist for good reason. Designed to be used ten minutes a day, five days per week, this fantastic devotional takes your family through the Old Testament, while always pointing forward to God’s grace through Jesus Christ. The gospel message is deeply ingrained in each day’s focus. CVCKids loves how Machowski leads you straight into Scripture, covering important things that can get skipped over in storybooks. There are also nicely done summaries of the Scripture reading, meaningful questions, suggested activities, and prayer prompts. Another high point is that this devotional can be used with a wide range of ages, so your entire family can be involved. We couldn’t agree more with a review by Justin Taylor, managing editor of the ESV Study Bible. He says, “*Long Story Short* is the best material for family devotions I’ve ever seen. If you’re looking for something careful, creative, and Christ-centered without being corny, confusing, or condescending look no further.” Albert Mohler, Jr., President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, comments, “I have never seen a devotional book that is so well suited to family devotions and to children, even as it is faithful in relating biblical truth.” Bonus: Machowski has also written a New Testament devotion in the same manner, called *Old Story New*.

THE BIGGEST STORY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

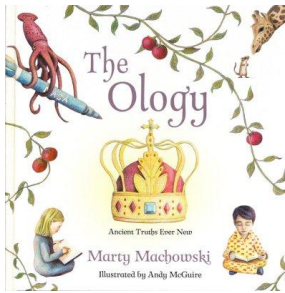
By: Douglas Sean O’Donnell and Kevin DeYoung, Illustrated by: Don Clark



Based on the fantastic *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook* by Kevin DeYoung, this family devotional is a winner! Here we have all 104 stories from the storybook revisited in devotional form. Each story includes a paragraph that gives the “Big Picture” summary, a QR code with a link to the Bible story video, five Bible passage readings with accompanying questions, a paragraph that explains the “Gospel Connection” within the story, and a prayer. There are many other “The Biggest Story” companion products that we feature throughout the different categories of the CVKids recommended resources, so be sure to check those out as well. This is an excellent book for families looking to have a devotional time together, so take advantage of it and get into God’s Word with your kids!

THE OLOGY: ANCIENT TRUTHS EVER NEW

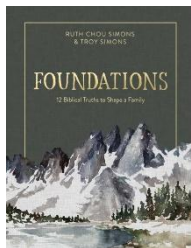
By: Marty Machowski, Illustrated By: Andy McGuire



God has designed the family to be the central place where children are disciples, which means parents are meant to be spiritual leaders within their homes. This makes it incredibly important for moms and dads to teach their children about God and His ways, and Marty Machowski has written a fantastic resource to equip them to do just that. *The Ology* is essentially a systematic theology book written especially for children. It is divided by topic, starting with a theology of God, and moving to a theology of people, sin, the promise and the law, Christ, the Holy Spirit, adoption into God's family, change, the Church, the end times, and God's Word. Beyond the fantastic scope of the content, the joy of this book lies in the simple analogies and lovely illustrations. Every entry is swathed in Scripture references and clearly explains the concept that is being presented. This book is very accessible for children and might even teach parents a thing or two as well!

FOUNDATIONS: 12 BIBLICAL TRUTHS TO SHAPE A FAMILY

By: Ruth Chou Simons and Troy Simons



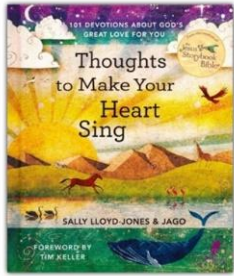
Although we already have an outstanding, highly-recommended, pair of family devotions on our list (*Long Story Short* and *Old Story New* by Marty Machowski,) we've included this one because of some key differences. *Foundations: 12 Biblical Truths to Shape a Family*, is less about grasping the biblical narrative than it is about the foundational truths that come from that narrative and shape how we live, things like...

- ...Love God above all else and with all you've got.
- ...Hate sin, especially your own.
- ...Hide the Word in your heart to live by it.

Each of the twelve truths has a key verse tied to it, followed by five devotions on topics related to it. Before any of the devotions begin, the Simons first give a pep talk to parents, sharing insight for how to create a regular, family worship time in their homes. The cherry on top is that the book is quite beautiful because Ruth Chou Simons is a best-selling artist, and her paintings fill the pages.

THOUGHTS TO MAKE YOUR HEART SING

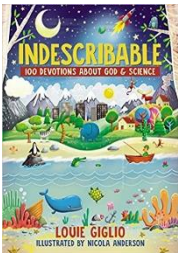
By: Sally Lloyd-Jones, Illustrated by: Jago



Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing is a beautifully written compilation of 101 devotions about God's great love for you. Each devotion truly does make your heart sing as it brings to light an amazing aspect of the affection and faithfulness of God. The readings feel very personal and intimate and applicable. The lavish illustrations and the simple-yet-profound insights open wide each biblical passage for even the youngest among us. Don't let that fool you into thinking that an adult won't be encouraged by reading this book. The encouragement is for all!

INDESCRIBABLE: 100 DEVOTIONS ABOUT GOD AND SCIENCE

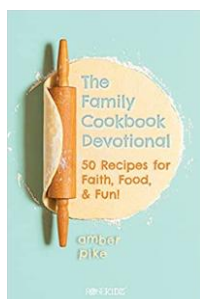
By: Louie Giglio, Illustrated by: Nicola Anderson



If you have a child who is curious about and interested in nature, science, and the way things work, this devotion book is for you! Brightly illustrated and filled with so many interesting and cool facts about the world God created, each of the 100 devotions includes a Scripture passage, short prayer, and highlights something wonderful about God. There are three books in this devotional series: *Indescribable*, *How Great is Our God*, and *The Wonder of Creation*.

THE FAMILY COOKBOOK DEVOTIONAL: 50 RECIPES FOR FAITH, FOOD, AND FUN

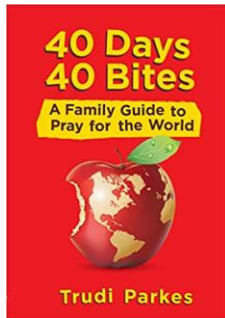
By: Amber Pike



Amber Pike has created a resource that not only gets you cooking with your kids, but also helps you disciple them along the way. Within *The Family Cookbook Devotional*, you'll find fifty simple recipes with full-color photographs. An aspect of each recipe brilliantly connects with that week's memory verse. Pike also directs you to read another Bible passage to further explore the topic, followed by three questions to think about, and several ideas to kick-start a time of prayer. To top it all off, there are six days worth of dinner devotions, during which you are encouraged to review the memory verse and use the provided questions to guide your conversations. That's a whole lot of content, but the good news is that none of it feels overwhelming. So, for a fun, tasty, practical way to study God's Word, we recommend *The Family Cookbook Devotional*.

40 DAYS 40 BITES

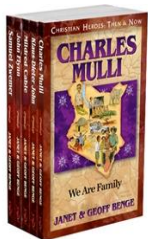
By: Trudi Parkes



Children are naturally “me-centered,” with a very narrow view of the world that revolves mostly around themselves. Let’s be honest, though. Adults can be the same way! But we can move our focus from the small world of our own personal lives to the larger world that exists beyond our homes, schools, and neighborhoods. We can discover other countries and issues that we aren’t exposed to on a regular basis. One great way to do that is to pick up a copy of *40 Days 40 Bites* by Trudi Parkes. In this fantastic book, Trudi highlights a different country, people-group, or world problem each day for forty days. She includes a brief description, some interesting facts, a Bible verse, prayer prompts, photographs, maps, and more! Both informative and convicting, this book will have you praying for all sorts of things you may have never considered, giving the Holy Spirit ample opportunity to work within your household. What a wonderful way for grownups to begin to raise mission-minded children with a heart for the nations.

CHRISTIAN HEROES: THEN AND NOW

By: Janet and Geoff Benge



The Benges are a husband and wife writing team, one a former elementary teacher and the other holding a degree in history. They have written a 49-book series of child-friendly biographies chronicling the lives of Christians who have lived for the glory of God and made a difference in the world. These true stories are exciting, compelling, and inspiring. They are great for reading aloud together as a family, capturing the attention of children and adults alike. Some of the names you may come across are Lillian Trasher, C.S. Lewis, George Muller, Hudson Taylor, Gladys Aylward, Louis Zamperini, and Amy Carmichael, among many others.

FAMILY CONNECTION & FUN:

THE ADVENTURE CHALLENGE: FAMILY EDITION

By: The Adventure Challenge



Trying new things together is a great way to connect and build lasting memories with your family. So, we recommend adding *The Adventure Challenge: Family Edition* to your life. The book is filled with scratch-off adventures. Here's the catch, though...once it's scratched off, you have to do it! The good news is that you can still choose wisely because each adventure is labeled with the amount of time and money it will take to complete, along with other needed details. There is a provided space to affix a photo and write a brief journal entry about your experience, so at the end you're left with a beautiful keepsake to remember the special family moments you had together. Head to theadventurechallenge.com to purchase.

THE ADVENTURE CHALLENGE: LUNCHBOX NOTES

By: The Adventure Challenge



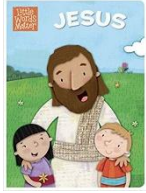
The Adventure Challenge: Lunchbox Notes bring a dose of connection, encouragement, and fun! Choose a scratch-off adventure card, write a note on it, and place it in your child's lunchbox. (There are 28 notes in the set...just enough to use about one per week during the school year.) In the middle of his or her school day, your child will get a personal message from you on one side of the note, along with the excitement of scratching off the other side to reveal the adventure challenge. Don't worry! There is a QR

code for parents to see what is underneath the scratch-off for each card, so that parents can choose carefully. To purchase, visit theadventurechallenge.com.

FOR BABIES AND PRESCHOOL KIDS:

LITTLE WORDS MATTER SERIES

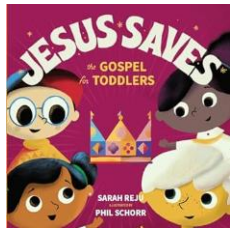
By: B&H Kids Editorial Staff, Illustrated By: Holli Conger



This delightful series of board books has a single word on each page. You can familiarize your babies with the stories and language of the Bible without overwhelming them, so even children with the shortest attention spans can hear about *Jesus*, *Easter*, *Christmas*, *Noah's Ark*, *Moses*, and *David*. In a few, little words, a big, important story can be told. Oh, and the pictures are adorable, too!

JESUS SAVES: THE GOSPEL FOR TODDLERS

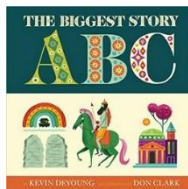
By: Sarah Reju, Illustrated By: Phil Schorr



This book is amazing! The gospel message is presented so clearly and simply that you won't feel like you are talking over your toddler's head. It begins with the truth that God made you and loves you. Then, it walks through God's sovereignty, our sin, salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection, repentance, and a life of following Jesus. Reju accomplishes all of this in a compact book with few words. One of the reasons it works so well is that she uses a wonderful, repetitive, rhythmic cadence throughout (except for one of the pages, which does not follow that pattern.) CVCKids highly recommends picking up your own copy today.

THE BIGGEST STORY ABC

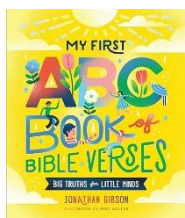
By: Kevin DeYoung, Illustrated By: Don Clark



This alphabet board book tells the overarching story of the Bible, accompanied by spectacular illustrations! Kevin DeYoung takes concepts from his book for older children, *The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden*, and crafts a condensed version for preschoolers, while also highlighting a word for each letter of the alphabet. It's crucial for children to understand that the Bible is one, big, true story. Here is a perfect opportunity to help them grasp that idea.

MY FIRST ABC BOOK OF BIBLE VERSES: BIG TRUTHS FOR LITTLE MINDS

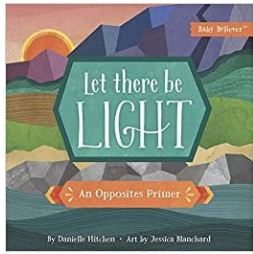
By: Jonathan Gibson, Illustrated By: Michael Mullan



Help your little ones learn key Bible verses and the alphabet all at the same time! Every vibrant page highlights one significant word within a Bible verse that corresponds to the letter on the page. At the bottom is a brief sentence that simply and clearly explains a truth from that Scripture. Put all that together with the sweet, rainbow-colored illustrations, and it's a winner to have on your bookshelf at home!

BABY BELIEVER SERIES

By: Danielle Hitchen, Illustrated by: Jessica Blanchard



Danielle Hitchen saturates her Baby Believer board book series in complex theology, direct quotes from the Bible, and deep Christian concepts. You might be wondering why you would want to buy something that sounds so complicated for your babies. Well, I would encourage you to do just that because these books are accessible for toddlers and can grow with them into the elementary years when they are more able to fully understand the scope of what each book is teaching. In the meantime, children are exposed

to rich theology and God's very Word, all organized in color primers or opposites primers or alphabet primers, etc. The lovely illustrations and artistic design of each page will capture your child's attention while they learn their colors or numbers or shapes. This series is covering a lot of bases and is highly recommended for every home! Look for these titles and more:

First Bible Basics (A Counting Primer)

Let There Be Light (An Opposites Primer)

We Believe (An Alphabet Primer)

Holy Week (An Emotions Primer)

Psalms of Praise (A Colors Primer)

From Eden to Bethlehem (An Animals Primer)

Jesus Heals (An Anatomy Primer)

Our God (A Shapes Primer)

Psalms of Praise (A Movement Primer)

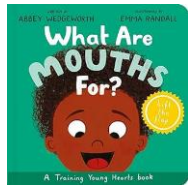
God Speaks (A Sounds Primer)

Hallelujah (A Biblical Hebrew Primer)

The Kingdom of Heaven (A Gardening Primer)

TRAINING YOUNG HEARTS SERIES

By: Abbey Wedgeworth, Illustrated By: Emma Randall



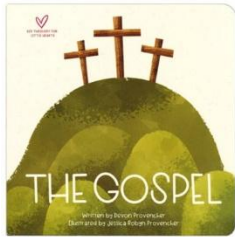
Each "Training Young Hearts" board book focuses on one part of the body. It leads children through all the wonderful things that God made that body part to do. (Mouths are made to sing!) Then, it helps children identify what those body parts are not supposed to do. (Mouths are not made to bite people!) It always considers how Jesus used that body part. (Jesus' mouth told the truth!) Finally, it tells kids how the Holy Spirit can help them be like Jesus. To top it all off, every page has a lift-the-flap feature! The series has a book for each of the following: *What Are Mouths For?*, *What Are Ears For?*, *What Are Hands For?*, *What Are Eyes For?*, *What Are Feet For?*, and *What Are Feelings For?*

Also, look for the rhyming books that have the same concept, but are slightly different, include more examination of what Jesus did, and are designed for older preschoolers! Right now, that list includes: *Your Amazing Hands*, *Your Magnificent Mouth*, and *Your Incredible Eyes*.

Finally, pick up a copy of the *Guide for Grown-Ups*, which the author wrote in order to help parents make the most of the series. In the guide, she gives practical tips and delves into the theology behind the books, including sections on the pattern of redemption, understanding misbehavior, what to do when they fail, training refrains, conflict resolution, and emotions and empathy. We highly recommend all the books in this series, as well as the guide for grown-ups!

BIG THEOLOGY FOR LITTLE HEARTS SERIES

By: Devon Provencher, Illustrated by: Jessica Provencher

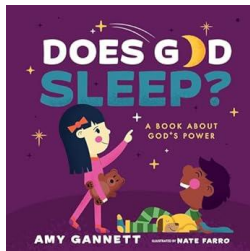


The Big Theology for Little Hearts series of board books is designed to establish a foundation of good theology in the lives of your toddlers and preschoolers. These books are perfect for starting conversations at the earliest possible age because they each tackle a big idea from the Bible. Every two-page spread in the books, highlights one important word related to the big idea and gives simple yet strong definitions for that word. The illustrations complement everything beautifully. Titles in the series include:

The Gospel, God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, The Church, Creation, Heaven, Prayer, and The Bible.

TINY THEOLOGIANS SERIES

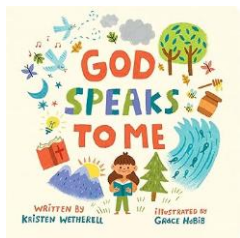
By: Amy Gannett, Illustrated by: Nate Farro



Does God Sleep? is a cute, little book about a big, important idea. God is all-powerful! Gannett does a brilliant job putting together an easy-to-read rhyme that captures God's omnipotence in a way that tiny theologians can understand. There are other books in the Tiny Theologians series that explore further big ideas about who God is: *Does God Go On Vacation?: A Book About God's Presence*, and *Did God Learn His ABC's?: A Book About God's Knowledge*.

FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO SERIES

By: Kristen Wetherell, Illustrated by: Grace Habib



This sweet, yet theologically rich, series of books examines different Christian doctrines, making them accessible to preschoolers! The text is rhyming, the illustrations are cute and bright, and the last page is always a lift-the-flap with a mirror for your child to see where he fits in the story. Each book also includes a note to parents, which explains the Scripture and doctrine on which the book is based. It also gives tips for how to read the book and even

a song suggestion to sing together after reading it. The books in the series include:

God Speaks to Me (the doctrine of Scripture)

God Hears Me (the doctrine of prayer)

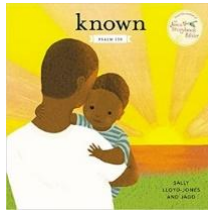
God Cares for Me (the doctrine of God's creation and His providence)

God Came Near to Me (the doctrine of Jesus' incarnation)

God Rescues Me (the doctrine of the gospel)

FOUND, NEAR, KNOWN, HAPPY, and STRONG

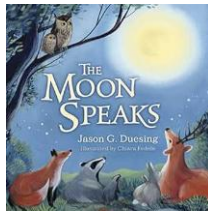
By: Sally Lloyd-Jones, Illustrated By: Jago



In this series of padded board books, Sally Lloyd-Jones, the author of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, does a beautiful job of adapting some favorite Psalms for little ones. In the book *Found*, she depicts Psalm 23 in words that preschoolers can grasp, describing how Jesus is like a shepherd and we are His little lambs. In the book *Near*, she expresses ideas from the first half of Psalm 139, explaining that God is with us wherever we go. In the book *Known*, she retells the second half of Psalm 139, articulating how God made us and knows us and loves us. In *Happy*, the first verses of Psalm 92 are retold, and most recently *Strong* was released, in which children explore concepts from Psalm 1. And you won't want to miss the illustrations by Jago which are utterly captivating.

THE MOON SPEAKS

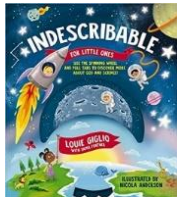
By: Jason G. Duesing, Illustrated by: Chiara Fedele



Based on Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:20, this lovely board book helps children understand how creation reflects the Creator! The illustrations are full of gorgeous landscapes and cute animals, and we think this is a perfect bedtime read aloud.

INDESCRIBABLE FOR LITTLE ONES

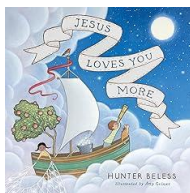
By: Louie Giglio, Illustrated by: Nicola Anderson



Here's a fun way to introduce your littlest ones to the wonder of God's world. This interactive board book focuses on four aspects of creation: space, earth, animals, and people. Discover fun facts, and enjoy the bright, happy illustrations, while pointing your child to the Creator who made it all!

JESUS LOVES YOU MORE

By: Hunter Beless, Illustrated by: Amy Grimes



You are fully aware of how very much you love your child, and your child can feel that love in your embrace, your words, your facial expressions, and your actions. Because God is invisible, it is more difficult for our children to understand His great love for them, but when we compare it to our own love, it helps make the idea more concrete for their little minds to grasp. In this darling picture book, (with the most whimsical and dreamy illustrations), parents express their deep and wide love for their child, but every exclamation of love is completed with the phrase, "...but Jesus loves you more." And isn't that what we want them to know...our love and the love of Jesus? Yes! Yes, we do!

WOW, GOD! THANK YOU, SORRY, PLEASE: A KID'S GUIDE TO PRAYER

By: Simon Camilleri, Illustrated by: Dominic On

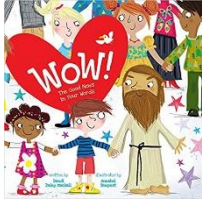


As any follower of Jesus knows, prayer is essential to the Christian life. So, from an early age, we must teach our children to talk to God. Simon Camilleri offers a very simple, and yet very helpful, book that guides children as they learn to pray. The illustrations show a daughter spending an entire day with her dad. (Fun tip: Search for the bird on every page!) The rhyming text has the feel of a father speaking to his daughter, helping her understand how to talk to God. He leads her through four main types of prayers: praise, gratitude, confession, and requests. But, as the title suggests, he labels each type of prayer in this way: “Wow, God! Prayers,” “Thank You Prayers,” “Sorry Prayers,” and “Please Prayers.” Wow God, Thank You, Sorry, and Please is easy for kids to understand and remember! And most of the things we say to God fall into one of those categories, so it’s a useful way approach prayer, especially if you are unsure of what to say. There is a section at the end of the book that references Scripture and helps children think through the types of prayers and what they might want to say to God.

FOR ELEMENTARY KIDS:

WOW! THE GOOD NEWS IN FOUR WORDS

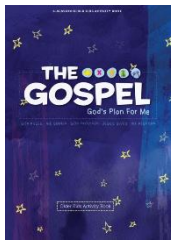
By: Dandi Daley Mackall, Illustrated By: Annabel Tempest



In this colorful, appealing picture book, Dandi Daley Mackall walks us through the gospel in a lyrical rhyming verse that isn't bulky or difficult to grasp. Four words are emphasized as our good response to the good news. Wow! Uh-oh! Yes! Ahh! This book gives parents of younger elementary children (and even preschoolers!) a perfect opportunity to explore the good news of Jesus.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

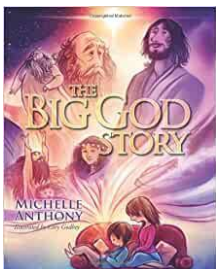
By: Lifeway Kids



It is crucial for us to deliver the Gospel to our children. Thankfully, Lifeway Kids has produced a wonderful (and hefty!) activity book designed to walk kids through God's plan of salvation. The message is broken down into five basic two-word sentences: God rules, We sinned, God provided, Jesus gives, We respond. Revolving around these five concepts, the book is chock-full of devotions, journal pages, and fun activities. In addition, Lifeway offers two versions of the activity book, one for younger kids and one for older kids. You can even purchase a leader's guide to do a six-session Bible study with your child. Don't hesitate to pick up a copy today!

THE BIG GOD STORY

By: Dr. Michelle Anthony, Illustrated By: Cory Godbey



If you'd like a picture book that tells the story of the Bible in one sitting for young children to absorb and understand, you've found it. Dr. Anthony begins at the beginning, continues with the story of God's love and faithfulness to His people, highlights the sending of a redeemer through God's Son Jesus, and ends with an invitation that welcomes children to be part of the story that God is writing, the story in which He is the hero. There is even a place where children are intended to write their names into the book on the very last page.

THE BIGGEST STORY: HOW THE SNAKE CRUSHER BRINGS US BACK TO THE GARDEN

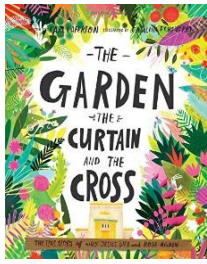
By: Kevin DeYoung, Illustrated By: Don Clark



This gem of a book takes you from Genesis to Revelation in ten, short chapters with vibrant, modern illustrations. It is a joy to read aloud because the words flow off the tongue and aren't cumbersome or laborious. Best of all, children will walk away seeing the Bible as one, wonderful story of God and His creation and plan for humanity, rather than a bunch of unrelated little stories. God is the hero in this book, as He should be, and over-arching biblical themes are written in a way for adults and children, alike, to absorb. Bonus: There are tons of companion products for "The Biggest Story" throughout this guide.

TALES THAT TELL THE TRUTH SERIES

By: Multiple Authors, Illustrated by: Catalina Echeverri



“Tales That Tell the Truth” is a series of picture books that tell Bible stories in engaging ways for children. The stories are easy to follow, and the illustrations beautifully convey the emotions and circumstances surrounding the chosen passage. Every story always goes a bit farther than strictly recounting the events. Instead, the stories open our eyes to an important meaning that lies just under the surface, touching on themes such as Jesus’ authority, God’s plan for salvation, trusting the Lord, and hope after death, to name a few. These titles release every few months, with varying authors but always the same illustrator, so keep your eyes opened for new additions to the series. There are also fun workbooks that you can purchase to go along with the Bible stories. Our top pick from this series is *The Garden, The Curtain, and The Cross*, which begins in the Garden of Eden and travels all the way to Jesus’ death and resurrection, and then beyond to heaven. It’s a fabulous presentation of the gospel message, which we encourage you to consider adding to your home library. Other wonderful titles in the series include, *The Christmas Promise, The One O’ Clock Miracle, The Storm That Stopped, God’s Very Good Idea, The Friend Who Forgives, Goodbye To Goodbyes, Jesus and the Lions’ Den, Jesus and the Very Big Surprise, The Prisoners the Earthquake and the Midnight Song, The God Contest, The Big Wide Welcome, Any Time Any Place Any Prayer, The Awesome Super Fantastic Forever Party, and The Man in the Tree and the Brand New Start.*

I CAN READ COMPANION BOOKS TO THE BEGINNER’S BIBLE

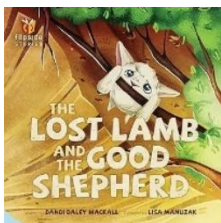
By: Zondervan, Illustrated By: Kelly Pulley



We know there are a lot of beginning readers out there. We have just the thing for you! *The Beginner’s Bible*, which is our recommended storybook Bible for preschoolers and early elementary-aged children, has companion *I Can Read* books that correspond to the stories from the Beginner’s Bible. The *I Can Read* books are a little longer with more pictures and more pages, but the vocabulary and sentence structure is intended to be used in those early stages of learning to read. Now your schoolwork can also be a Bible lesson! We can’t think of a better way for the beginning readers in your home to practice their reading.

THE LOST LAMB AND THE GOOD SHEPHERD

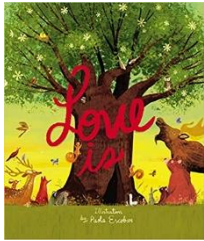
By: Dandi Daley Mackall, Illustrated By: Lisa Manuzak



CVCKids recommends this unique book, which retells Jesus’ parable of “The Lost Sheep.” Read through the cute rhymes from the sheep’s perspective. Then, flip the book over and around to read the story from the shepherd’s perspective!

LOVE IS

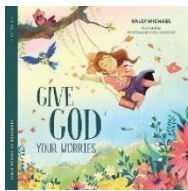
By: Paola Escobar



“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor 13:13) This is the final verse of what is commonly known as the “love chapter” of the Bible, in which the apostle Paul vividly describes the virtue of love. If the “greatest of these is love,” then it is certainly important for us to make sure our children are very familiar with its biblical definition. Paola Escobar helps us begin that discussion with her gorgeous picture book. Taking the text directly from the New International Reader’s Version of 1 Corinthians 13, she uses the life of a tree in nature to creatively illustrate each facet of Paul’s description. Some of the images have an obvious connection to the love concept in the text. Others take a bit of effort to discover, but this adds to the intrigue and causes you to linger on the pages and to strike up conversation with your children. So, to help saturate your home with Scripture, (and in a visually beautiful way, no less!), pick up your own copy of *Love Is*, and read it again and again.

BIBLE VERSES TO REMEMBER SERIES

By: Sally Michael, Illustrated By: Sengsavane Chounramany



Memorizing Scripture is a heart-changing, must-do for all Christians...even the littlest ones! Our kids need to learn the Bible, but sometimes, the verses call for further explanation, especially for young children. This series of illustrated picture books helps tackle those issues by talking through a verse on a child’s level (which helps them understand what it means,) and by repeating the verse often (which helps in the memorization process.) There are tips at the end for parents to aid their kids in the process. The series includes:

Give God Your Worries (1 Peter 5:7)

Our Great God (Psalm 95:3)

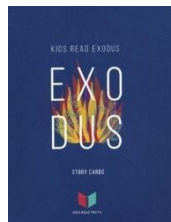
Good Gifts Come From God (James 1:17)

The Best News of All (Luke 2:10b-11)

A Wonderful Surprise (Luke 19:38a)

KIDS READ EXODUS STORY CARDS

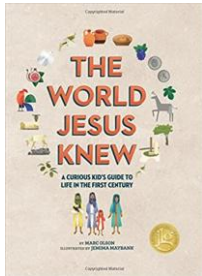
By: Kids Read Truth



The *Kids Read Exodus Story Cards* are designed to teach the story of the book of Exodus using Scripture, sequencing, and images. One side of each card has a gorgeous, colorful image from the Bible story. The other side of each card has a title, a few Bible verses, extended Scripture passages to look up, and three review questions. A cool feature is that when the pictures are arranged in order, in three rows of seven cards, they form a beautiful mural of the Exodus story.

THE WORLD JESUS KNEW: A CURIOUS KID'S GUIDE TO LIFE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

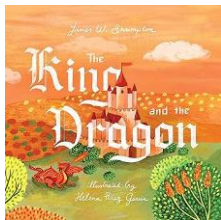
By: Marc Olson, Illustrated By: Jemima Maybank



In a stack of new-to-us Christian resources to explore, my two boys instantly selected this book. They couldn't stop looking through it and asked for it again and again. That's the kind of book I want in my home...a book that will be used and read and examined and loved...a book that will give insight to my children to help them understand the Bible more. *The World Jesus Knew* gives children a detailed look into what life was like in the Middle East when Jesus walked the earth. It is beautifully illustrated and very informative, covering topics such as the structure of society, vegetation and agriculture, transportation, the Roman army, fishing on the Sea of Galilee, the life of a woman, the Jewish calendar, death and burial, and much more! If you are interested in getting a copy for your home, both amazon.com and christianbook.com carry it.

THE KING AND THE DRAGON

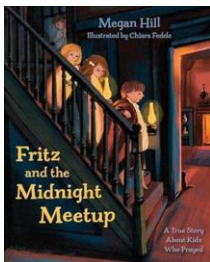
By: James W. Shrimpton, Illustrated by: Helena Perez Garcia



I adore this picture book! It is a beautiful retelling of God's rescue of His people, using the imagery of the King, the Knight, and the Dragon. This one tugs on your heart and awakens the feelings of gratitude and joy that always arise when the ancient truth of a great Rescuer who saves is presented...this time in a lovely, flowing rhyme with captivating illustrations. Don't miss out on this one! Get a copy for your own home, and read it again and again!

FRITZ AND THE MIDNIGHT MEETUP: A TRUE STORY ABOUT KIDS WHO PRAYED

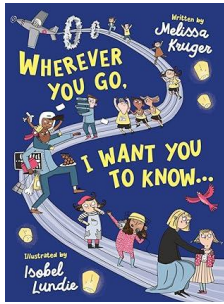
By: Megan Hill, Illustrated by: Chiara Fedele



This book is an absolute winner! It tells the story of an orphanage that was touched by the Holy Spirit. When some of the children want to find time to meet together to pray, the adults allow them to gather at midnight. One boy, however, seems to want to cause trouble. What happens next will warm your heart! The illustrations are darling, and the writing is just what you would hope it to be. But the best part is the very end of the book, which details the true story that occurred in a German orphanage in 1860. I tear up every time I read it! I've already purchased this book for my home library...*and* read it aloud to my teenagers! Maybe you'd like to invest in a copy for your home, too.

WHEREVER YOU GO, I WANT YOU TO KNOW...

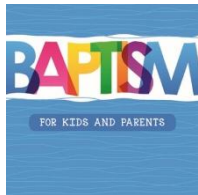
By: Melissa Kruger, Illustrated by: Isobel Lundie



What is the biggest dream Christian parents have for their kids? They want their kids to love and follow Jesus. This fun, rhyming book explores several different possibilities that your children might experience in their future careers and lives, all the while hinting that there is one big dream that you have for them. At the end of the book, it is revealed that all of those other possibilities are great, but what you hope for the most is that they love and follow Jesus. This is a great book for older preschool and early elementary kids. It would even work as a sweet gift book for a graduation at any age!

BAPTISM: FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

By: Jacob Riggs and Steve Greenwood



This brief, helpful booklet will walk you and your child through the basics of baptism. The first part of the book is for parents to read in order to determine whether or not their children are ready to be baptized. Faith, repentance, and confession are the three hallmarks for which parents need to be on the lookout. The rest of the booklet is for parents and kids to do together. It includes a section on the meaning of baptism, a section in which kids can make sure they are ready, and sections that encourage kids to think through some of the details of the event and what will happen in their lives afterwards. It's quick, handy, and theologically sound. CVCKids has some of these in stock, so feel free to ask if you'd like to know more.

MUSIC:

SEEDS FAMILY WORSHIP MUSIC

www.seedsfamilyworship.com



We know that music is very subjective and can even be divisive. These songs, however, are Scripture...word-for-word. So, if you listen consistently, your family will be memorizing Bible verses before you know it. That's worth it to us! Not only that, but there are some really great tunes on these albums and the arrangements, with authentic instruments and a strong adult lead, interspersed with children's voices, don't make you feel as though you are listening to the Disney channel or a kids-only station. I have often listened to the music without my children with me just because I like it! Seeds Family Worship sells their music digitally or in CD form, so it fits any lifestyle. My favorite albums are *Seeds of Courage*, *Seeds of Hope*, and *Seeds of Character*.

DOORPOST SONGS

By: Doorpost Songs



Most Christian parents know that teaching God's Word to their children is a direct command from God and the very thing He often uses to change a person's heart. (*Deut 6:6-9*) So, how do you get your kids to hide God's Word in their hearts? How do you infuse your everyday lives with Scripture? There are many ways, and we should utilize all of them, including talking about it, reading it together, memorizing it, and singing it! Today, we'd like to highlight a resource that we find helpful. Similar to *Seeds Family Worship*, which is another CVCKids Recommended Resource, *Doorpost Songs* offers Scripture-based music that will fill your home and your hearts with God's Word! Music is one of the best ways to memorize anything. The great thing about *Doorpost Songs* is that the melody lines are really strong, easy to sing, and very catchy. If a song is stuck in your head and you sing it over and over, you'll memorize those verses all the quicker! *Doorpost Songs* also offers "Family Worship Guides," in both digital and hardcopy format, that correspond to their different albums. Some of my favorite albums are "More Than Conquerors," "Promises," "Hope," and "God So Loved." There is a Christmas album titled "Unto Us" which I have enjoyed as well. You can purchase the albums as CDs or digital downloads, or you can listen to *Doorpost Songs* on Spotify or directly on their website doorpostsongs.com.

RAIN FOR ROOTS: BIG STORIES FOR LITTLE ONES

By: Rain for Roots



This was my favorite album to listen to with my children when they were preschool-aged. The music is folksy and sweet, with catchy melody lines, but the best part of this album is that each song makes God the hero of the story! The songs move in a chronological fashion through the Bible, starting with Creation, moving on to Noah and the flood, touching on other Old Testament stories, and then entering the New Testament by singing through stories of Jesus' life here on earth. I cannot recommend this collection of music enough!

MEDIA:

OWLEGORIES

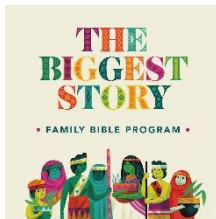
By: Owlegories



Are you looking for something deep, educational, biblical, wholesome, and fun for your preschoolers to watch? “Owlegories” might just be what you are looking for! Each volume has three segments that focus on three different aspects of nature that reveal something to us about the nature of God. The little owls have cute personalities, and they learn with your children along the way. There are currently six volumes in the series. You can find these videos for free on CVC’s Right Now Media account or on Amazon Prime with a Prime membership. Alternatively, you can purchase DVDs for your home or digital versions of the episodes on Amazon.

THE BIGGEST STORY PODCAST AND ANIMATED VIDEOS

By: Crossway



This recommended resource guide holds several “The Biggest Story” products from author Kevin DeYoung and illustrator Don Clark, and they’re all great, serving a variety of purposes. Here, we have two valuable media resources for you that are both free!

First, check out *The Biggest Story* podcast. Each kid-friendly recording is approximately ten minutes, and includes a story introduction, the full audio recording of each story from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook* narrated by Dr. Michael Reeves, a “Gospel Connection” segment, a recitation of each lesson’s “Big Truth,” a memory verse review, and a closing prayer. Listen on the way to practice or school, or even after dinner as a family.

Second, head to www.thebiggeststory.com/videos to view the most engaging, lovely, animated videos that bring all 104 stories from the storybook to life. Again, they are narrated by Dr. Michael Reeves, and they utilize the illustrations that Don Clark created. The original musical score is a perfect backdrop and enhances the stories greatly. If you own *The Biggest Story Family Devotional*, there are QR codes accompanying each entry, in order for you to easily access the videos from your phone.

YOUVERSION: KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE

By: YouVersion Bible App



A large percentage of people choose “YouVersion” as the Bible app on their phones, but did you know that there is a daily “Kids Bible Experience” within that app? There is! And it’s great for your elementary-aged kids! It’s a very short video devotional about a Bible passage, followed by one interactive reflection question, two written versions of the Bible passage, and a brief written prayer. So, redeem the screen by handing over your phone for five minutes and having your kid give it a try to see if it helps them develop a regular rhythm of being in God’s Word and meditating on His truths.

THE “FAMILY LIFE TODAY” PODCAST

By: Family Life Today, part of the Cru ministries



There are a whole lot of podcasts out there in the world. Podcasts that tell news stories, interview celebrities, and cover broad interests. And also podcasts that focus on niche hobbies and lesser-known passions, like blacksmithing or owning pet chameleons. Truly, there is something for everyone. But with so many choices, it can be difficult to wade through all the options and settle on something good. Let us help you out! What you put in your mind matters. So, consider adding “Family Life Today” to your podcast library. This one is for you, parents! It’s 25 minutes of God-centered, Bible-based conversation that focuses on family relationships. The hosts are a married couple named Dave and Ann Wilson, and they interview various guests covering topics about marriage, and parenting, and everything in between. The Wilsons are extremely likable. They are fun, authentic, and they do a great job interviewing their guests. The guests are also top-notch, and they discuss timely and engaging topics. I have so many specific episodes that I can recommend! All in all, it’s a worthwhile 25 minutes that will encourage you as you seek to honor God in the various roles you play within your own family.

CHRISTMAS:

PREPARE HIM ROOM: CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

By: Marty Machowski



Last December, I had the joy of using *Prepare Him Room* with my children during Advent. Here's what I loved about it. Machowski begins with a note for how to use the book, followed by instructions for making your own Advent wreath. For each week of Advent, there are three devotions, which is a manageable amount during the busy holiday season. Day one is always focused on "God's Promise." Day two tells us about "The Angel's Announcement" of that promise, and day three is a passage that shows the "Fulfillment of God's Plan." Every devotion has the following elements: a warm-up activity, a Bible passage to read, a summary of that Bible passage, a time for discussion, a prayer prompt, songs to listen to or sing together, and occasionally a family craft or activity. I especially appreciated the new-to-me songs from the companion album from Sovereign Grace Music. A few of them even made it to our annual Christmas playlist. There is also a fictional story included within the book, called *Bartimaeus*, with one chapter to read for each week of Advent. Truthfully, *Bartimaeus* wasn't the best story I ever read, but at the end of the month, my children expressed a better understanding of what it means to be adopted into God's family, so I think it was worth reading. You can dive all-in and do everything that is suggested, but it is also very easy to pick and choose the elements that will work for your family. If you're looking for an Advent devotional that is easy to use, family friendly, and guides your heart to true worship, give this one a try!

PREPARE HIM ROOM: CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN SONG

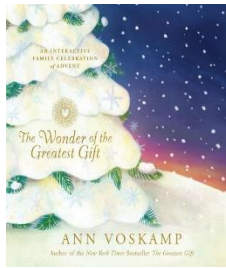
By: Sovereign Grace Music



This album is a companion to the *Prepare Him Room* family advent devotional by Marty Machowski. These songs are referenced throughout the devotion, and the lyrics are printed within its pages, so you can follow along as you listen to them or sing them together as a family. Some of the tunes are familiar Christmas carols, while others are original and new. There are certainly a few gems, like "He Who Is Mighty," "One Still Night," "Prepare Him Room," and "There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem," and honestly, the whole album is worth the price just for a particularly beautiful rendition of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." You can purchase a CD or buy a digital copy online, and you can also access these songs on Spotify and stream them for free if you have Amazon Prime.

THE WONDER OF THE GREATEST GIFT: AN INTERACTIVE FAMILY CELEBRATION OF ADVENT

By: Ann Voskamp

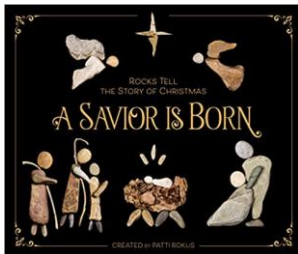


When December rolls around, it is always my goal to make the story of Jesus' birth the most amazing, celebrated, and wonderful part of the Christmas season. How is a parent to do that with all the competing, worldly "Christmas magic" that is constantly pulling at our children's attention? This resource is one way to bring the beauty and excitement of the arrival of the Messiah to your home. Ann Voskamp's book opens to reveal a three-dimensional tree. There are twenty-five little doors to open that have pretty, Jesse-tree ornaments hidden inside. Hang an ornament on the tree each day and read the brief, yet heart-felt devotion that goes along with it. The book will take you all the way back to the Garden of Eden and travel through important Bible stories that tie into Jesus' genealogy and eventually end with His birth.

*Please note that Ann Voskamp has also written another family Jesse-tree devotional called *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas* that I do not recommend as heartily. The readings were a bit too long and wordy for my children to enjoy. *The Wonder of the Greatest Gift: An Interactive Family Celebration of Advent* is the one to buy, in my opinion, because it had much more manageable readings, and it also included the tree and ornaments.

A SAVIOR IS BORN: ROCKS TELL THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

By: Patti Rokus



If your family is like mine, they love rocks! Some are shaped like hearts, and some have sparkles, and some are smooth as butter. Patti Rokus loves rocks, too, and she created a unique picture book in which she used rocks to form all the illustrations. The text is comprised of simple phrases or verses, with Bible references included. *A Savior is Born: Rocks Tell the Story of Christmas* is perfect to pore over during the Christmas season or anytime of the year. Check out her Easter book that has the same format. We love that one, too!

CHRISTMAS PICTURE BOOKS

Christmas is a time filled with wonder and generosity. It's all so magical...with twinkling lights, the smell of gingerbread and pine, and a warm feeling that settles somewhere in the center of your being. But beneath all the merriment and sentimentality lies a true story. It's raw, and real, and somewhat shocking. It's a story so meaningful, so breathtaking, so essential to life itself that it must be cherished and handed down to the next generation with care. It's the story of how the God of heaven and Earth generously gave us His Son, sending Jesus to Earth as a baby...a baby who would grow up to live and die and rise again in order to save us. When my children were still babies, I decided that I wanted to find a way to make that story the truly exciting thing about Christmas. I wanted to treat the story of Jesus' arrival here on Earth like the gift that it is. Trial and error led me to many things that did not work out, but a big thing that did work.

Every November, I gift wrap all our picture books that we own that tell the true story of Christmas. Then, each day leading up to Christmas morning (and a few days after!), we open a book and read it together. I have been collecting books since my boys were toddlers, so I have quite the stack now that they are teenagers. And I have weeded through them to find the ones we like best. If want to try something similar, consider purchasing four picture books and opening them on each Sunday of Advent leading up to Christmas. You can always add more to your collection each year like I did! (By the way, my teenage boys still ask for this tradition, and I happily oblige. I believe with my whole heart that picture books are for all ages!) Below are my recommendations. Each one is special in its own way. Some of them do have a minor issue or two, like showing the wise men at the manger in the illustrations. But whenever there is an inaccuracy like that, I use it as a brief teaching moment with my kids. They need to learn how to sift through information to know what is true and good without throwing out the whole thing!

Christmas is Coming (Tama Fortner)

Good News! It's Christmas (Glenys Nellist)

God Came Near to Me (Kristen Wetherell)

A Savior Is Born: Rocks Tell the Story of Christmas (Patti Rokus)

The Christmas Promise (Alison Mitchell)

M Is For Manger (Crystal Bowman and Teri McKinley)

B Is For Bethlehem (Isabel Wilner)

Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story (Sally Lloyd-Jones)

This is the Star (Joyce Dunbar)

The Christmas Story (Jane Werner Watson)

Nativity (Cynthia Rylant)

The Story of Christmas (Pamela Dalton)

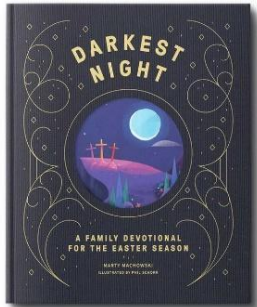
The Good News of Christmas (Rousseaux Brasseur)

The Promise: The Amazing Story of Our Long-Awaited Savior (Jason Helopoulos)

EASTER:

DARKEST NIGHT BRIGHTEST DAY: A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL FOR THE EASTER SEASON

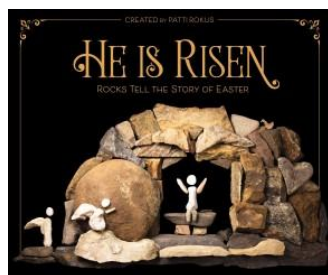
By: Marty Machowski, Illustrated By: Phil Schorr



In *Darkest Night Brightest Day: A Family Devotional for the Easter Season*, Marty Machowski combines the accounts given in all four gospels to walk us through Holy Week and beyond. This picture book devotional gives seven days' worth of readings, questions, and illustrations from Palm Sunday to the Saturday after Jesus died. These first seven devotions are the “darkest night” portion of the book. At the midway point, you physically flip the book around and upside down to read about the “brightest day.” There are seven more devotions, beginning on Easter, that recount some of the events that occurred in the days after Jesus rose from the dead, including things like Thomas' encounter with Jesus and the arrival of the Holy Spirit. The book is a storytelling format with some Scripture quotations. Scripture references from all four Gospels are included at the start of each day. Although this book is meant to be read aloud by an adult to the entire family, we recommend it for use with mid-to-older elementary children because the retellings were a bit long and used more advanced language. You can purchase *Darkest Night Brightest Day: A Family Devotional for the Easter Season* at New Growth Press, Christianbook, or Amazon.

HE IS RISEN: ROCKS TELL THE STORY OF EASTER

By: Patti Rokus

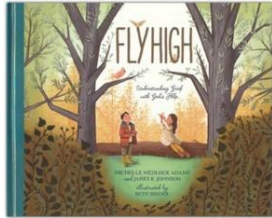


If your family is like mine, they love rocks! Some are shaped like hearts, and some have sparkles, and some are smooth as butter. Patti Rokus loves rocks, too, and she created a unique picture book in which she used rocks to form all the illustrations. The text is comprised of simple phrases or verses, with Bible references included. *He is Risen: Rocks Tell the Story of Easter* is perfect to pore over during Holy Week or anytime of the year. Check out her Christmas book in the same format. It's wonderful, too!

GRIEF:

FLY HIGH: UNDERSTANDING GRIEF WITH GOD'S HELP

By: Michelle Medlock Adams and Janet K. Johnson, Illustrated By: Beth Snider



In this gorgeously illustrated picture book, a mother helps her two children deal with grief when they discover an injured mama bird who later dies. They are sad and angry, while also worried about the three baby birds she left behind. The storyline leads you to walk through the grieving process with the child characters in the book, putting words to the emotions that they are feeling. Each page has a section with godly wisdom, along with questions to ask that personalize the material for your child. Even though the mama bird dies, there is a sense of hope throughout, and the baby birds survive in the end.

*Please note that there are two versions of this book. Be sure to get the one that has the tag line "Understanding Grief with God's Help," or you will be missing out on the Scripture references and biblical wisdom.

THE MOON IS ALWAYS ROUND

By: Jonathan Gibson, Illustrated By: Joe Hox



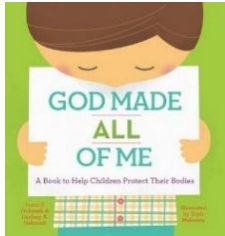
No matter what shape the moon appears in the sky, the moon is actually always round. In the same way, no matter our perspective of God, He is always good. Even when it's hard to see God's goodness, it's still there. This picture book tells the story of a boy, his father, and his mother, who is expecting a new baby. As they prepare for the baby, they also talk about the different shapes of the moon. They remind each other that the moon is always round. Then, the baby dies. Even though, they don't understand why, the family does understand that God is always good like the moon is always round. At the end of the book there is a section for grownups, which includes the story behind the book, lessons for children on both the moon and Good Friday, and a catechism on the moon. This book would work well with preschoolers, elementary-aged children, or even teenagers.

SEXUALITY:

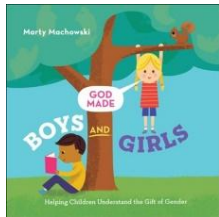
CVCKIDS' SEXUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS...

GOD MADE SERIES

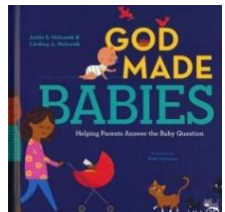
By: Multiple Authors, Illustrated By: Trish Mahoney



In *God Made All of Me: A Book To Help Children Protect Their Bodies*, Justin and Lindsey Holcomb address some very important issues. After laying the groundwork to tell children that God made them and their bodies are good, they explain that people have private parts. They give practical steps for what to do if children experience unwanted touches or secrets.



God Made Boys and Girls: Helping Children Understand the Gift of Gender by Marty Machowski is a perfect way to have early, healthy discussions with your preschooler about the God-given gift of gender. The story begins at recess when a boy in the book calls out to a girl, “If you keep playing with the boys, you will turn into a boy!” The teacher in the story lovingly addresses this comment by exploring the genetic code, the first man and woman ever created, and even the gospel message, affirming that a person’s gender does not change based on their likes, dislikes or talents.



You can use *God Made Babies: Helping Parents Answer the Baby Question* by Justin and Lindsey Holcomb for the perfect words to begin the conversation with your preschooler. The book starts at creation and then explores the concept of reproduction. Without describing the process of sexual intercourse, the book explains that a small part of a dad and a small part of a mom make a baby. Finally, the book addresses the growth of the baby in the womb and explains portions of labor and delivery.

GOOD PICTURES BAD PICTURES, JR.

By: Kristen A. Jenson, Illustrated By: Debbie Fox

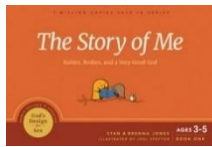


Unfortunately, studies are showing that the average age that children are exposed to pornography for the first time is eight. This means we parents need to prepare our children for what to do if that happens. *Good Pictures Bad Pictures, Jr.* is a perfect way to start the conversation, and it includes a plan for your child to fall back on if the day ever comes that their little eyes and minds are hurt by “bad pictures.” Don’t wait too long to teach your child that there are harmful images in the world. Get a copy of this book and begin the training today.

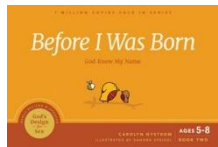
CVCKIDS' SEXUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KINDERGARTENERS...

GOD'S DESIGN FOR SEX SERIES: BOOKS ONE AND TWO

By: Stan and Brenna Jones, Illustrated By: Joel Spector



For younger elementary students, start with book one of the God's Design for Sex series, titled *The Story of Me: Babies, Bodies, and a Very Good God*. It is written as a conversation between a son and his parents and filled with illustrations that are more realistic than cartoon-like. Book One reviews a lot of the topics that are covered in our preschool recommended resources, like preventing sexual abuse, reproduction, and pregnancy, but it also covers a few things that are new.

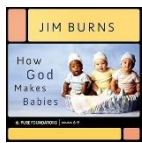


Next, we suggest that you move on to book two in the series, titled *Before I Was Born: God Knew My Name*. This book delves into the sexual anatomy of males and females, puberty, marriage, sexual intercourse, pregnancy, labor and delivery, and breastfeeding.

CVCKIDS' SEXUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1ST AND 2ND GRADERS...

HOW GOD MAKES BABIES

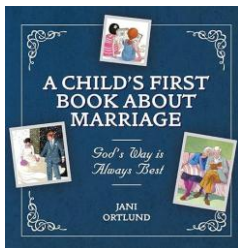
By: Jim Burns, Illustrated By: Joel Spector



Because biblical sexuality should be an ongoing conversation that you visit again and again, we encourage you to have multiple resources on hand to help. Jim Burns has another picture book that introduces curious children to how God makes babies. It covers much of the same material that Stan and Brenna Jones cover in their books that we recommend, with slight differences. This book uses a mix of photographs and drawings.

A CHILD'S FIRST BOOK ABOUT MARRIAGE: GOD'S WAY IS ALWAYS BEST

By: Jani Ortlund, Illustrated By: Angelo Ruta

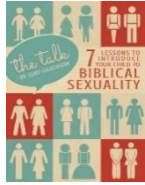


Give your child a wonderful introduction to a biblical view of marriage with this little book. Jani Ortlund goes all the way back to the beginning with Adam and Eve, as she explains that it is important to see what God has to say about marriage. She discusses the love and faithfulness that should exist between a husband and a wife because of the sacred promise they have made, and she describes how strong marriages are healthy for kids and for whole communities. I love the way she compassionately deals with difficult topics, like divorce, and how she doesn't shy away from explaining that marriage is not always easy, while still holding it in high regard. All of this is contained in a well-written picture book that is easy for kids to understand and whose pretty illustrations make it easy to look at, too.

CVCKIDS' SEXUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 3rd AND 4th GRADERS...

THE TALK SERIES

By: Luke and Trisha Gilkerson



For older elementary students, start with *The Talk: 7 Lessons to Introduce Your Child to Biblical Sexuality*. After giving parents an informative and helpful pep talk, there are seven Bible-based lessons on sexuality. Examples of the lessons are: “God made them male and female,” “Go forth and multiply,” “The two shall become one flesh,” and “You shall not commit adultery.” I just love the solid tie-in with Scripture.



Then, move on to *The Talk: Changes (7 Lessons to Make Sense of Puberty)*. After another great introduction for parents, there are seven Bible-based lessons on puberty. The Gilkersons talk us through growing in wisdom and stature, hormones, changes boys and girls can both expect, changes for boys, changes for girls, and the goodness of desire. The authors base each lesson on Scripture passages from Luke, Genesis, Proverbs, Psalms, 1 Corinthians, and Song of Solomon.