

Children's Book Recommendations

For as massive as the Christian publishing industry is, it can still be hard to identify trustworthy, Gospel-centered books for children. A good children's book can be an invaluable tool for conversation and connection, and a good children's book that explores the truth, beauty, and goodness of God can be even more than that—even an avenue for discipleship. Below are a handful of theologically-rich books that have been found beautiful and trustworthy by our community. Some of the books deal with challenging subject matter—we always recommend that parents look into the books for themselves first to help determine if a particular one is right for your kid at their particular age and temperament. Nonetheless, we hope that any of these books would help you connect with your children and point them to the love and grace of God in Christ. Each section is arranged from youngest reading level to highest. Happy reading!

STORY BIBLES

- Five-Minute Bible Stories by Hayley Down, illustrated by Dawn Machell (ages 0-3)
- The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible by Jared Kennedy, illustrated by Trish Mahoney (ages 3-6)
- Tomie DePaola's Book of Bible Stories by Tomie DePaola (ages 4-8)
- The Big Picture Story Bible by David Helm, illustrated by Gail Schoonmaker (ages 4-10)
- The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Jago (ages 5-11)
- The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden by Kevin DeYoung, illustrated by Don Clark (ages 9-12)

FULL-TEXT BIBLES

- ESV Seek and Find Bible
- ESV Big Picture Bible
- NIV Adventure Bible

THE GOSPEL

- Love Gave: A Story of God's Greatest Gift by Quina Aragon, illustrated by Rommel Ruiz (ages 3-7)
- What is the Gospel? by Mandy Groce, illustrated by Tessa Janes (ages 4-7)
- The Friend Who Forgives by Dan Dewitt, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross by Carl Laferton, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- Jesus and the Very Big Surprise by Randall Goodgame, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- Sophie and the Heidelberg Cat by Andrew Wilson, illustrated by Helen Perez Garcia (ages 5-6)

- The Prince's Poison Cup by R.C. Sproul, illustrated by Justin Gerard (ages 8-12)

DEVOTIONALS

- Jesus Wants All of Me: Based on the Classic Devotional My Utmost for His Highest by Phil A. Smouse & Oswald Chambers, illustrated by Laura Watson (ages 4-8)
- Leading Little Ones to God by Marian M Schoolland, illustrated by Paul Stoub (ages 4-10)
- Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Jago (ages 6-10)
- Indescribable: 100 Devotions for Kids About God and Science by Louie Giglio, illustrated by Nicola Anderson (ages 6-10)
- How Great Is Our God: 100 Indescribable Devotions About God and Science by Louie Giglio, illustrated by Nicola Anderson (ages 6-10)
- Prayer is an Adventure by Patricia St. John (ages 8-12)

BY SUBJECT

ADVENTURE & WONDER

- Near: Psalm 139 by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Jago (ages 1-4)
- Good Night Tales: A Family Treasury of Read-Aloud Stories by C.S. Fritz (ages 3-8)
- The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy (ages 4-10)
- Wherever You Go, I Want You to Know by Melissa Kruger, illustrated by Isobel Lundie (ages 4-11)
- The Secret of the Hidden Scrolls series by M.J. Thomas (ages 6-9)
- Dangerous Journey: The Story of Pilgrim's Progress by Oliver Hunkin (ages 8-12)
- The Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis (ages 8+)
- The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald (ages 10-11)

ANXIETY

- Found: Psalm 23 by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Jago (ages 1-4)
- Little Francis Falls Asleep by Pip Craighead (ages 3-8)
- Why Do We Say Goodnight? by Champ Thornton, illustrated by Rommel Ruiz (ages 3-8)
- Buster Tries to Bail: When You are Stressed by David & Nan Powlison, illustrated by Joe Hox (ages 4-8)
- Zoe's Hiding Place: When You are Anxious by David Powlison, illustrated by Joe Hox (ages 4-8)
- It Will be Okay: Trusting God Through Fear and Change by Lysa TerKeurst, illustrated by Natalia Moore (ages 6-10)

BIOGRAPHY & HISTORY

- Paul Writes a Letter by Chris Raschka (ages 6-9)
- For Such a Time as This: Stories of Women from the Bible, Retold for Girls by Angie Smith, illustrated by Breezy Brookshire (ages 6-10)

- The World Jesus Knew: A Curious Kids' Guide to Life in the First Century by Marc Olson, illustrated by Jemima Maybank (ages 8-12)
- Stories of the Saints: Bold and Inspiring Tales of Adventure, Grace, and Courage by Carey Wallace, illustrated by Nick Thornborrow (ages 8-12)

CHRISTMAS & ADVENT

- Silent Night by Lara Hawthorne (ages 3-6)
- Listen to the Silent Night by Dandi Daley Mackall, illustrated by Lou Fancher & Steve Johnson (ages 3-7)
- Jesus Came for Me: The True Story of Christmas by Jared Kennedy, illustrated by Trish Mahoney (ages 3-7)
- Mary's First Christmas by Walter Wangerin, Jr., illustrated by Timothy Ladwig (ages 4-7)
- The Christmas Promise by Alison Mitchell, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- Nativity by Cynthia Rylant (ages 4-8)
- A Jesus Christmas: Explore God's Amazing Plan for Christmas by Barbara Reaach (ages 4-11)

CHURCH

- What is the Church? By Mandy Groce & Bill Bell, illustrated by Tessa Janes (ages 3-6)
- God's Very Good Idea by Trillia Newbell, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- God Made Me for Worship: Helping Children Understand Church by Jared Kennedy, illustrated by Trish Mahoney (ages 4-8)

CONFESSION & REPENTANCE

- Arlo and the Great Big Cover-Up by Betsy Childs Howard, illustrated by Samara Hardy (ages 3-7)

CREATION

- Creation by Cynthia Rylant (ages 2-6)
- Love Made: A Story of God's Overflowing, Creative Heart by Quina Aragon, illustrated by Scotty Reifsnyder (ages 3-7)
- My Little Golden Book About God by Jane Werner Watson, illustrated by Eloise Wilkin (ages 3-7)
- When God Made the World by Matthew Paul Turner, illustrated by Gillian Gamble (ages 3-7)
- The Chorus of Creation: Psalm 148 illustrated by Kristen & Kevin Howdeshell (ages 4-9)
- Parables from Nature by Mrs. Alfred Gatty (ages 9-12)

DEATH & ETERNITY

- Goodbye to Goodbyes by Lauren Chandler, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)

- Tell Me About Heaven by Randy Alcorn, illustrated by Ron DiCianni (ages 8-10)

EASTER

- Holy Week: An Emotional Primer by Danielle Hitchen, illustrated by Jessica Blanchard (ages 0-4)
- Jesus Rose for Me: The True Story of Easter by Jared Kennedy, illustrated by Trish Mahoney (ages 3-7)
- The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross by Carl Laferton, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- The Friend Who Forgives by Dan Dewitt, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- Peter's First Easter by Walter Wangerin, illustrated by Tim Ladwig (ages 4-9)
- The Donkey Who Carried a King by R.C. Sproul, illustrated by Chuck Groenink (ages 8-12)

GRIEF

- Henry Says Goodbye: When You Are Sad by Edward Welch, illustrated by Joe Hox (ages 3-7)
- Far From Home: A Story of Loss, Refuge, and Hope by Sarah Parker Rubio, illustrated by Fátima Anaya (ages 4-7)
- Goodbye to Goodbyes by Lauren Chandler, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- The Moon is Always Round by Jonathan Gibson, illustrated by Joe Hox (ages 4-8)

LOVE & EMPATHY

- Love Is Patient, Love Is Kind illustrated by Naoko Stoop (ages 0-3)
- Maybe God Is Like That Too by Jennifer Grant, illustrated by Benjamin Schipper (ages 4-7)
- Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too by Jennifer Grant, illustrated by Benjamin Schipper (ages 4-8)
- If Jesus Came to My House by Joan Gale Thomas (ages 4-8)
- The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy (ages 4-10)

PRAYER

- Loved: The Lord's Prayer by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Jago (ages 1-4)
- Psalms for Young Children by Marie-Helene Delval, illustrated by Arno (ages 4-8)
- Tell God How You Feel: Helping Kids with Hard Emotions by Christina Fox (ages 4-8)
- The Lord's Prayer illustrated by Tim Ladwig (ages 5-10)
- Prayer is an Adventure by Patricia St. John (ages 8-12)
- WonderFull: Ancient Psalms Ever New by Marty Machowski, illustrated by Andy McGuire (ages 8-12)
- Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource edited by Molly Wall and Jason Mandryk (ages 8-12)
- What Every Child Should Know About Prayer by Nancy Guthrie, illustrated by Jenny Brake (ages 9-12)

RACE & ETHNICITY

- When God Made You by Matthew Paul Turner, illustrated by David Catrow (ages 3-7)
- One Big Heart: A Celebration of Being More Alike than Different by Linsey Davis, illustrated by Lucy Fleming (ages 4-8)
- God's Very Good Idea by Trillia Newbell, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri (ages 4-8)
- God Made Me and You: Celebrating God's Design for Ethnic Diversity by Shai Linne, illustrated by Trish Mahoney (ages 4-11)
- The Gospel in Color by Curtis Woods & Jarvis Williams, illustrated by Rommel Ruiz (ages 6+)
- I Have a Dream by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Kadir Nelson (ages 7+)

SEXUALITY & GENDER

- God Made All of Me: A Book to Help Children Protect Their Bodies by Justin S. Holcomb & Lindsey A. Holcomb, illustrated by Trish Mahoney (ages 2-8)
- God Made Your Body by Jim Burns (ages 3-5)
- Good Pictures Bad Pictures Jr.: A Simple Plan to Protect Young Minds by Kristen A. Jenson, illustrated by Debbie Fox (ages 3-6)
- A Child's First Book About Marriage by Jani Ortlund (ages 4-9)
- How God Makes Babies by Jim Burns (ages 6-9)
- God Made Boys and Girls: Helping Children Understand the Gift of Gender by Marty Machowski (ages 8-12)
- Good Pictures Bad Pictures: Porn-Proofing Today's Young Kids by Kristen A. Jenson, illustrated by Debbie Fox (ages 8-12)

THEOLOGY

- We Believe: An Alphabet Primer by Danielle Hitchen, illustrated by Jessica Blanchard (ages 0-4)
- The New City Catechism for Kids (ages 4-11)
- The Ology: Ancient Truths, Ever New by Marty Machowski, illustrated by Andy McGuire (ages 6-11)
- Emblems of the Infinite King: Enter the Knowledge of the Living God by J. Ryan Lister, illustrated by Anthony Benedetto (ages 8-12)
- Big Truths for Young Hearts by Bruce A. Ware (ages 10+)