

# THETA KIDS!

## READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Parents,

All of the age recommendations are just that. They are not hard and fast rules. Some kids pick up things faster than others, and that's just fine! You know your kids, and you'll find out if you should try something "older" or "younger" for them. I happily recommend all these resources, but I put \*\* next to my personal favorites. But just because they're my favorites, doesn't mean they'll be yours! In everything though, continue to let your children see the love of Christ!

### BIBLES:

- Ages 3 and under:
  - *Baby's First Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones, The First Bible Collection, (Reader's Digest, 1996)
  - Christian Focus' Shaped Board Books series by Hazel Scrimshire, (Christian Focus, 1998)—Titles include *Safe at Sea*, *The Special Baby—Jesus*, *Big Picnic*, *Safe with the Lions*, *The Kind Man*, *Big Crash*, *Amazing Jar of Oil*, *Little Rich Man*, and *The Singing Shepherd*
  - *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm (Crossway, 2004).\*\*
  - *The Toddler's ABC Bible Storybook* and *123 Bible Storybook* by Carolyn Larsen (Crossway, 2007).
  - *Little Hands Life of Jesus* by Carine Mackenzie (Christian Focus, 2008)
- Ages 4-6
  - *365 Bible Stories for Young Hearts*, (Crossway, 2006)
  - *The Christian Focus Story Bible* by Carine Mackenzie (Christian Focus, 2004)
  - *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Ever Story Whispers His Name* by Sally Lloyd-Jones (Zondervan, 2007). \*\*
  - *The Gospel Story Bible* by Marty Machowski (New Growth Press, 2011) \*\*
- Ages 7-8
  - *The Child's Story Bible* by Catherine Vos (6<sup>th</sup> ed., Eerdmans, 2004).
  - *The New Children's Bible* by Anne de Vries, (Christian Focus, 2004)
  - *The ESV Illustrated Family Bible* (Crossway, 2008)
  - *Mighty Acts of God* by Starr Meade, (Crossway, 2010) \*\*
- Ages 7-10 (A good first "real Bible" for a child)
  - *ESV Seek and Find Bible*, (Crossway, 2010)- this is a full ESV Bible with helpful articles and explanations of some of the stories.

### FAMILY WORSHIP RESOURCES:

- *The Family Worship Book: A Resource Book for Family Devotions* by Terry L. Johnson, (Christian Focus, 2005)
- *Family Worship: In the Bible, in History, & in Your Home* by Donald Whitney, (2006)
- *Long Story Short* and *Old Story New (Ten Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God)* by Marty Machowski, (New Growth Press) \*\*

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### MEMORIZING BIBLE VERSES TOGETHER:

- *My ABC Bible Verses: Hiding God's Word in Little Hearts* by Susan Hunt (Crossway, 1998) —Bible verses for each letter of the alphabet. Each verse is related to life situations with an easy-to-read children's story.
- Verses set to Music:
  - *Hide the Word: Scripture Memory Songs, Volumes 1-8*, by Mark Altrogge (Forever Grateful Music)—This set of CDs puts scripture to good music. This isn't necessarily just for kids. Adults will enjoy it too.
  - *Randall Goodgame presents Sing The Bible with Slugs and Bugs: Word for Word Scripture Songs*. (Slugs & Bugs, 2014) \*\*

### CATECHISMS FOR KIDS:

(Learn Bible Doctrines and themes with your children by memorizing simple questions and answers that teach Bible truths. These start simple and get deeper as the child grows older)

- *A Catechism for Boys and Girls*, (Reformation Today Trust, 2005) \*\*
- *Big Truths for Little Kids: Teaching Your Children to Live for God* by Susan and Richie Hunt (Crossway, 1999)
- *My 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Questions and Answers* by Carine Mackenzie (Christian Focus, 2001)
- *Truth and Grace Memory Books* by Thomas K. Ascol (Founders Press, 2005).
- *The Big Book of Questions and Answers: A Family Devotional Guide to the Christian Faith* by Sinclair Ferguson (Christian Focus, 1997)
- *A Catechism for Girls and Boys* found online for free at [www.ReformedReader.org/cc/acbg.htm](http://www.ReformedReader.org/cc/acbg.htm) \*\*

### GOOD BOOKS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY:

These are some good books on different aspects of Christianity that are really encouraging to parents and kids as you read them together!

#### Young Kids:

- *My Thankful Heart* by Sally Lloyd Jones, (Tyndale, 2004)- teaches giving thanks to God.
- *My 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Bible Prayers* by Philip Ross (Christian Focus, 2004)- prayers based on Bible verses.
- *I Love My Bible!* by Debby Anderson (Crossway, 2008)
- *Learn About God Series* by Carine Mackenzie (Christian Focus, 1999). This series includes *God Knows Everything*, *God Is Faithful*, *God Never Changes*, *God Is Everywhere*, *God Has Power*, and *God Is Kind*. **Some of the titles are available as coloring books. These are little board books for very young kids.**
- *What is the Gospel?* by Mandy Groce (Christian Focus, 2012) \*\*
- *What is the Church?* by Mandy Groce & Bill Bell (Christian Focus, 2010) \*\*
- *Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing* by Sally Lloyd-Jones, (Zonderkids, 2012) \*\*

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### Older Kids:

- Three books by Sally Michael- *God's Names, God's Providence, and God's Wisdom*. (P&R Publishing). \*\*
- *Get Wisdom: 23 Lessons for Children About Living for Jesus* by Ruth Younts, (Shepherd Press, 2010)
- *Christian Biographies For Young Readers* by Simmonetta Carr, (Reformation Heritage Books). These titles include: *Athanasius, Augustine of Hippo, Lady Jane Grey, John Knox, Jonathan Edwards, John Owen,* and more. \*\*
- *God's Mighty Acts in Salvation* by Starr Meade (Crossway, 2010)
- *History Lives!* by Mindy and Brandon Withrow (Christian Focus, 2005) - this is a five volume set of great books for ages 8-teens that retell the stories of individual Christians from the early church until today. \*\*
- *Herein is Love: A Commentary Series for Children, From Paradise to Promise Land: Genesis- Joshua*, volumes 1-6, by Nancy E. Ganz, (Shepherd Press, 2002-2006).

### FUN CHRISTIAN BOOKS:

- *The Prince's Poison Cup* by R.C. Sproul, (Reformation Trust Publishing)
- *The Priest With Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul (Reformation Trust Publishing)
- *Dangerous Journey* by Oliver Hunkin, (Eerdmans, 1985)—retelling of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* in a chapter book on a 4th grade reading level. This allegory of the Christian life is appropriate for parents to read chapter by chapter to children as young as four. A DVD version is now available as well (Vision Video).
- *Grandpa's Box* by Starr Meade (P&R Publishing)
- *Gumtree Gully: A Two Ways To Live Bush Yarn* by Kel Richards (Matthias Media)
- Douglas Bond has written a number of great books for kids and teens, many of them are historical fiction. You can find out more at [www.BondBooks.net](http://www.BondBooks.net)

### MORE RESOURCES:

- Christian Focus Publishing- they have a lot of great resources in their kids section including coloring books, stories, and more. ([www.ChristianFocus.com](http://www.ChristianFocus.com))
- Children Desiring God- there are a lot of good resources and articles on this website. ([www.ChildrenDesiringGod.org](http://www.ChildrenDesiringGod.org))
- Answers in Genesis website- one of the more difficult teaching challenges with children today is engaging with science, and this website does a lot to help teach you and your kids how to think about many of the theories and arguments that many people in our culture treat as truth even though it contradicts Scripture. ([www.AnswersinGenesis.org](http://www.AnswersinGenesis.org))
- Dr. Ray Van Neste, who teaches New Testament and Theology, has a website devoted to interacting with books for children from a christian parent's perspective. It is well worth looking around on and reading. He has a large family and has been writing on this blog since 2005. (<http://childrenshourbooks.blogspot.com/>)

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### BOOKS ON PARENTING: (Feel free to ask why the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 books are on marriage!)

- *When Sinners Say I Do: Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage* by Dave Harvey, (Shepherd Press, 2007) \*\*
- *What Did You Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage* by Paul David Tripp, (Crossway, 2012)
- *Marriage Matters: Extraordinary Change Through Ordinary Moments* by Winston Smith, (New Growth Press, 2010)
- *Show Them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids* by Jack Klumpenhouwer (New Growth Press, 2014) \*\*
- *Shepherding A Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp, (Shepherd Press, 1995) \*\*
- *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens* by Paul David Tripp, (P&R Publishing, 2001)
- *Christ in the Chaos: How the Gospel Changes Motherhood* by Kimm Crandall (Cruciform Press) \*\*
- *Don't Make Me Count To Three!* by Ginger Plowman (Shepherd Press, 2011)
- *Loving the Little Years: Motherhood in the Trenches* by Rachel Jankovic, (Canon Press, 2010)
- *The Faithful Parent: A Biblical Guide to Raising A Family* by Martha Peace & Stuart Scott, (P&R Publishing, 2010)
- *Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God* by Bruce Ware, (Crossway, 2009)
- *Family Ministry Field Guide* by Timothy Paul Jones, (Wesleyan Publishing House, 2011)

### A FINAL WORD:

We know how hard it can be to discern what is worth buying and what is worth using as a parent. That's why we wanted to give you this list. However, while knowing what is worth having is incredibly helpful to a parent, these books and resources will not make your child into a Christian.

Nothing, and I mean, absolutely nothing, but the work of the Holy Spirit in your child's heart will save them. So, pray! Pray every day for your child. Also, no one, and I mean absolutely no one, but Jesus Christ can be their Savior, and that includes you. But no one can replace you as a parent as an example of a Christian loving Christ and living for Christ every day. Your child's Sunday School teacher can't, your pastor can't. Your first and greatest opportunity for evangelism is your child. Your most important calling is to train your children while they are under your care. You are in a war for your child, so every day, fight to be consistent, fight to be loving, and teach your child.

Please know that we are praying for you. The people in this church love you, are excited about your children, and want to be there for you when you need us! Let's face it, we are parents. That means there will be times we need help. It's just part of the job. But God is bigger! Christ is our King! Your kids are watching, show them that you mean it.

In Christ,  
Kevin