

# ONE BIG STORY BIBLE STORYBOOK

# A Letter to Parents

**A** strong foundation in the Word of God is the most important thing you can leave for your kids. You want your children to know not only the Bible, but also the God who has revealed Himself to us in its pages. The prayer of our hearts is that through the work of the Spirit, God would use His Word to introduce our kids to Jesus. It's a message that we want to give them at home, as well as in the church.

There are all sorts of Bible storybooks on the shelf today, but not all storybooks are equal. Many Bible stories are presented to kids in a way that seems to communicate the primary message: “be good.”

What sometimes gets lost in the journey through Bible stories is the good news of what Christ has done to save the lost. In other words, when we focus on reinforcing good behavior, we may be missing the heart-change brought about by the gospel. Even worse, we condition our kids to think that the Bible is all about them.

*This Bible storybook is different.* Here are some of the things you will find here:

## **1. A supplement to the Bible that focuses on the big story**

First, you'll see that this book is designed to supplement Bible reading by showing how the Bible stories connect to form one big story. Why is this important?

Well, when we take Bible stories out of context to glean moral lessons from them, we can leave kids with the impression that the Bible is much like Aesop's Fables—interesting tales with moral application.

Even though the Bible has moral application and does give us some terrific stories, it actually tells one overarching story. These stories fit together. They tell us the story of our world—where we've come from and where we are going.

We believe it's important that children recognize how these Bible stories are connected. That's why these stories are presented chronologically.

## **2. Questions that focus our attention on God**

Once we recognize that the Bible as a whole is telling us a great story, we discover that we are not the main characters. The Bible is first and foremost about God. He is the hero.

These stories provide us with life application, yes. But before we get to application, we ought to ask, “What does this story tell us about God? What attributes and characteristics of God are on display in this story? If the Bible's big story is about God's bringing about the redemption of His fallen world, then what picture of God do we see in the smaller stories?”

You'll see that these stories include Big Picture Questions and Answers. These are designed to help kids understand the truths about God, humanity, sin, and redemption—truths we learn in the Bible through the telling of these stories.

### **3. Connections that point us to Jesus**

Just because you know the Bible doesn't mean the Word will bear fruit in your life. It is possible to know the Scriptures, read the Scriptures, revere the Scriptures, and study the Scriptures and miss the point entirely. Jesus told the Jewish leaders of the day that even though they had meticulous knowledge of the Old Testament, they had missed the truth that the Old Testament is ultimately about Him.

Whenever we study the stories of the Bible, we need to ask how they point us to Christ. The reason God's Word changes our life is not because of our personal study but because in the Scriptures we are introduced to Jesus, the Author.

That's why we've included "Christ Connections" for every Bible story. These connections are just one way to help you as a parent show how every story is pointing to Christ and His work for us.

### **Why this book?**

"Be good" is not the message of the Bible. "Be saved" is. We want our children to know that God is good, and He is the hero who sent His Son to die for our sins.

Biblical behavior should not flow from obligation and compulsion. God cares about our hearts. Our hearts are not changed by the commands of the Law. Our hearts are changed when they overflow with love for the Savior. As we experience the grace of what God has done for us in Christ, our hearts are free to worship and obey. It's important that, when giving our children these commands, we also show them how the Holy Spirit, through the gospel, gives them the strength to obey these commands.

So, enjoy the big story of the Bible and introduce your children to the God who loved us in this way: "He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

# Parent Connection



## Remember:

*The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever. —Isaiah 40:8*

## Read:

John 1:1–18 really puts the big picture of the Bible in perspective. From the beginning of the world to this very moment, God has had a plan. His is a perfect plan of sacrifice and grace to illustrate His unending, undying love for His children. Sometimes the picture may seem too big to understand, but as you study story by story, piece by piece, the puzzle will come together and reveal God’s big-picture plan for your life.

## Think:

1. Name two or three Bible stories that seem to fit together.
2. What did the people in these stories learn about God?
3. What do these stories all have in common?
4. How are they different?
5. How are these stories similar to and different from your own story?
6. What has your story taught you about God?

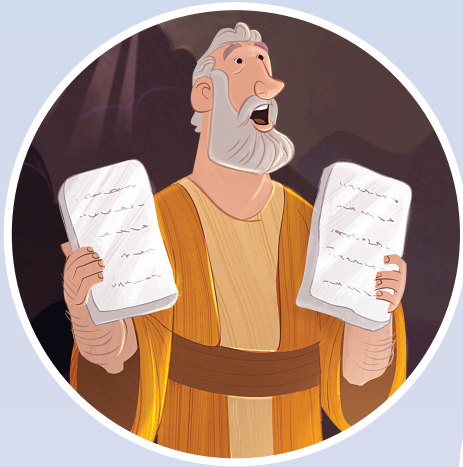
## Do:

Show how it all ties together. Create a big-picture poster.

1. Ask an adult for a poster board. You can also use a large piece of paper.
2. In the center draw a symbol that represents God. You can use a cross, a heart, the word *God*, or whatever God means to you.
3. Above that, draw another symbol or illustration that represents another story from the Bible.
4. Draw a line to connect that story symbol to God. Then on the line, write a characteristic of God—or something you learned about God—from that story.
5. As you continue to read the Word of God, add stories to your big picture. Hang the poster where you can see it, and take some time to look back at the stories you’ve read and what they’ve taught you about God and His big picture.

*If your big picture is not perfectly clear, don’t worry.*

*Keep seeking God through His Word, and He will continue to reveal Himself to you.*



# One Big Story Bible Storybook: Icons

*These icons are divided topically across the stories and designed to match The Gospel Project for Kids curriculum plan.*



## **In the Beginning: Creation and the Patriarchs**

God's story began with creation. When sin entered the world, God set in motion His plan to redeem His people through His Son, Jesus Christ—a descendant of Abraham.



## **A Nation Is Born: Moses and the Israelites**

The exodus was the greatest act of redemption in the Old Testament. One day God would send His Son, Jesus, to rescue His people from a greater slavery to sin and death.



## **Life in the Land: Joshua and the Judges**

When God's people entered the promised land, God raised up judges to deliver them from their enemies. Hundreds of years later, Jesus came as the ultimate and final Savior.



## **A Kingdom Creation: Ruth, Samuel, and the Early Kings**

The people of Israel rejected God as their leader. God gave them a king. Through this line of kings, God would one day bring the true and final King: His Son, Jesus.



## **Trouble at the Top: Sin and Israel's Fall**

God sent prophets to warn the Israelites of His coming judgment on their sin. The prophets also gave messages of hope. The prophet Isaiah told of a servant, Jesus, who would suffer so we could be forgiven.



## **Exile: Judah and the Exile**

Despite the warnings of several prophets, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was judged for their sin and exiled. The prophet Ezekiel told of a future hope—of a God who can make dead people alive through His Son, Jesus.



### **Faithful Followers: Daniel and the Exiles Return**

Daniel remained faithful to God during captivity in Babylon. God saved His people from physical captivity as He would one day send Jesus to save and restore His people from spiritual captivity.



### **The Promised One: Jerusalem Rebuilt, John the Baptist, and Jesus' Early Years**

God restored a remnant and reminded them of His promise of a new covenant through Jesus. God sent His Son into the world to save His people from their sin.



### **Jesus' Ministry Begins: Jesus' Sermons and Healings**

Jesus was revealed as the fulfillment of Scripture, the promised Messiah. His teachings and healings showed His authority and power as the Son of God.



### **Power and Parables: The Parables of Jesus**

Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world. He taught in parables so His followers would understand how to live in anticipation of His Second Coming.



### **Jesus Saves: Jesus Provided Our Sacrifice**

Jesus lived the perfect life we cannot live and died the guilty death we don't want to die. On the third day, God raised Him from the dead. Jesus saves sinners who trust in Him.



### **The Church: Paul, the Church, and the Return of Christ**

The church is God's plan to bring praise and glory to Jesus. One day, Jesus will come back to earth. He will undo every bad thing caused by sin, and those who trust in Him will be with Him and enjoy Him forever.

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# Bible Stories of The Old Testament





# God Created the World and People

Genesis 1-2

In the beginning, there was only God. Then God created the heavens and the earth. But the earth had no shape, and it was dark and empty.

God said, "Let there be light!" and there was light. God separated the light from the dark. He called the light "day" and the darkness "night." This was the first day of creation.

God then said, "Let the waters be separated." So God created a great space between the waters on the earth and the waters above the earth. He called the space "sky." This was the second day of creation.

God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let dry land appear." God called the dry land "earth" and the waters "seas." God then said, "Let the earth grow plants and trees." The plants and trees grew, and God saw that they were good. This was the third day of creation.

Next God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night." So God made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. This was the fourth day of creation.

Then God said, "Let the waters be filled with living creatures and the skies be filled with birds." And they were. This was the fifth day of creation.

God then created animals to roam the earth. God looked down at His creation and saw that it was good. Finally, God created people. He made them in His very own image. God took dust from the ground and formed a man. And with His own breath, God breathed life into the man. He took a rib from the man and created a woman to be his helper and wife. They were called Adam and Eve.

God planted a garden in Eden, and He placed Adam and Eve in the garden to care for it. God said, "You may eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from that tree, you will die." This all happened on the sixth day of creation.

On the seventh day of creation, God rested from all of His work.

**Christ Connection:** Colossians 1:15-22 reveals that Christ is ruler over all of God's creation. All of creation was created through Him, by Him, and for Him. Everything was created to give glory to Christ, but people would choose not to give Him glory. The rest of the Bible reveals how Jesus would restore the relationship between God and man.

**Big Picture Question:** Who created everything?

**Big Picture Answer:** God created everything. He created the world and people to bring Him glory.