

BIBLE RESOURCE list

BIRTH— ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This list was compiled to encourage your family to develop devotional time habits with your children from the get-go! I've listed numerous resources to give options for different ages and abilities. If this list overwhelms you, just start with something such as Taylor's *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes for Preschoolers*. Or try Vos's *The Child's Story Bible* for elementary age.

NOTE: Books are not repeated under each category even though many of them overlap appropriate ages. Therefore, please look through all the listings surrounding your child's age for a complete look at what you might find for a good fit.

0-1 Years Old

For babies, crawlers, and toddlers, focus on simple Bible picture books with minimal text and very basic stories such as Creation, Noah's ark, Jesus' birth, etc. Engage the baby by pointing to pictures of animals and saying, "God made cats, cats say meow!" Even secular resources, like "touch and feel" books are great as you can put his little hands on the sensory patch and help him explore tactilely. Say, "God made sheep fluffy and soft!"

GOD MADE ANIMALS BY ZONDERVAN

Simple photographs of animals on a small board book with related verse at the end. Rainbow cut-out handle allows for little hands to hold it or for attaching to stroller or carseat. We made up a little song to sing through this book using the animal names and sounds.

WORD-AND-PICTURE BIBLE, LEVEL 1 OF THE NLT STORY BIBLE SERIES BY STANDARD PUBLISHING

This board book with hold 'n tote handle depicts a simple image on each page with Bible connection. Perfect first Bible book.

TOUCH-AND SEE BIBLE, LEVEL 2 OF THE NLT STORY BIBLE SERIES BY STANDARD PUBLISHING

Seven short Bible stories with Bible references and related verses, each with an illustration and tactile element.

PLAYTIME DEVOTIONS BY CHRISTINE HARDER TANGVALD

Includes a short verse, poem or song with motions, and simple prayer. Perfect for the wiggly toddler! (A favorite of ours that is out of print. However, used copies can be found for reasonable prices on Amazon.)

1-2 Years Old

Cloth or board books are helpful for this age so the child can keep them in bed with him without you worrying he is going to rip them to shreds.

NEW BABY'S BIBLE BY PD

Sweet cloth book that has an attached lamb that you can put into each picture. Often we would just look at one or two pages a night. The simple activity of putting the lamb in place in each picture as we talked about the page was fun night after night. (This is a favorite that is also out of print. New/used copies are available on Amazon. I kept it on the list so you can get a visual and keep an eye out for a similar version that may be on the market now.)

FLAP-AND-TAB BIBLE, LEVEL 3 IN THE NLT STORY BIBLE SERIES BY STANDARD PUBLISHING

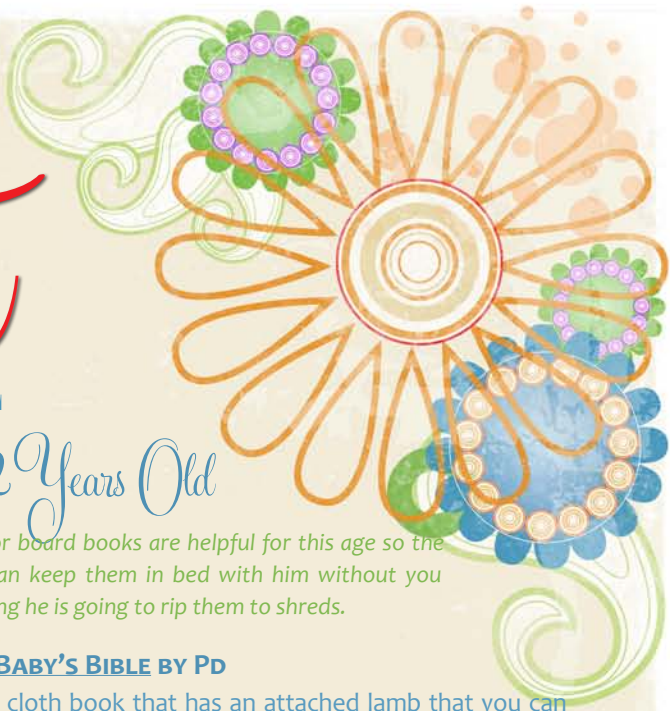
Quick rendition of 15 stories with Bible reference and related verse. My children had fun lifting the flaps while I read or summarized the story. We would usually only do one or two stories per devotional because of attention span.

As your child progresses into the two's, he might enjoy and be ready for the following:

BLESSINGS EVERY DAY: 365 SIMPLE DEVOTIONS FOR THE VERY YOUNG BY CARLA BARNHILL

Simple, one page devotions based on Scripture to help establish basic Biblical values, principles, and truths in your little one's mind and life. This would be a good one to try now and then reuse when your child is older to review some of the concepts. Because this resource is based on topics and related Scripture rather than Bible stories, I would pair it with a Bible story book whenever using it for extended periods of times.

Don't forget to refer to the list for 0-1 year olds, as all of them are also applicable for this age. If your child is already able to sit through storybooks, look ahead to the suggested resources for 2-3 year olds.



2-3 Years Old

THE STORY OF JESUS, BY PATRICIA A. PENGRY

My husband came up with a brilliant way to make it fun and interactive by:

- counting the disciples,
- having the child say, “Come on!” and waving his arms for the little children to come to Jesus
- saying, “feel better!” and patting the sick boy
- saying and motioning, “here ya’ go” as the boy gives his lunch to Jesus to share
- counting the 12 disciples, etc.

We used this story for devotional time off and on for months.

READ-ALoud BIBLE STORIES, VOLUMES 1-4

Each volume contains several Bible stories, Scripture references included, with pictures and wording that make the stories come alive. Every narrative is followed by discussion questions and application points. A Durbin household favorite, my children asked for me to read these over and over again to the point that they could fill in just about any word I left out; a great way to let them help “read” the Bible story. The illustrations captured their imaginations and this book often inspired my children to want to act out the stories.

PLAY-AND-LEARN BIBLE, LEVEL 4 IN THE NLT STORY BIBLE SERIES BY STANDARD PUBLISHING

Fifty Bible stories written in a way that helps you get your child actively involved in the Bible story with suggestions for acting out each part of the story or symbols throughout the story to let him help you “read.” Some of the stories can even be sung to familiar tunes while your child claps, taps, or sways to the story-song. Each section also includes Bible reference and related verse.

100 BIBLE STORIES, 100 BIBLE SONGS BY STEPHEN ELKINS

Each story includes illustrations, Scripture reference, summarization of the main point of the story, and related song on CD. This was a favorite during breakfast time throughout the preschool years. We kept the CD in our kitchen player and enjoyed listening to a song and reading a story as we started our day.

ONE YEAR BOOK OF DEVOTIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS BY CRYSTAL BOWMAN

Topics based on Scripture engage the child through simple questions and story applications to help him understand the concepts. Each page is dated and also includes a simple prayer and listing of the related verse.

3-4 Years Old

JESUS IN PICTURES FOR LITTLE EYES, BY KENNETH TAYLOR

Short Bible stories about Jesus with Scripture reference given and with one simple question about each story. Beautiful life-like pictures.

THE NEW BIBLE IN PICTURES FOR LITTLE EYES, BY KENNETH TAYLOR

Short Bible stories that each include Scripture reference, several questions, simple prayer, and beautiful life-like pictures.

THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE: EVERY STORY WHISPERS HIS NAME BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES

This Bible story book can grow with your children as they understand more and more about how the Bible points to Jesus.

BIG THOUGHTS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE: ABC'S TO HELP YOU GROW BY KENNETH TAYLOR

Short topical devotionals for every letter of the alphabet. Sweet pictures come alive with the discussion questions provided. Related Bible verse also included.

Once you find a favorite resource, why not stock up and give them as birthday gifts. Often, the key to parents using a resource is simply a matter of having it on hand and knowing how another family has enjoyed it. Your preschooler will likely be excited to give the book because he is aware of the special times it helps create every day. Talk with your child about how giving a Bible book or devotional to a friend is a way of sharing God's love.

4-5 Years Old

Often, older preschoolers and Kindergartners are eager to learn more details of the Bible stories they have heard many times. Use the Scripture references listed in whichever picture Bible you may have to read the story from the “real” Bible. You and your child can challenge each other to see how many new things you can learn about the Bible story.

This point occurred to me while doing a car-time devotional when we were running late getting home one night. I asked Kalli and Jake what Bible story they wanted to hear and Kalli requested Jonah and the big fish. Knowing that they are very familiar with the story, I left out points along the way and let them fill it in with their own words. At the end, I was amazed to hear Kalli add, “and the people of Ninevah put on scratchy clothes (sackcloth) and didn't eat or drink (fasted) to show God they were sorry for their sins.” Our simplified picture Bibles had not covered those details, but she was obviously ready for that kind of depth and had remembered those points from a recent Sunday School lesson. This brought to my attention that while the picture Bibles serve their purpose for a time, we need to be turning more and more to the original Word as the child grows.

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE FOR CHILDREN: DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR A GROWING FAITH BY V. GILBERT BEERS
Short Bible stories, but more detailed and a bit longer than the Kenneth Taylor “Bibles.” Each narrative also includes questions, discovery points, and applications. Beautiful life-like pictures on most pages.

GOD AND ME! DEVOTIONS FOR GIRLS, AGES 2–5 (VOLUMES 1 AND 2) AND GOTTA HAVE GOD: FUN DEVOTIONS FOR BOYS, AGES 2–5 (VOLUMES 1 AND 2) BY LYNN MARIE-ITTNER KLAMMER

These devotionals include a Bible verse and life application story revolving around the theme of the verse. This is followed by several comprehension and application questions, a prayer, and a short activity. These books say they are for 2–5 year olds, but we have found them to be most appropriate in the 4–5 year old range. Kalli loved these devotional guides. Having a degree in elementary education, I also appreciate that the questions after each story really helped develop her listening comprehension skills. Most of the topics are very relevant and it was always nice when we could make a connection during the day about something we had read recently. This series is topical and does not include Bible stories. Therefore, when using this for our bedtime devotional, I made sure we were also reading a short one page Bible story from a Bible book every morning at breakfast to keep the Bible stories fresh and familiar.

READER BIBLES

I CAN READ GOD’S WORD BY PHIL A. SMOUSE

Out of print, so look for used copies on Amazon. Great phonics based stories for early readers. My children were thrilled when they could read their own Bible stories! This book was instrumental in providing something at an easy enough level for them to feel successful.

ON-MY-OWN READER BIBLE, LEVEL 5 OF THE NLT STORY BIBLE SERIES BY STANDARD PUBLISHING

75 Bible stories for advancing readers.

CHAPTER & VERSE BIBLES

I recommend getting your child his own chapter and verse Bible as early as Kindergarten. As your child learns verses, help him highlight the Scriptures in his Bible. When your child is able to write, encourage him to write a topic or key word beside each verse he memorizes. This will help make that big book real to him.

Your choice for a chapter and verse Bible greatly depends on which version you would like your child memorizing. We prefer NIV, so our picks are:

ADVENTURE BIBLE, NIV CLIP CLOSURE, BY ZONDERVAN
Available in pink/green for girls and blue/grey for boys. These have a fun treasure map graphical feel and include bonus insets such as Life in Bible Times, Live It!, and Did You Know?

NIV THINLINE BIBLES BY ZONDERVAN
A great, compact Bible for backpacks.

Elementary Years

THE CHILD’S STORY BIBLE BY CATHERINE F. VOS

This gem was originally published in 1935 and is still a favorite of many, including my family. These were inspired by rich story telling in Mrs. Vos’s family. We have read these out loud, but an eager reader would enjoy these on his own. Look for the most recent 2000 edition available at www.cbd.com.

THE ONE YEAR CHILDREN’S BIBLE BY RHONA DAVIES

Organized by date, each entry could be read by the family or is even manageable for a child to do on his own. This is an abridged/paraphrased version of the Bible.

THE NLT ONE YEAR BIBLE FOR KIDS, CHALLENGE EDITION BY TYNDALE

A step up from the previous suggestion, this Bible is ideal for a child who is ready for more meat and eager to read the Bible independently. This version is organized by date. It is abridged; however it uses chapter and verse rather than paraphrasing. Each entry gives an introductory question so the child will have something to keep in mind while reading. The Bible passage is followed by a commentary and related verse. Encouragements and fun activities are interspersed between the months.

PARENTING WITH SCRIPTURE: A TOPICAL GUIDE FOR TEACHABLE MOMENTS BY KARA DURBIN

This book is an easy to use topical resource that parents of toddlers through teens can rely on when teachable moments arise or as a family devotional for character training. This effective guide helps teach children how to think and apply God’s Word in their daily lives. The 101 alphabetically arranged two-page topics address behavior, attitude, emotions, and actions. Examples include Forgiveness, Humility, Anger, and Procrastination. Each topic is comprised of Scripture passages, discussion questions, action items, and parenting tips. The revised 2012 edition of *Parenting with Scripture* adds detailed help for parents to quickly identify teachable moments and know what to do when they appear.