

9 Great Kids Bibles to Consider!

By Associate Pastor Matt Pinckard

What things are important to consider in Kids Bibles?

1st key- Kids Bibles aren't just for kids!

****Recall Jesus on the importance of becoming like children****

-Can be a great tool for helping new Christians and old Christians get a better framework for the Bible, or help put more of the pieces of the puzzle together

- Theology & Story Selection
 - Theology: What does it say about who God is, who humans are, what sin is, and so on?
 - Story Selection- Which ones does it choose or leave out? Are the stories interwoven as one narrative or compartmentalized?
 - Paraphrase/Summarize parts or is it more Literal?
 - Is there “appropriate censorship” (content in words and pictures)
- Durability & Size (quality, weight, page thickness, book marker)
- Price
- Drawings and Illustrations- frequency, engaging (not monotonous, vibrant), and diverse skin colors (ethnically faithful to history)
- Age Recommendation

Generally speaking, the older they get, the increasingly accurate the Bible should be to the details of scripture (until they are reading straight up scripture)

**First 7 of these bibles are selective story Bibles, last 2 have full scripture text*

**Some of these Bibles have companion books for scripture memory or devotional/classroom/Small group setting use*

1) *The Big Picture Story Bible*

Theology & Story Selection -truly shows the big picture of the Bible cover to cover fall to redemption, Garden to the temples to the new heaven and new earth. Focus is on connecting the narrative beginning to end. Lots of details obviously left out in sake of the big picture framework.

Durability & Size 453 pages, 26 chapters (Bookmark is nice plus only one i'll mention with one today)

PRICE \$20-30

DRAWINGS

-Illustrations are cover to cover and vibrant, always draw my kids in
-some pictures show characters angry or about to carry out evil acts (hit someone with a rock)

-there is some diversity but most characters are white or peachy skinned

AGE Recommended age 4 years and up

2) *The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children Stories (by Zondervan)*

Theology & Story selection- 90 or so stories,

Durability & Size: Small and compact, 512ish pages

Price \$7-8

Drawings: Excellent multi-ethnic and are on just about every page!

Ages 3 and Up: Great "1st reader" Bible for kids

3) *The Big Picture Interactive: Bible Stories in 5 Minutes*

Theology & Story Selection- just 12 stories but told in decent detail in a kid friendly way, each story has 1 page at the end connecting to Jesus somehow. Doesn't connect as much as I would want but the other Bibles do a much better job of that so this one still has its place to me

Durability & Size Padded Bible, 191 pages, really thick pages

Price \$12

Drawings

Excellent quality, mostly cover to cover, diverse skin color representation, nothing scary (at least to my kids)

Age recommendation: 4 and Up

4) *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

Theology & Story Selection

- covers the Bible cover to cover and doesn't dum down the gospel
- ties every story to Jesus "Every story whispers His name"

Durability & Size About 350 pages, smaller easy to hold

PRICE \$11

DRAWINGS

- full color, diverse, engaging pictures

AGE Recommended ages 4 and up

5) *The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden*

Theology & Story Selection (Appropriate Censorship?)

- Looks at the big picture metanarrative of the Bible
- Reads like a storybook with chapters
- doesn't dum down biblical truth
- has the author kevin deyoung read through it in a video version available on RightNow Media
- I felt it got a little wordy and didn't flow as well as other kids books in a few parts

Durability & Size 132 pages (my print had issues), built in bookmarker
Print font felt a little small to me (Harder to hold up)

Price \$15

Drawings/Illustrations

- Page to page illustrations
- unique style, somewhat muted colors sometimes
- Sometimes the art can be too busy or abstract, a few of the pages are a little scary for my kids

Age Recommendation Kindergarten earliest

6) *The Gospel Story Bible*

Theology & Story Selection

- shows metanarrative and goes cover to cover (Genesis-Revelation)
- 5 minute read, includes about 3 questions for each reading.
- Most of the readings made sense and were at my kids level, but some i had to simplify a little

Durability & Size: 156 stories and 313 pages

PRICE \$30

Drawings/Illustrations

-very simple art, usually on one side of the page, mostly “blank skinned people” but shows diverse skin colors in the throne scene of Revelation 7

-sometimes my kids lost interest because we were only on 2 pages and there weren’t as many pictures to help them stay glued to the progress of the story

-art is more minimal and not cover to cover

Recommended age Kindergarten earliest

7) The Action Bible: God’s Redemptive Story

Theology & Story Selection

covers a large swath of biblical content (nearly 750 pages)

Durability & Size nearly 750 pages

PRICE \$20 Hardcover

Drawings/Illustrations

-full page illustrations in a comic book form

-show God almost like an “action hero” which may grip some kids who wouldn’t normally be interested in the Bible, or help kids process it in a fun way

-interest in comics has grown thanks to the MCU

-artwork is more advanced, somewhat diverse in skin representation

-some of the art is a little more intense so may not be appropriate for smaller kids

Recommended Age: 3rd Grade earliest

NEXT LEVEL BIBLES

-full Bible text

-a few maps in back

1) Hands On Bible NLT

Theology

Extra Goodies

-includes activities (“where’s waldo type stuff”), “secrets” throughout that appeal to kids

-includes areas for kids to respond to questions,

-book intros use humor and graphics

PRICE \$11 Paperback

Durability and Size -1336 pages

-Drawings and illustrations

pictures of kids shout “this is for kids”

-maps in back nice addition

-drawings throughout are nice

2) ICB Children’s Holy Bible

Theology

Includes all the biblical text but translates idioms into an understandable format (for example “fort” into “stone walled”; “rest with fathers” into “he died”)

-includes resource pages and maps

-readable font, two columns

-definitions in the back will be helpful for kids

PRICE \$15

Durability & Size Hardcover, just under 1300 pages

Drawings

-vibrant ethnically diverse illustrations included

-around 300 memory verses recommended throughout