

The Jesus Storybook Bible

My wife and I are so excited about a new children's Bible (4-8 years old). It is called "The Jesus Storybook Bible" We got it about a year ago for our children. The first time we read it, we found ourselves in tears over the Gospel that jumped off of its pages.

What blessed us about this Bible was its Christ-centered focus. Furthermore, its focus on salvation history in the Old Testament! In other words, the stories in the Old Testament all point to Christ and His saving Work. It also encompasses a big emphasis on the Gospel of Grace, while avoiding the pitfalls of moralism and legalism.

Here are some portions of the introduction to the Jesus Storybook Bible:

Now, some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done.

Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you'll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren't heroes at all. They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose). They get afraid and run away. At times they are downright mean.

No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a Story. It's an adventure story about a young Hero (Christ) who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne--everything--to rescue the one he loves.

There are a lot of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one Big Story. The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them. It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story, there is a baby (Christ). Every Story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle ~ the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together; and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture.

Pastor Matt Richard