kid’s bible books

Proverbs 4:7 states, “The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”

We expect to pay $1,000’s to send our kids to college where they will use textbooks costing >$100. That knowledge (mostly) cannot give them eternal life! How much of a better investment it is to get spiritual books at a young age where they are the very most impressionable. Let’s use the “tender years” to guide their minds toward their Creator.

A great place to start is reading mostly stories to your kids from 0 to age 6. Once a week you can do a fun devo with the kids to build their characters or focus on a particular area. Once they can read, their ability to focus and concentrate is much better. Start giving them more consistent “meat.”

Aim to go through the Bible narrative with them sequentially so they understand its flow. Once they have the structure, they can “hang” new stories onto the “pegs” you have given them.

The stories of the kings of Israel and Judah are fascinating to children. They marvel at the foolishness of the bad kings. It helps them decide in their heart to follow God’s path, turning neither to the left nor to the right. Of course, they will fall short of that ideal, but this seed will bear a harvest, all in God’s timing!

Family worship can be a challenge when you have a broad age range (e.g., 2 to 14 years old). The book [Long Story Short: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God](https://www.amazon.com/Long-Story-Short-Ten-Minute-Devotions-ebook/dp/B00F5KX76O/ref%3Dsr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1516985326&sr=8-2&keywords=old+story+new) can work well here. It goes through the Old Testament with a daily Bible reading + Q&A, 10 min/day, 5 days/week. Day #3 makes a spiritual connection to Jesus. The New Testament is covered in [Old Story New: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God](https://www.amazon.com/Old-Story-New-Ten-Minute-Devotions-ebook/dp/B00FEZM4FU/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1516986363&sr=1-1&keywords=old+story+new).

Here are some other age-based recommendations for giving the Word of God to your kids.

* Age 0~4. At this age you can either read, or just talk through the pictures. Make the Bible stories part of their “family picture album” so they become very familiar.
	+ [The Beginner’s Bible: Timeless Children’s Stories](https://www.amazon.com/Beginners-Bible-Timeless-Childrens-Stories/dp/031075013X/ref%3Dsr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1516985692&sr=8-2&keywords=%22beginner%27s+bible%22). Classic, must-have. The same illustration style is used in [videos you can find on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiM9mWNxTWpKY-V9Eb9TfkA).
	+ [“100 Bible Stories”, “100 Ways to Know God loves me,” and more series by Stephen Elkins](https://www.amazon.com/Stephen-Elkins/e/B001JS3QSA/ref%3Dsr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1516986082&sr=1-1). Many books with nice pictures, a CD with Bible songs for listening (that go with the book). 100 ways to thank him, 100 ways to know God loves me, etc.
* Age 3~6. Kids this age just love to read with you. Make it part of your night-night routine and when they get up in the morning. This is when they are most calm, snuggly, and teachable.
	+ “[Alice in Bibleland](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Dnb_sb_ss_c_1_15?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=alice+in+bibleland+complete+set&sprefix=%22alice+in+bible%2Caps%2C204&crid=3SWT5HKL543DF&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Aalice+in+bibleland+complete+set)“: a bit expensive, but great. Out of print but still available to purchase.
	+ [The Beginner’s Bible: Timeless Children’s Stories](https://www.amazon.com/Beginners-Bible-Timeless-Childrens-Stories/dp/031075013X/ref%3Dsr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1516985692&sr=8-2&keywords=%22beginner%27s+bible%22). Classic, must-have.
* Age 5~12: [The Action Bible: God’s Redemptive Story](https://www.amazon.com/Action-Bible-Gods-Redemptive-Story-ebook/dp/B00BQOB91I/ref%3Dsr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1516985795&sr=8-2&keywords=action+bible). Best $17 you’ll ever spend. Start reading to kids at age 5 or 6 and once they can read, they can use through age 11~12.
* Age 5~9: [The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name](https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Storybook-Bible-Every-Whispers/dp/0310708257/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1516985933&sr=1-1&keywords=jesus+storybook+bible&refinements=p_n_feature_nine_browse-bin%3A3291437011%2Cp_n_feature_browse-bin%3A2656020011). Wonderful rendition of Bible stories emphasizing grace and how every story points forward to Jesus. Start reading to kids at age 5 or 6 and usable through age 8~9.
* Age 5~12: [The Ology: Ancient Truths, Ever New](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/194257228X/ref%3Ddbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i0). A wonderful resource for teaching doctrine to your children in good bite-sized chunks. Lots of scripture references and beautiful illustrations. Excellent for quiet times for pre-readers.
* Age 5~12: [The Children’s Illustrated Bible](https://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Illustrated-Bible-Selina-Hastings/dp/0756602610/ref%3Dsr_1_2?crid=2BNY3NYTQR6TC&keywords=the+children%27s+illustrated+bible&qid=1555980028&s=books&sprefix=the+children%27s+illustr%2Cstripbooks%2C221&sr=1-2). Illustrated stories with historical artifacts and points of interest.
* Age 7~12: [Jesus: He lived Among Us](https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-He-Lived-Among-Us/dp/1593174357/ref%3Dsr_1_3?keywords=jesus+he+lived+among+us&qid=1555979968&s=books&sr=1-3). Early chapter book with lots of illustrations and strong emphasis on the cross. Video available for [free on Amazon Prime](https://watch.amazon.com/watch?asin=B017T72XH4) (warning: intense scenes not appropriate for younger kids).
* Age 8 and up: In the 1700’s, the whole point of learning to read was so that kids could read the Bible. That was the only book in the house. Work with your 8- & 9-year-olds to start developing a Bible reading habit with the “real” Bible. Take them to the store and help them pick out one that they like. Kids also love doing reading plans with you on YouVersion (the Bible App), available on Kindle and other devices.

Visit Amazon or take your child to Barnes & Noble or a Christian bookstore and let them pick something out! Getting them involved in the process generates a lot of excitement and momentum or wrapping it up and giving them as special gift (e.g., a Bible with leather name engraving!).