

Children's Bibles An Annotated Bibliography

Arthur, Patti Thisted; Peter Grosshauser, illustrator; and Ed Temple, illustrator. *Spark Story Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2009.

Designed to accompany the Spark Sunday School Faith Formation curriculum (ages 2 through 6th grade), the *Spark Story Bible* is geared toward children ages 2 through 2nd grade. At the end of each story is a question or an activity.

Batchelor, Mary. *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories*. Oxford, England: Lion PLC, 1995.

You can find a preview it on Google Books. Reading level grades 3-4.

Beers, V. Gilbert and Terri Steiger, illustrator. *The Early Reader's Bible*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkids, 2001.

Written for children learning to read, this book contains story lists with "values learned," a basic word list, and a new word list. There are questions and activities for each story. Unfortunately, the artwork depicts everyone as white. Reading level ages 4-8.

Hastings, Selina; Eric Thomas, illustrator. *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc., 2005.

This is a children's reference bible. It has many maps and drawings and photographs of artifacts, plants, biblical places, animals, people, and architecture. The stories are retellings, which is common in children's bibles, and along with the reference material you will find quotes from the King James Version scattered throughout. Depending on who you ask, the reading level ranges from ages 4-8 to ages 9-12., but it is at about a 4th grade level.

Milton, Ralph. *The Family Story Bible*. Kelowna, British Columbia: Northstone Publishing, Inc., 1996.

You can preview the text, but not the illustrations on Google Books. Reading level grade 3.2.

Milton, Ralph, and Margaret Kyle. *Lectionary Story Bible: Year A*. Woodlake Books, 2007.

Milton, Ralph, and Margaret Kyle. *Lectionary Story Bible: Year B*. Woodlake Books, 2008.

Milton, Ralph, and Margaret Kyle. *Lectionary Story Bible: Year C*. Woodlake Books, 2009.

Milton's series follow the Revised Common Lectionary. You can preview the text, but not the illustrations, for Years A and B on Google Books. From the Introduction: "I try to tell



the story from beginning to end, even when the scripture passages suggested in the lectionary don't. That's why you'll also find stories in this book that are in the Bible but not in the lectionary. I've tried to fill in the blanks." Reading level grade 2.9.

O'Malley, Kathleen, illustrator. NIV Discoverer's Bible for Early Readers. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkids, 2002.

From the flyleaf: "...a simplified version of the NIV created specifically for children. It's not a bible storybook, but rather the complete Bible text written at the third-grade reading level..."

Pulley, Kelly, illustrator. The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Bible Stories. Grand Rapids, MI: Mission City Press, 2005.

Forty-eight stories, from Creation to Revelation. The illustrations are a bit cartoonish. There is a short dictionary at the end. Reading level ages 4-7.

Sattgast, Linda and Toni Goffe, illustrator. Rhyme Bible Storybook. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkids, 2000.

Thirty-five familiar Bible stories, from the Creation to the Resurrection, told in rhyme and with lots of illustrations. Reading level ages 4-8.

Spark Bible NRSV. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2009.

Designed to accompany the Spark Sunday School Faith Formation curriculum (ages 2 through 6th grade), the Spark Bible is a full NRSV translation geared toward grades 3-6. It contains a glossary and maps and encourages readers to underline, highlight and make notes in their bibles. It also includes stickers for marking passages with categories such as "Makes Me Feel...", "Something I Like," and "I Don't Get It."

Resources for Choosing a Children's Bible:

Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's "Choosing A Children's Bible" is still one of the best overall articles on the subject.

<http://sundaypaperblog.blogspot.com/2005/09/choosing-childrens-bible.html>.

Sharon Ely Pearson's "Everything You Need to Know About Choosing A Bible (Almost)" provides a good overview and information on some of the more popular English translations.

<http://www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/IN-Formation/NewBibleTranslations.pdf>

SundaySchoolResources.com's "Bible Choices" page has a fairly extensive look at the different translations and includes a comparison chart of reading levels and of the translations' versions of 2 Corinthians 1:12.



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<http://www.sundayschoolresources.com/biblechoices.htm#considerations>

The United Church of Christ's "Choosing a Children's Bible" page notes: Your children will probably go through four to six different Bibles between the day they're born and the day they leave home. This is not only practical, since their reading skills, comprehension levels, and interests change, but it also encourages children to see that they are progressing in their knowledge of God.
<http://www.ucc.org/children/choosing-a-bible-for-children.html>

Zondervan's "Children's Bibles" page is primarily for promoting their Zonderkids products, but the questions they pose are good.

<http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-US/Product/Bible/About+Children+Bibles.htm?QueryStringSite=Zondervan>



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