

## On Children's Bibles.

One of the challenges parents face is teaching children God's Word in a way they can understand. So-called Children's Bibles are a common tool for this. It's become a bit of a hobby of mine to collect Bibles for children and young people. The oldest one I have was published in 1874. Most of the ones I have are in Dutch. Following are some English titles worth considering. One comment: those translated from the Dutch tend to contain many Dutchisms. On the other hand, in our circles the English ones may be considered rather irreverent. One way to circumvent both those problems is to feel free to tweak it as you read from the book.

*The New "Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes"* by Kenneth N. Taylor. This Bible is written with two-year olds in mind. The texts are very short, but are followed by some good simple questions.

*Bible Stories for Preschoolers* by Monika Kustra. The narrative is good, the "family time" sections vary.

*Bible Stories For Our Little Ones* by W.G. Van de Hulst. This is a translation of a Dutch classic.

*The New Children's Bible* and *Story Bible for Older Children* by Anne de Vries. Both are translations of post World War 2 Dutch classics. He also authored the "Journey Through the Night" series.

*Stories from the Bible* by Sipke Van der Land. Another translated Dutch Children's Bible, probably out of print.

*The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones is 'energetic', though many will find it too casual.

*The Classic Children's Bible Storybook*. An English original. We have found the narratives rather short, given that the 'level' is upper elementary.

*The Child's Story Bible* by Catherine F. Vos. This is a North American Classic, written by the wife of Dr. G. Vos. This version has a wonderful way of not only telling the account but also the redemptive historical importance of the account. An English original, but clearly written in the Dutch Reformed style. First published in 1934 it continues to be printed today. I stumbled across it at the House of James.

*Marian's Big Book of Bible Stories* by Marian M. Schoolland. I don't know it myself but I was pointed to it by a Reformed retired elementary school principal so it is likely very good. "Possible a little heavy for today", he did say, but very redemptive historical.

*The Bible Narrated for Young Adults* (5 volumes) by Wolf Meesters. This translation of a Dutch classic was done in our sister churches in Australia. I have fond memories of the Dutch original as a teenager. It's too bad the English is rather poor.

For those who prefer something that is more like a devotional, *The Mighty Acts of God* by Starr Meade is by far the best I've come across.

One I do not recommend is *The Usborne Family Bible*. It treats the Bible as a collection of myths and legends of the Jewish people.

As to how to get hold of these, the simplest way is to search the internet using the title and author. I tend to use amazon.ca, bookdepository.com, and abebooks.com for most of my purchases.

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