

Birth of Jesus Story Cube. (\$9.25)

Manipulate this puzzle cube to tell the Christmas story. This cube sturdy, bright, colourful, and lots of fun for small and large hands.

Christmas Therapy. Karen Katafiasz. Abbey Press, St Meinard, 1994. **(\$5.50)**

Feeling tired, stressed and dreading the Christmas season? Read **Christmas Therapy** by Karen Katafiasz. This tiny picture book for adults will help you regain your perspective about the holiday season. There are some great suggestions that you can use to make Christmas more simple and focused on its true meaning.

In the Days of Angels: Stories and Carols for Christmas. Walter Wangerin, Jr. Waterbrook Press, Colorado Springs, 2000. **(\$10.75)**

This book is a perfect gift for any person who believes in Christmas and the holiness of the season and God working miracles within us. It is a wonderful collection of stories and carols to gladden all hearts.

Baby's First Bible. Illustrated by Colin and Moira MacLean. Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, 1996. **(\$14.50)**

This boardbook format, complete with carrying handle is great for toddlers. Simple language introduces stories from the bible. Suggestions on the bottom of the pages indicate actions the toddlers can do as the two of you read together.

Baby Bible Storybook. Robin Currie. Chariot Victor Publishing, Colorado Springs, 1994. **(\$18.50)**

This is a boardbook format with two page entries. One page contains story lines, interspersed with suggested actions for a toddler to do. A prayer completes the selection. The page opposite is a colourful illustration to the story.

Student Bible Dictionary. Karin Dockrey, Johnnie & Phyllis Godwin. Barbour Books, Uhrichsville, 2003. **(\$13.25)**

This book contains beautiful illustrations, sketches, charts and maps to further explain the dictionary entries. The book is easily read and great for all ages.

God Loves Me Bible. Susan E. Beck. Zonderkidz, Grand Rapids, 1993. **(\$10.50)**

This book is suggested for ages 2-4 years. The two page entries have a short story introduction to a Biblical character. Each one is about eight lines in length, followed by a simple colourful illustration. Story characters are indexed at the back of the book.

Pray & Play Bible for Young Children. Ed. Jody Brolsma. Group Publishing Inc., Loveland, 1997. **(\$22.50)**

Pray & Play is an excellent resource book for parents, with plenty of ideas for Sunday school teachers to use as well. Four pages of songs, prayers, and numerous activities follow beautifully illustrated stories. This would be a great gift for parents with young children.

God's Stories and My First Thoughts. Terry Brown. Promise Kids, Uhrichsville, 2002. **(\$13.25)**

Terry Brown suggests this book is for children ages 2-5 years.

Each two page story is followed by a Snuggle Session, where you and your child share some thoughts about the story. Write them down in the space provided. This is followed by, My Prayer, and God's Promise, a scripture verse, which is the final emphasis for the session.

My Good Night Bible: 45 Bible Stories for Little Ones. Susan L. Lingo. Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, 1999. **(\$17.25)**

Be sure to read the introduction. You will find several pages of hints for parents on how to use this book. Delightful stories and story rhymes and colourful pictures to capture the attention of your youngster. Quiet Time, Prayer Time and Sleep Time sections follow each bible story.

My Bible Journal: A Journey Through the Word for Kids. Mary J. Davis. Legacy Press, San Diego, 2003. **(\$13.25)**

This journal is aimed at youth who are interested in reading the Bible. I suspect it would also be a useful tool for anyone reading through the scriptures. It is suggested that you use a New International Version of the Bible with this journal. Each session asks these questions: Where are we? What's the big Picture? Who Are the Main Players? Digging In, Digging Deeper, and Plant God's Word. A glossary is available at the back of the book. This could be an excellent devotional tool for youth.

Building Blocks of Faith: For Parents of Very Young Children. Youth & Family Institute, 2001
(\$16.00)

This calendar format booklet was created at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. Your calendar sheets begin before you even become pregnant (or adopt). After your child's arrival the sections are broken into blocks from 0-6 months, 6-12 months and 12-18 months. Each section includes pages of insights into child development with a Christian tie in and of course the calendar pages to record important dates and milestones. Blank pages are included for photos and mementos.

Faith-Full Families: Family Celebrations for the Seasons. Kristine Goodrich, Josetta Walsh. Youth & Family Institute, Menlo Park, 1998. **(\$22.50)**

What an excellent resource for several families to use with their preschool and elementary age children. The guide gives plans for a once a month group gathering. The same format is followed each time. Some preparation work ahead of time related to the theme is needed. There is an activity session. A different table grace is used each time before the meal. After the meal clean up, there is a singing and greeting circle followed by a family craft activity or group game. In the resource book each session is followed by a one page theme related plan for each family to follow at home that month.

"Come Right In-You're Home," God Says When We Are Baptized. Marie Sundet. Youth & Family Institute, Cedar Rapids, 1996. **(\$12.00)**

This coil bound book explains baptism to the very young. Colourful illustrations have been provided by Sunday school children.

Water, Come Down. Walter Wangerin, Jr. Augsburg, Minneapolis, 1999. **(\$22.50)**

This is a beautiful book to give for a baptismal gift. It is meant to be brought out and re-read many times. Several pages at the end of the book will guide the adult reader with adult-child interactions. This book has gorgeous colour in the illustrations.

The Godparent Book: Ideas and Activities for Godparents and Their Godchildren. Elaine Ramshaw. Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, 1993. **(\$13.25)**

Ramshaw has developed a solid guide to being a godparent. She has very useful ideas for keeping a relationship with the child long after the actual baptismal service. She suggests toys, activities, books, and wise words of counsel.

Let the Children Come: A Baptismal Manual for Parents and Sponsors. Daniel Erlander. 1996. **(\$5.25)**

Clear explanations are provided about the history of baptism and how you, your child and sponsors will work together. Baptismal symbols are explained. Promises that will be made to God regarding the spiritual upbringing of the child are discussed. Space is also made for baptismal information and pictures.

Baptism Keepsake. TalkPoints, Woodbury, 2002. **(\$5.25 pkg of 10)**

These keepsake cards are to be filled out by family members, sponsors and friends. They will be collected and kept for the child to read when they have grown older. There are nine sentences started, with blanks for the adult to complete according to their thoughts. The first one begins: When you were born/adopted, I remember being thankful for.

A Word to My Sponsor: Celebrating the Life of Your Godchild. Richard and Hazel Bimler. Concordia Publishing House, St Louis, 1998. **(\$6.50)**

If you thought being a sponsor or a godparent ended at sundown on the baptismal day, then this book is for you. This book will help you fulfill the promises you made with practical suggestions and help you and your godchild maintain a strong spiritual connection.

Right from the Start: A Parent's Guide to the Young Child's Faith Development. Shirley K. Morgenthaler. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 2001. **(\$14.50)**

The excellent reviews for this book from Christian educators, make it a must for new parents. You will find information on child development as related to our Christian faith journey. Your child is learning at a rapid rate from birth to pre-school. Why not introduce God right from the start? Why wait until Sunday school? Whether you use this book by yourself, or as a group study book, it is packed with very practical and enlightening information.

Can I Have the Keys to the Car?: How Teens and Parents Can Talk About Things that Really Matter. Terry Paulson, Sean Paulson. Augsburg, Minneapolis, 1999. **(\$17.25)**

The Paulson father and son team, have created an excellent tool for teens and their parents. They have also suggested that we talk about teen family issues before they become problems that tear a family apart. Each entry will give both of you a starting point where you can sort out your own family positions in a reasonable Christian manner.

God Gave Us You. Lisa T. Bergren. WaterBrook Press, Colorado, 2000. **(\$13.25)** Mama polar bear explains to her little cub that her birth was a gift from God. Illustrator Laura Bryant uses numerous animals as they watch Mama polar bear through her pregnancy. The gentle refrain: God gave us you, is used throughout the book.

Jesus Is With Me and Jesus Loves the Little Children. Debby Anderson. Faith Kidz, 1988. **(\$6.50 ea.)**

Two little board books by Debby Anderson are sure to appeal to the little ones. Each book can be read, or sung to a familiar tune. Each book reinforces that Jesus loves us and cares for us.

Tale of the Heaven Tree. Mary Joslin. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Grand Rapids, 1999. **(\$22.50)** In the beginning was paradise, but people eventually ruined it. A young girl with a wrinkled brown seed shows people the way back to the Great Maker's paradise.

In God's Name. Sandy E Sasso. Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, 1994. **(\$22.50)** Everyone and everything in the world has a name. But, what is God's name? All the people of the world had a name for God, and each was sure that their name was the right one and the only one. When they come together, they learn God's true name. Beautifully illustrated, simply told, with a wondrous message for all.

Mad Maddie Maxwell. Stacie K.B. Maslyn. ZonderKidz, Grand Rapids, 2000. **(\$6.50)** Poor Maddie lets her anger take over and accuses others unjustly. She learns that God forgives and we will be forgiven if we are truly sorry. This book is a gentle way to teach about anger and forgiveness to the 4-6 year old ages.

Marpel Is Stuck!: And Other Really good Reasons to Forgive. Sandy Silverthorne. Chariot Victor Publishing, Colorado Springs, 1999. **(\$14.50)** Marpel didn't get invited to a birthday party and began planning her revenge. She talked to her Sunday school teacher, who in turn taught her about forgiveness. Included at the back of the book is a page of useful interactions to use when teaching about forgiveness. This is suitable for the 6-9 year old age group.

Faith the Cow. Susan B. Hoover. faithQuest, Elgin, 1995. **(\$20.00)** Can one person make a difference in the world? Dan West did. He began the Heifer Project that saw animals sent around the world to feed hungry families. All it took was a little Faith to get it started. This true story with its powerful message is written for the 6-9 year olds.

FaithTalk. Youth & Family Institute of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, 1995. **(\$40.25)** A handy carrying pouch carries four decks of FaithTalk cards. Thought provoking questions are asked from four categories. Great ice breakers for groups, or use them on long car trips.

FaithTalk With Children. Youth & Family Institute of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, 1995. **(\$ 26.50)** A handy carrying case carries the cards to the child version of FaithTalk. Use them for small groups or family time in the car.

If Peas Could Taste Like Candy and Other Funny Poems for Kids. Crystal Bowman. ZonderKidz, Grand Rapids, 1998. **(\$17.25)**

"If peas could taste like candy,
And fish like apple pie,
Then I'll gladly eat my dinner.
So please, God, could you try?"

Many poems to capture the imagination of all children are included in this book. Use them for fun time at home, read alones, or as a teacher's resource.

God and Me: Devotions for Girls Ages 2-5. Lynn M. Klammer. Legacy Press, San Diego, 2004. **(\$17.25)** Easily followed format of short story, three questions, a prayer and a fun activity, make this a great book for you and your daughter. The stories are drawn from experiences with her own child. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent. This is an excellent beginning book for devotions.

God and Me: Devotions for Girls Ages 6-9. Diane Cory. Legacy Press, San Diego, 2004. **(\$17.25)** The format is the same as the ages 2-5 book, story, questions, prayer and activity. They older girls, who can read, are encouraged to work through the devotions by themselves. This is still a good tool to work through with the girls.

God and Me: Devotions for Girls Ages 10-12. Linda Washington & Jeanette Dall. Legacy Press, San Diego, 2004. **(\$17.25)**

Same format as the other editions, with more mature themes and activities. These publications are very well suited to the various age groups.

Gotta Have God: Fun Devotions for Boys Ages 2-5. Lynn M. Klammer. Legacy Press, San Diego, 2004. **(\$17.25)**

The stories have the boy slant to keep the young ones interested as you read with them. The activities are also of more applicable to boys. Coil binding and theme index just as in the girl's devotion books.

Gotta Have God: Cool Devotion for Guys Ages 6-9. Diane Cory. Legacy Press, San Diego, 2004. **(\$17.25)**

Geared to boys, with thoughtful stories and great activities, this series will great for some shared parent child time, and some read alone sessions.

Gotta Have God: Cool Devotions for Guys Ages 10-12. Linda Washington & Jeanette Dall. Legacy Press, San Diego, 2004. **(\$17.25)**

Last in the series, this book continues the story, questions, prayer and activity format. Crafted very well for this age group, there should be no problem keeping the boys interest right to the end.

When You Feel Like Screaming: Help for Frustrated Mothers. Pat Holt & Grace Ketterman. Shaw, Colorado Springs, 2001. **(\$16.00)**

Do you ever scream at your children, or want to? The authors work through many scenarios that most mothers have experienced, that ended in screaming sessions. Helpful workable solutions are provided as options. In the research stage for this book, 150 nine to twelve year olds were asked anonymously what they least liked about their mothers. The overwhelming answer was "her screaming". Buy a copy and share it among friends. Contains good practical advice.

Cross in the Sawdust Circle: A Theology of Clown Ministry. Dick Hardel. Youth & Family Institute of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, 2002. **(\$ 20.25)**

Dick Hardel is a pastor, a teacher, and a clown. He has been able to make a connection between clowning and an effective Christian ministry. He weaves the scriptures and the clown persona together to make a bridge between the secular and sacred world. This is interesting reading and difficult to put down once started.

Good Grief. Granger Westberg. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 1997. Large Print Edition. **(\$9.25)**

This booklet is based on a chapter taken from a previous work entitled "Minister and Doctor Meet", 1961. The book mentions various aspects of grief in our lives, including the death of loved ones. Westburg identifies ten steps in the grieving process and devotes a short section to each one.

What Happened When Grandma Died. Peggy Barker. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 1984. **(\$9.25)**

Peggy Barker created this small book to explain a family death to her mentally challenged daughter. She told of three things the dead person would leave behind and three things God promised for those who are Christians. Simply but powerfully written, this explanation can be shared with many children.

Helping Children Grieve: When Someone They Love Dies. Theresa Huntly. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 1991. **(\$12.00)**

Read this thoughtful caring book that discusses the needs of children of various ages as they learn about death and grieving. Parents and caregivers will find this book very helpful as it discusses how much information to pass on, possible behavior changes to expect and fears that are commonly felt by bereaved children. Three chapters address the needs of a dying child. You will find this an excellent resource. Further resources are listed at the end of the book.

I See the Moon. Kathi Appelt. Eerdmans Books for young Readers, Grand Rapids, 1997. **\$10.50)** This soft cover book is based on a traditional poem that is beautifully illustrated by Debra R. Jenkins. The young child learns that God is always there and that God loves her. Suitable for ages three to seven.

Snug as a Bug? Amy Imbody. Zonderkidz, Grand Rapids, 2001. **(\$6.50)**

Tune into this conversation between Mom and child as they explore various sleeping options. Read a humorous story that reinforces God's love for us. Suggested interest level is for four to six year olds.

Jesus Makes A Difference. Andy Robb. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 2000. **(\$8.00)**

Three to five year olds will enjoy moving the Jesus figure through the stories, and lifting the flap for each one.

Prayers to Know By Heart. Compiled by Lois Rock. Lion Publishing, Colorado Springs, 2001.

(\$9.25)

Simple prayers, some old, some new that can be learned by young children.

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep: Action Prayers, Poems, and Songs for Bedtime.

Debbie T. O'Neal. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 1994. **(\$8.00)**

This book is suggested for two to three year olds. I suggest that is a good starting point, but many of these poems and finger plays could be carried on up to the five year age group. The toddlers will enjoy sitting on your lap as you do "A Ladybug" or "This Is a Church." Some of the action rhymes are suitable for teachers to use.

I Can Pray With Jesus: The Lord's Prayer for Children. Debbie T. O'Neal. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 1997. **(\$9.25)**

Explore a beautifully illustrated book to help teach your child the Lord's Prayer. Learning the prayer by rote is simple enough, but O'Neal explains each phrase and relates them to everyday situations the child can understand. Suitable for three to five year olds, the book also contains other prayers, finger plays and an alternate second verse for "Jesus Loves Me."

Becoming Family: How to Build a Stepfamily that Really Works. Robert Lauer and Jeanette Lauer. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 1999. **(\$17.25)**

You will find this book a practical guide to help you meet the challenges of stepfamily living. Horror stories are included, but so are the successes. Useful as a read alone book, or as a group study with discussion topics included at the end of the book.