

Children's Bibles

Most of the Bibles in this resource are ones that can be found on the bookshelves of local bookstores. There are exceptions, such as the Spark Bible and Spark Story Bible, which have been included due to their popularity. We have not included those Bibles marketed as children's Bibles that are simply a complete adult translation, such as the KJV, with illustrations or other artwork that the publisher thought was suitable for children. It also does not include Bible storybooks that are stories only loosely based on Bible passages.

Reading levels were determined using the Readability Tests on Joe's Web Tools (<http://www.joeswebtools.com/text/readability-tests/>). The passages used for analysis were Genesis 1 (the Creation) and Luke 1 (the Annunciation). Another passage was substituted in those books that did not include the Annunciation passage. Note that grade level readability varies from story to story, so the grade level on this chart is an aggregate of the two passages. In most cases, the Genesis passage has an easier reading level than the Luke passage.

The following web sites may be helpful in choosing children's Bibles:

- Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's "Choosing A Children's Bible": <http://sundaypaperblog.blogspot.com/2005/09/choosing-childrens-bible.html>
- SundaySchoolResources.com's "Bible Choices": <http://www.sundayschoolresources.com/biblechoices.htm#considerations>
- The United Church of Christ's "Choosing a Children's Bible": <http://www.ucc.org/children/choosing-a-bible-for-children.html>
- Russell W. Dalton's "Bible Stories for American Children: Stifling the Power of Story": http://old.religiouseducation.net/member/06_rea_papers/Dalton_Russell.pdf

Remember that the best judge of an appropriate Bible for your child is you.

In addition to the Bibles listed below, here is a short list of out-of-print Bibles recommended by NAECED members:

Title	Publisher	Author / Illustrator
The DK Illustrated Family Bible	New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc., 1997	Claude-Bernard Costecalde
A Family Treasury of Bible Stories	Harry N. Abrams, 1997	Roberto Brunelli / Mikhail Fiodorov
The Pilgrim Book of Bible Stories	Pilgrim Press, 2003	Mark Waters / Diana Shimon
Stories from the Bible	North-South Books, 2002	Lisbeth Zwerger
Words of Gold: A Treasury of the Bible's Poetry and Wisdom	Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999	Lois Rock

Out-of-print books can be found through a variety of online used book sellers.

Name	Publisher	Author/Editor	Illustrator	Stated Focus	Reading Level*
Adventure Bible Storybook	Grand Rapids MI: ZonderKidz, 2009	Catherine DeVries	Jim madsen	The <i>Adventure Bible Storybook</i> starts children on the journey of a lifetime, teaching them about the Bible's great stories and themes. It helps kids grow in their relationship with God using the Adventure Bible series. With fifty thrilling, beautifully illustrated stories, and features such as "Adventure Discovery" and "Words to Treasure," the <i>Adventure Bible Storybook</i> stimulates kids' minds and fills their hearts with love for their heavenly father. Ages 4-7 (From the back cover.)	2 nd Grade
The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories	Grand Rapids MI: ZonderKidz, 2005		Kelly Pulley	Our company mission is to: inspire passionate devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ; present the power of our Christian heritage; reveal the wisdom and fruit of Christian character; promote understanding of and obedience to the Word of God; challenge and affirm a growing faith in Jesus Christ; define and creatively communicate a Biblical world view; and encourage true reverence for God. (From the web site.)	2 nd Grade
The Beginner's Bible for Toddlers	Grand Rapids MI: ZonderKidz, 2010		Kelly Pulley	<i>The Beginner's Bible</i> is the perfect starting point for toddlers to learn about God's Word. With simple text, bright art, and a padded cover, this cute board book edition presents ten Bible stories in bite-sized chunks that kids can understand. Help toddlers discover <i>The Beginner's Bible</i> just like millions of children before them! Fun for kids and useful for parents and educators. (From the back cover.)	2 nd Grade
The Berenstain Bears Holy Bible	Grand Rapids MI: ZonderKidz, 2011			Join the Berenstain Bears as they explore the most amazing book of all time. Filled with 18 full-color pictures, this Bible will teach you more about God and how he wants you to live a life of virtue practicing things like respect and courage. Ages 4-7. (From the back cover.)	2 nd Grade
A Child's First Bible	Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2000	Kenneth N. Taylor	Nadine Wickenden and Diana Catchpole	Dear Children, This little book is full of favorite stories from the Bible. It's very important to know these Bible stories, because the Bible is God's book. The Bible tells us how he wants us to live and what he wants us to do. ... At the end of each story, there's a question for you to answer. These questions can help you think about what the story means. After you read a story you can talk to God. You can tell him that you love him. You can tell him all the things you want to know. Remember to ask for God's help every day. Ask him to be with you all the time. Ask him to help you obey him and your parents. And always remember how much God loves you! (From the "introduction.")	1 st Grade

Name	Publisher	Author/Editor	Illustrator	Stated Focus	Reading Level*
Children of God Storybook Bible	Grand Rapids MI: ZonderKidz, 2010	Desmond Tutu	Various	Archbishop Desmond Tutu retells more than fifty of his most beloved Bible stories, highlighting God’s desire for all people to love one another and to find peace and forgiveness in their hearts. Many of the finest artists from around the world have been selected to illustrate the stories. In an attempt to create the first truly global Bible for children, the artists have been invited to portray the stories with the style and richness of their own culture. Their stunning color illustrations allow readers to experience the Bible stories as if they were there—with Adam and Eve in the garden, with Noah on the ark, with Abraham in the desert, and with Jesus on the mountaintop. Every story shows how God works through history and ends with a short prayer, personalizing the message for each reader. Archbishop Tutu’s wisdom, compassion, and sense of humor shine throughout as he reminds us that “we are all God’s children.” (From the flyleaf.)	3 rd Grade
The Children’s Illustrated Bible	New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc., 2005	Selina Hastings	Eric Thomas and Amy Burch	Retold especially for children in a clear, lively style that retains the poetry of the original Bible stories. Color photographs and illustrations of the people, places, plants, and animals of the Bible vividly bring each story to life. Quotations from the King James Bible with chapter and verse references. Prepared with the help of scholars, religious advisers, and education experts. (From the back cover.)	3 rd Grade
The Children’s Bible in 365 Stories	Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1995	Mary Batchelor	John Haysom	Not everything in the Bible could possibly have been squeezed into this book, so I have picked out the most exciting stories and the best-loved ones. But I chose with another purpose too. Although the Bible may seem to be a puzzling mixture of different kinds of writing, the separate parts fit together, like pieces in a jig-saw, to make one whole picture. I wanted to make that picture plain. The Bible shows us what God is like, and what we are really like too. Because God never changes and human nature stays the same, the Bible is always up-to-date. It answers the sort of questions which people are always asking: “What is God like?” “Why is there unhappiness and evil and death in our world?” What is the purpose of living?” and “Does it matter how I behave?” (From Mary Batchelor’s Introduction.)	4 th Grade
Eager Reader Bible: Bible Stories to Grow On	Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1994	Daryl J. Lucas	Daniel J. Hochstatter	KIDS! They crave action and adventure—in bite-size doses. That’s why the <i>Eager Reader Bible</i> is perfect for young children! Every page is bursting with colorful pictures and adventure-filled Bible stories. Large type is a great help for new readers—and their grandparents. Kid-size questions help spark meaningful discussions on things that matter most. Find a wiggly child and a cozy corner. Get ready to shape young lives with the Book of books! (From the back cover.)	1 st Grade
God’s Little Princess Devotional Bible	Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2006	Sheila Walsh	Meredith Johnson	Little girls long to be loved, adored, and needed, and to give their hearts to a hero! God is that hero. This devotional Bible for young girls uses Scripture selections from the International Children’s Bible alongside articles that help girls blossom into the princesses they were always meant to be. Virtues to create true beauty, such as honor, charity, compassion, sharing, truth, fairness and more, are highlighted throughout the book in fun and engaging ways. This Bible will help little girls learn about their destiny as a daughter of God and a true princess! (From the back cover.)	2 nd Grade

Name	Publisher	Author/Editor	Illustrator	Stated Focus	Reading Level*
God's Mighty Warrior Devotional Bible	Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2007	Sheila Walsh	Meredith Johnson	Boys are full of energy and imagination. They are (in their minds) the protectors of the fair (their moms and sisters)... guardians of the wild forest (their backyards)... tamers of savage beasts (their pet dog or cat)! Little boys long to be brave and tough... to be Mighty Warriors! In this storybook Bible format, boys can learn how to be strong, honorable, courageous and true. Selections of actual Bible text from the International Children's Bible are combined with delightful articles to help a budding "warrior" earn his armor. We hope that your little boy will learn how to be the Mighty Warrior that God created him to be (and capture the heart of his mom)! (From the back cover.)	2 nd Grade
Lectionary Story Bible (Three Volumes)	Kelowna, BC: Woodlake Books, 2007 (Year A), 2008 (Year B), 2009 (Year C)	Ralph Milton and Margaret Kyle		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. (From the introduction.)	3 rd Grade
The Lion Bible for Children	Oxford, England: Lion Hudson, 2002	Murray Watts	Helen Cann	Murray Watts (best known for his film Miracle Maker) is one of the foremost retellers of the Bible in the UK today. He combines expert Bible knowledge with skilful storytelling to create a compelling text that speaks to children of today. The combined talents of author and artist are matched by the expertise of Lion, market leaders in Children's Bibles. The Lion Bible for Children: - comprehensive coverage of key Bible themes and stories - reliable text which is faithful to the meaning and spirit of the original - imaginative style which reflects the variety of the Bible itself (e.g. reportage, poetry, history, letters) - beautiful illustrations that complement and add meaning to the stories - all the design qualities of a modern classic. (From the publisher's web site.) [NOTE: Recommended by NAECED members, this is hard to find in the U.S. bookstores but can be purchased from online booksellers like Amazon.com, Borders, and Barnes & Noble.	No copy available for grading.
My First Bible in Pictures (15 th Anniversary Edition)	Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1989	Kenneth N. Taylor	Richard and Frances Hook	This is a "carry-to-church" book of Bible stories for little people. But don't leave it on the shelf during the week. Read it with your children at home. The stories and illustrations introduce children to the great people of the Bible. The important themes of the Bible will be planted in little lives, to grow there throughout a lifetime. Above all, the stories tell about God and his Son Jesus, and about God's demand for truth and righteousness. Many of the stories have obvious applications for young children. A simple question brings home the truth of each story, helping to anchor important facts in children's minds. (From Kenneth Taylor's introduction.)	3 rd Grade
NiRV Discoverer's Bible for Early Readers	Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkids, 2002			The Discoverer's Bible for Early Readers uses the full text of the New International Readers' Version (NiRV—the NIV for kids!), written at a third grade reading level. It's the perfect chance for beginning readers to embark on their first exploration of the Bible on their own. (From the flyleaf.)	3 rd Grade

Name	Publisher	Author/Editor	Illustrator	Stated Focus	Reading Level*
NIV Adventure Bible	Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkids, 2011	Lawrence O. Richards (Features)		The <i>NIV Adventure Bible</i> takes you on a fun, exciting journey through God's Word. Along the way you'll meet all types of people, see all sorts of places, and learn all kinds of things about the Bible. Most importantly you'll grow closer in your relationship with God. Here's a quick tour through the features: Life in Bible Times... People in Bible Times... Words to Treasure... Did You Know?... 20 full-color pages... Book introductions, a dictionary/concordance, and color maps. Ages 9-12. (From the back cover.)	6 th Grade
The Preschooler's Bible	Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1992	V. Gilbert Beers	Carole Boerke	Builds right attitudes about God and His Word, offers 101 Bible stories written especially for toddlers, helps children learn the Bible while learning to talk and walk, delights infants to three-year olds with over four hundred pages of beautiful art, gives you the most simple Bible ever! (From the back cover.)	Ranges from pre-K to 2nd Grade
Read and Learn Bible: Stories from the Old and New Testaments (Revised Edition)	New York, NY: Scholastic Inc. and American Bible Society, 2008	Eva Moore	Duendes del Sur; Walter Carzon	It is our goal to make this Bible a new kind of reading and learning experience for children between the ages of five and eight. (From the Welcome)	1 st Grade
Read with Me Bible (NIRV Bible Storybook)	Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkids, 2000		Dennis Jones	The <i>Read with Me Bible</i> : Children love it. Parents trust it. Action-packed with full-color art, this storybook Bible contains Old and New Testament sections and brings 105 best-loved Bible stories to life. Children will love reading it with you or to you. The <i>Read with e Bible</i> is based on the New International Reader's Version (NIRV), which uses simpler words and shorter sentences, making the text easy to read and understand. (From the back cover.)	1 st Grade
Spark Bible NRSV	Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2009			<i>The Spark Bible (NRSV)</i> helps kids explore the Bible in a personal way and makes it easy for kids to interact with God's Word. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stickers help kids engage with the Bible by thinking about the text in a personal way with questions and statements like "I memorized it!", "Makes me feel?" and "Reminds me of?" •Includes activity suggestions and reflective questions •NRSV Translation •Designed for Grade 3-Grade 6 (From the publisher's web site.) [NOTE: Recommended by many NAECED members.]	The NRSV ranges in reading level from 8 th to 11 th Grade

Name	Publisher	Author/Editor	Illustrator	Stated Focus	Reading Level*
Spark Story Bible	Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2009	Patti Thisted Arthur	Peter Grosshauser and Ed Temple,	<p>The Spark Story Bible brings God's Word to life through colorful art and rich retelling of 150 of the most popular Bible stories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Easy to read aloud-uses creative language familiar to kids and full page, vibrant artwork •150 Bible stories-an excellent foundation for a biblical education •Encourages imagination through images and text that is engaging, thought provoking, and fun! •Engages children with an activity suggestion or query for every story •Designed for age 2-Grade 2 <p>(From the publisher's web site.) [NOTE: Recommended by many NAECED members.]</p>	1 st Grade
The Toddler's Bible	Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1994	V. Gilbert Beers	Teresa Walsh	Builds a delight in Bible learning for 3s through 5s. All the important values will come to focus in this simple Bible; builds your child's life and character through Bible truth. (From the back cover.)	About 1 st Grade
Tomie de Paola's Book of Bible Stories	New York, NY: Puffin Books, 1990	NIV Translation	Tomie dePaola	Lovingly illustrated by award-winning artist Tomie dePaola, this stunning collection of stories brings to life some of the most memorable and significant figures in the Old and New Testaments to life... Here is a beautiful collection of Bible stories, perfect for the entire family. (From the back cover.)	7 th Grade