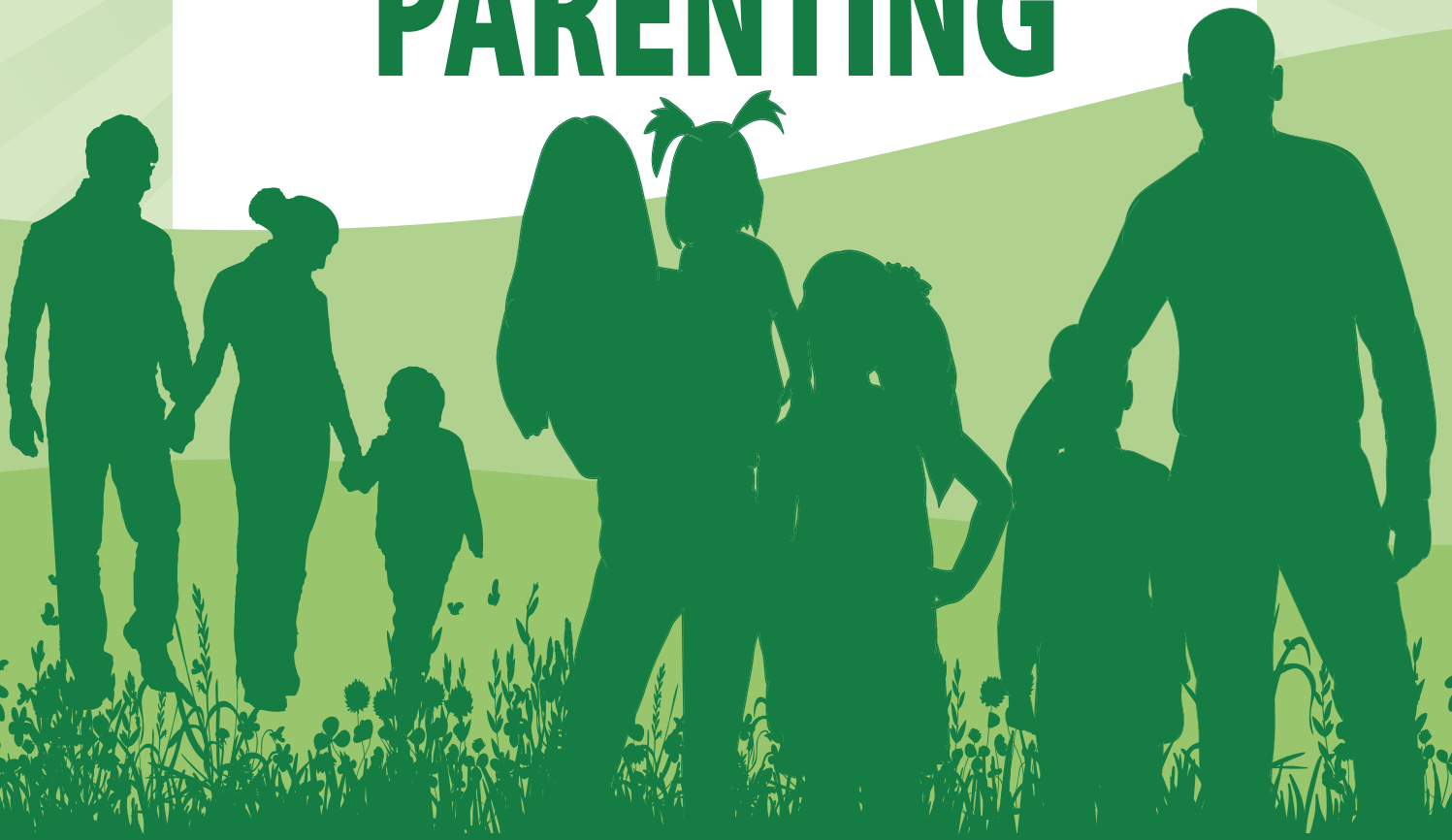


THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL PARENTING



WRITTEN BY JOSH DENHART

www.kidminscience.com



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Leading Families in Biblical Parenting

Every kid's ministry leader can recite **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

We love to talk about this passage with ministry leadership and in our teams, and share it with families. But have we really stopped to consider the weight of this message, and how it impacts how we are doing ministry?

If a family attended your church once every week, they would be under your care for a grand total of 52 hours a year. Yet parents have between 2,000 and 3,000 hours a year with their children. (Consider just 5-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 hours on Saturday and 7 hours on Sunday = 1,947 hours.)

“*PARENTS HAVE BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 HOURS A YEAR WITH THEIR CHILDREN ...*”

In years past, the ministry strategy has been “just get them in the building.” But clearly, that is not the best strategy.

In kid's ministry, we need to use our time during the week to figure out how to leverage PARENTS' time for their own children's spiritual development.

Church succeeds where family cannot: community and extended mentorship.

Family succeeds where church cannot: a volume of time and daily modeling.

We need each other. However, the trend of the latter part of the 20th century was somewhat imbalanced toward a nearly exclusively church-centric discipleship.

Outsourcing works great for my lawn. Outsourcing works great for my taxes. There is no scriptural evidence for outsourcing children's spiritual growth to anyone else. This is the role of the family. This has always been the role of the family.



Fluid, Functional and Formal Faith Training

When it comes to parents facilitating faith training, I see three Biblical categories: Fluid, Functional and Formal Faith Training.

- Fluid Faith Training is being ready to teach Christ in every life circumstance.
- Functional Faith Training is living a life of integrity that communicates the truth of the scriptures without saying a single word.
- Formal Faith Training is setting aside time to directly instruct our children in the things of the Lord.

Fluid Faith Training is about teachable moments. Fluid Faith Training is prepared to insert truth into any given situation at a moment's notice. Fluid Faith Training happens on the fly.

Let's contrast this with **Functional Faith Training**. If Fluid Faith training takes advantage of a teachable moment, Functional Faith Training happens as parents quietly live their lives in front of their kids.

“*FLUID FAITH TRAINING IS BEING READY TO TEACH CHRIST IN EVERY LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE.*”

This is why Moses said in Deuteronomy 4:9, “Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.”

All our efforts at spiritual instruction can go out the window if you are modeling the opposite. This is the dreaded “H” word – Hypocrisy. Nothing can undo the direct instruction in our children’s lives more quickly than the haphazard and disobedient lives of the parents.

So this begs the question. Should we wait for those powerful teachable moments? Do we leave the ball in the court of our children, for their curious minds to instigate discussions and questions of faith? Should we just live our lives and hope our kids pick up the virtue of faith by watching us?

Absolutely not. We must also have **Formal Faith Training**.

“*FUNCTIONAL FAITH TRAINING HAPPENS AS PARENTS QUIETLY LIVE THEIR LIVES IN FRONT OF THEIR KIDS.*”

Nothing can replace direct instruction in our children’s lives. We have an amazing story to tell. Parents need to tell it.

As a children’s pastor, I felt it was my duty to get quality children’s Bibles into the hands of parents and motivate them to read them every night. I felt it was my job to equip parents with hand-selected, quality resources and remind them over and over how important it is to read to their kids.

As a children’s pastor, I cannot be as present as a parent and take advantage of every teachable moment. Fluid Faith Training happens in the regular and the mundane of a family’s daily life.

As a children’s pastor, I cannot regulate how a parent quietly lives their life



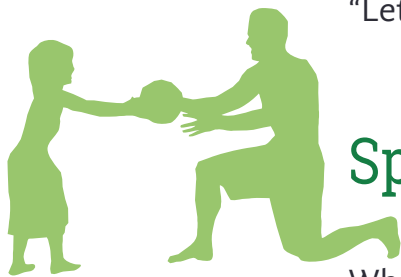
“NOTHING CAN REPLACE DIRECT INSTRUCTION IN OUR CHILDREN’S LIVES. WE HAVE AN AMAZING STORY TO TELL. PARENTS NEED TO TELL IT.”

in front of their child. Functional Faith Training happens as a child watches their parents in the regular and the mundane of a family’s daily life.

My influence as a pastor is best realized through the resources I provide to equip parents. My influence as a pastor is felt through the training I give that helps prop parents up for success. I am at my best when I am communicating the urgency that our kids are like wet cement.

Can mistakes in cement be fixed? Can repairs be made to cement that has already hardened? Absolutely. It requires busting up hard cement with some pretty intense tools. That sounds expensive. That sounds painful.

I would think that the wise person would lay out their forms with a great intentionality. The wise person would think very strategically as to how to work with the cement when it’s still wet. Or as the cement worker said, “Let’s do it right the first time”.



Spiritual Games for Young Children

When my kids were young, my wife, Sarah, and I would often be asked to “read with me” or “play with me.” We had a desire to infuse biblical training into these two areas that they were naturally drawn to – reading and playing together.

We also wanted to be intentional about investing in the best resources that would help our kids learn biblical truths. If we chose to buy something for our family – we wanted it to be good!

This is our attempt at helping families of young and growing children to connect in meaningful ways, and fulfill the biblical command of training their children in the Lord.

We use these games at the breakfast and dinner table, while driving in a car, in front of the family fire place, in the hammock in the backyard, while walking to the park, while waiting in line, while snuggling in mom and dad's bed on a Saturday morning and when laying kids down to sleep.

As a ministry leader, use social media posts, blogs, newsletters, emails, etc. to encourage connect among your families using these games. You could even develop families challenges around them!

Who Is It? – Give hints and clues about a particular Bible story or Bible character. Refer to the major items of importance of the story, capitalizing on basic and simple recall. Children guess who the character in the story is.



WE HAD A DESIRE TO INFUSE BIBLICAL TRAINING INTO THESE TWO AREAS THAT THEY WERE NATURALLY DRAWN TO – READING AND PLAYING TOGETHER.”

What Did They Do? – This is the inverse of the previous game and requires a more significant handle on a particular story. This game is a great second step after the first game has some level of mastery. In asking, “what did they do?” the parent is looking for the major items of importance in the story.

Old Testament and New Testament – This is an extension of the game “Who Is It?” After a guess is made, then the follow-up question is asked: “Old or New?” and everyone answers if this came from the Old Testament or New Testament. One simple way to define the difference for preschool age children can be: New Testament stories include John the Baptist, Jesus, the disciples, and Paul. Everything else is Old Testament.



Which Came First? – This game seeks to teach basic chronology and historical context. This is a game that should be played after a basic handle of the previous game, Old Testament and New Testament, has some level of mastery. When preschool children have an idea of how stories can be categorized in the Old Testament in the New Testament, basic logic can be used to say that those stories in the Old Testament came before those stories in the New Testament. To begin, use Adam and Eve as a one story, since Adam and Eve will always be the first story. Over time, more difficult chronological relationships can be drawn.

Half and Half – this is a relatively difficult game for young children, unless they really know the particular story. The parent can begin a story, pause, and let the child tell the next few events in that story. The story can be told through a “popcorn” method of going back and forth and telling the story “as a team.” It’s a difficult game, requiring great attention to detail and concentration.

“*CHURCH SUCCEEDS WHERE FAMILY CANNOT: COMMUNITY AND EXTENDED MENTORSHIP. FAMILY SUCCEEDS WHERE CHURCH CANNOT: A VOLUME OF TIME AND DAILY MODELING.*”

No Voice Bible Characters –Biblical charades! The Good Samaritan, Jonah and the whale, or any story that you’ve been currently focusing on can be acted out. This takes a higher level of cognition and yet preschool children have a tremendous ability to communicate nonverbally and may surprise you.

Bible Story Dramas – This is a tremendous opportunity to gain deeper context of a biblical story. For the story of Esther, I (Dad) pretend to be King Xerxes. My wife pretends to be Queen Vashti. My five-year-old daughter



pretends to be Esther. My three-year-old son pretends to be the servant who goes to Vashti as well as Mordecai. Mr. Potato Head -- is Haman. We act out many portions of the story. We have cardboard crowns, princess dresses for Esther, a scepter for Xerxes and two tremendous banquets (tea parties with plastic food) that Esther prepares and invites Xerxes and Potato Head ... I mean Haman. Our family has acted out the story of the Good Samaritan, Esther, the Christmas story, and David and Goliath.

Lost Sheep Hide and Seek – A simple hide and seek game using a stuffed sheep. Once the sheep is been found, our whole family gathers together, rejoices and we quickly review that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who wants to seek that which is lost. Children can take turns hiding the sheep.

When I Have Faith... – This is a basic “testimony” in the form of a game. Using this open-ended sentence format, my daughter has shared, “When I have faith, I believe that God is answering our prayers,” or “When I have faith, I believe God is helping our little girl (Compassion International) in Brazil.” When it’s my turn, as the father, I openly share what it looks like for me to have faith. “When Daddy has faith, he believes that giving our money to help a missionary in Peru will change someone’s life,” or “When Daddy has faith, I believe that God will protect my children as they grow older.” This fosters the free and open discussion about how God is working in our lives, even at a young age. (Interestingly enough, when my five-year-old daughter made up this game, she insisted that it include hugs after every round. How cute.)

When I Pray... – Similar to the previous game, participants share what items or people they pray for, what they are asking from the Lord when they pray, and how prayer is an exercise of trust in God.

“*IN KID’S MINISTRY, WE NEED TO USE OUR TIME DURING THE WEEK TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO LEVERAGE PARENTS’ TIME FOR THEIR OWN CHILDREN’S SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.*”

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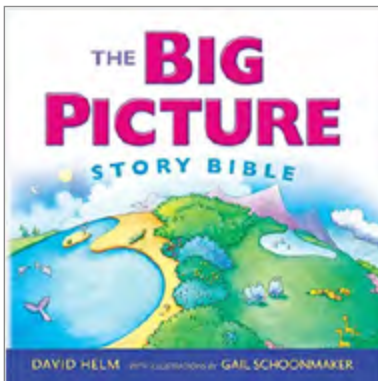
Bibles for Preschool Children



The Beginners Bible

Introduce children to the stories and characters of the Bible with this best-loved Bible storybook. With vibrant art and compelling text, more than 90 Bible stories come to life. Kids ages 6 and under will enjoy the fun illustrations and easy-to-read text.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



The Big Picture Story Bible

Presents the big picture of the Bible to children ages 2-7 through easy-to-read stories and striking illustrations. No child is too young to begin learning about the greatest love story of all God's love for his people, as portrayed in the Bible. Rather than simply retelling portions of the Bible, this book presents the big picture the unified story running through the Old and New Testaments. Twenty-six stories together form parts of this big picture.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Bibles for Elementary Age Children



The Action Bible

The Action Bible presents 215 fast-paced narratives in chronological order, making it easier to follow the Bible's historical flow—and reinforcing the build-up to its thrilling climax. The stories in The Action Bible communicate clearly and forcefully to contemporary readers. This compelling blend of clear writing plus dramatic images offers an appeal that crosses all age boundaries.

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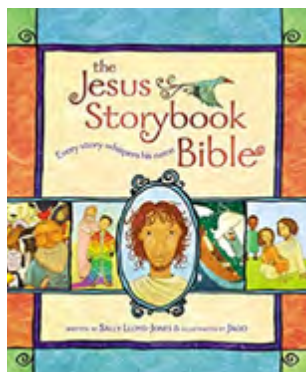




My First Message Bible

This one-of-a-kind Bible transforms family devotions into interactive experiences. The great Message style offers a version that is easy to read and understand. Children ages 4-8 will be encouraged to learn to study the Bible through the read, think, pray, and live approach.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



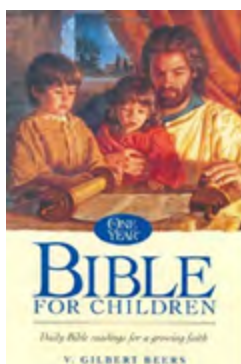
The Jesus Storybook Bible

A Bible like no other, The Jesus Storybook Bible invites children to join in the greatest of all adventures, to discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation---and at the center of their Story too.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



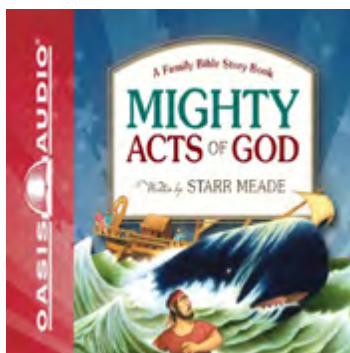
Family Reading Bible.....



The One-Year Bible for Children

This new devotional in The One Year line for families with children ages 5-8 combines beautiful full color illustrations with skilled writing based on the NLT. This Bible can easily transition as an independent reading Bible plan for an upper elementary reader or act as a family reading resource.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



The Mighty Acts of God Family Story Bible

This Bible takes a new approach to teaching the Bible to elementary school aged children. It focuses not on characters in Scripture, but on God. Each of the ninety Bible stories included focus on a particular character trait or truth about God, emphasizing that God is the main character in every Bible story.

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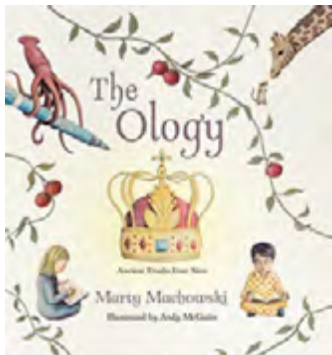
The Story for Kids

As you read, you will uncover the ‘big picture.’ You’ll find out that God’s story is not just a collection of random adventures--it’s a complete story that tells about God’s great love for his people. Using the New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) of the Bible, The Story for Kids reads like a novel. Events, characters, and teachings are arranged in order to show God’s unfolding story.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Theology for Kids



The Ology

Arranged within a traditional systematic theological framework, each truth in The Ology is also connected to the larger redemptive story of Scripture. This storybook of systematic theology takes abstract concepts in the Bible and makes them easier to understand with the use of creative examples, illustrations, and analogies.

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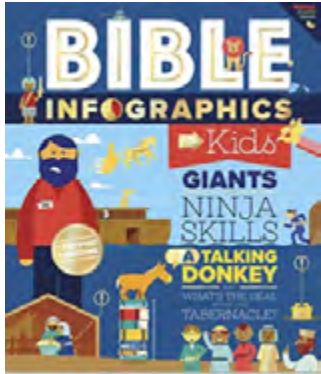
ABCs of God’s Attributes

With inviting designs and simple, concise definitions, children ages 4 to 12 will learn what it means that God is omnipotent, just, and all-knowing, and where we see each attribute in Scripture.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Children's Books



Bible Infographics for Kids

The Bible is far from boring, but sometimes it can feel that way to kids. Spark their excitement for God's Word with this crazy-mazing collection of infographic spreads designed to make the Bible come alive for kids and adults alike. These colorful creations visually depict the key concepts, important people, and most unusual facts from the Bible in a new and exciting way.

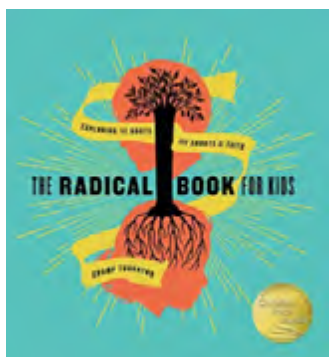
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The Garden, The Curtain and The Cross

This beautifully illustrated hardback book takes children on a journey from the garden of Eden to God's perfect new creation.

[▶ CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



The Radical Book for Kids

The Radical Book for Kids is a fun-filled explorer's guide to the Bible, church history, and life for boys and girls age 8 and up. Along with examining some of the most exciting realities in the universe, the handbook is vibrantly illustrated and chock-full of fun facts and ideas. Deep truths are communicated to elementary and middle-school aged kids while stimulating their curiosity and sense of adventure within a gospel-centered framework.

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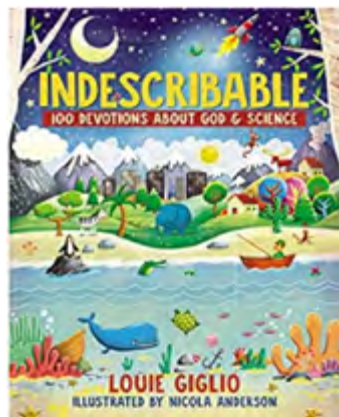
Children's Bible Study and Devotional



Exploring the Bible: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids

Exploring the Bible leads kids ages 6–12 through the Bible one day at a time over the course of a year. For use alongside any Bible, this workbook will help them see the overarching story of God's Word and lay the foundation for a lifetime of discovering truths about God, humanity, and the gospel.

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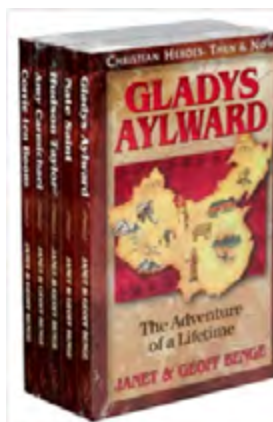
Indescribable: 100 Devotions for Kids About God and Science

Indescribable displays the majesty of creation with scientific findings, photography and original illustrations. 100 Devotions About God & Science will help kids discover the incredible creation of our indescribable God.

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Missions and History

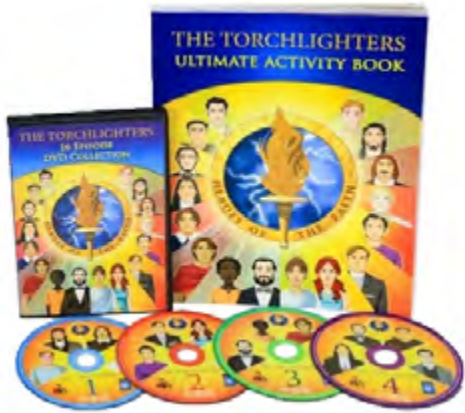


Christian Heroes Now and Then

These exciting, challenging, and deeply touching true stories chronicle the lives of ordinary men and women whose trust in God accomplished extraordinary exploits for His kingdom and glory. Readers of all ages love these fast-paced adventures that take them to the heart of a nation, an era, and what it means to live a life dedicated to serving God and those He loves.

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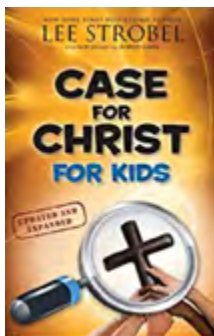
The Torchlighters DVDs

The Torchlighters is an ongoing series of animated programs with strong values and educational content for youth. Each Torchlighters episode presents the story of a true-life hero from Christian history.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Apologetics for Kids.....



Case for Christ for Kids Series

In this series of books, author Lee Strobel helps kids look at historical evidence, expert testimonies, extensive research, and scientific proofs about who Jesus said he was and why Christians believe what they do.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Cold-Case Christianity for Kids

Kids follow along with real-life detective J. Warner Wallace in a process of testing witnesses, examining the evidence the investigating the case for Christianity.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Answers for Kids

The Answers for Kids series answers the top 174 questions submitted by kids relating to creation and the fall, evolution, space, astronomy, Satan, God, angels, and more.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Music and Scripture Memory



Lantern Music

Let's face it, memorizing Bible verses can seem like a huge task. But memorizing a song with a catchy tune is usually simple and fun. Lantern Music help kids and adults easily and effectively memorize God's Word! There are currently over 50 songs (digital and CDs), 25 music videos (with action videos), t-shirts and more! lanternmusic.bandcamp.com

 [CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



lantern music



Seeds Family Worship

Seeds creates Scripture memory songs for kids by setting verses from the Bible to music. We have a library of 167 songs and videos written to word-for-word Scripture. Songs make memorizing the Bible easy and fun. Seeds music is written for kids but also made to be enjoyed by all members of the family. seedsfamilyworship.com

 [CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



JumpStart3

Created by parents for parents! Discover what over families all over the world have discovered. Kids love singing and learning with JumpStart3. jumpstart3.com

 [CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Yancy Ministries

Music that makes Jesus loud! Yancy's popular album series include Little Praise Party – gospel-centered, engaging worship music for preschoolers, and pre-teen favorites Jesus Music Box and Stars, Guitars & Megaphone Dreams. yancyministries.com

 [CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Holiday Resources



What God Wants for Christmas

Open a series of seven Advent-themed gift boxes with your children this December---and fill their hearts with the wonder and excitement of the season! Includes an illustrated storybook; downloadable audiobook; gift boxes; kid-friendly nativity characters; stickers; and a stable backdrop you can use to create your own model of the first Christmas. Ages 3 and up.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Little People Nativity

This might just become one of your family's most treasured Christmas items! Act out the Christmas Story with your children.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Countdown to Christmas

Kids always ask, "How many days are there until Christmas?" Take their excitement and anticipation and point them to the true meaning of Christmas. Count down to Christmas contains 30 self-fastening devotionals that form a colorful Christmas chain.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

Juggler For Jesus



Resurrection Eggs

Watch Easter come to life in little hands! Each of these twelve colorful plastic eggs holds a different memory-grabbing object to take Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond right into your child's heart.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)





Faith Lab @ Home Season 1



Faith Lab @ Home Season 1 is a church-supported, family-led Gospel experience done in the home. This STEM-based and gospel-centered program is easy for families to lead. During Faith Lab @ Home Season 1, families watch a science devotion, engage in scripture memory with Lantern Music, play an interactive Sink or Float game, work together on a family science project, and more. Faith Lab @ Home helps churches to equip their families in the essential activities of family worship and learning together.

kidminscience.com/faith-lab-home-season-1/

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Faith Lab @ Home Season 2

Faith Lab @ Home Season 2 was created to give families more ways to engage together around the gospel. Using fun science and strong biblical teaching, families will watch a daily science devotion, learn scripture with Lantern Music, play interactive, video-based games, and receive encouragement in continually leading their families in Christ through a daily Parent Recharge video.

kidminscience.com/faith-lab-home-season-2/

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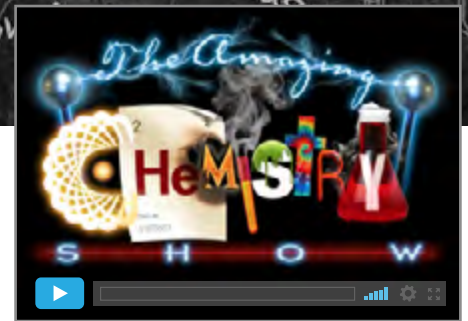




▲ Click here to a view preview video of **The Day of Science**
www.kidminscience.com/day-of-science/



▲ Click here to a view preview video of **Family Experience**
www.kidminscience.com/family-experience/



▲ Click here to a view preview video of **The Amazing Chemistry Show**
<http://www.kidminscience.com/one-hour-show/>

Science Reaches People

It is a special feeling to perform a science experiment that showcases things kids have NEVER SEEN and conveys a message they will NEVER FORGET! Science allows us to earn the right to be heard with kids of all ages. I want to make kids laugh and do things that are captivating.

Our highest purpose is to reach people and make an eternal impact. Science is a remarkable tool for communicating the timeless truths of Biblical Christianity. Science is not magic and it is not an illusion. Using science inspires awe and celebrates our Creator. Science can be a powerful vehicle to convey the gospel message.

Three Science Options

- ▶ **Day of Science** - Inquiry-based scientific exploration capturing the minds of students without leaving the school building.
- ▶ **Family Experience** - Highly interactive family event featuring over 170 individual hands-on science experiences.
- ▶ **The Amazing Chemistry Show** - A 32-foot stage production filled with fire, explosions and foam.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT:
info@kidminscience.com

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