Catechist’s Choice

Children’s Bibles

by Christine Way Skinner, 2014

There are an overwhelming number of children’s bibles on the market. It can be difficult to know which one is the right one for your child. Here are my favourites:

The Bible - A People Listen to God: Written by Joan Baró i Cerqueda, and beautifully illustrated by Maria Rius, this bible is suitable for children ages 10+. It tells the bible as a story of God’s interaction with God’s people. It has superb notes of explanation regarding how the bible came to be and where certain stories originate. This is the book to purchase if your child already has a few bibles for younger children and is looking for something a little more mature.

The Family Story Bible: Written by United Church storyteller Ralph Milton and illustrated by Margaret Kyle, this is suitable for children 4+ years old. I like this bible for a few reasons: it includes excellent parental notes for dealing with difficult passages and it includes some wonderful stories and passages from scripture that are not typically included in children’s bibles (Paul’s letter to the Corinthians on love, for instance.) Finally, it is the best bible I have found for reading out loud to children.

The Picture Bible: Written by Iva Hoth and illustrated by Andre Le Blanc. This is a comic book style bible and appeals to all those children who prefer reading comic books to more traditional ones. Suitable for children ages 7+. If you want your child to read the entire bible, cover to cover, (well at least the central stories), this will help you accomplish that end.

Children of God: Written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Illustrated by a wide variety of very talented artists. The illustrations are not only beautiful but they are multicultural and of diverse style. The text of each story read by Desmond Tutu can be downloaded from www.ChildrenofGodBible.com. Suitable for children ages 2+. This is definitely the most visually appealing bible on the list. The text is excellent for reading aloud.

The Kingfisher Children’s Bible: Written by Trevor Banks. In the composition of this children’s bible, the author consulted excellent biblical scholars from Catholic, Protestant and Jewish traditions. Suitable for children ages 9+. The text is well written and suitable for a slightly older child.