

FAMILY TOOLBOX



SERIES

CHOOSING A CHILDREN'S BIBLE



Children's Ministry

Golden Hills Community Church

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A Note to Families

The Children's Ministry of Golden Hills Community Church exists to "*Glorify God by helping families develop age-appropriate disciples who impact their world for Christ*".

In order to accomplish this task, we at GHCC have attempted to describe the discipleship of a believer, which includes these three elements:

- **Worship**
- **Grow**
- **Serve**

We believe that children, as followers of Christ, can also participate in the discipleship process. We have further identified twelve specific spiritual growth issues within these three elements of discipleship.

It is our desire in Children's Ministry, to create a balanced program, which addresses all of these spiritual growth issues, helping to produce a healthy, age-appropriate disciple.

However, statistics tell us that the national average for children attending Sunday school is 26 hours each year (that's only half of the time). And our church is no exception to this. Our average Sunday attendance is roughly half of our total registration. What does this mean? Well, we could have the best programming, the best teachers and staff (which, by the way, I think we do) and we would still have a very hard time in accomplishing the goal God has set before us. But there is a way.

The way in which we can realize the goal of making age-appropriate disciples is stated in our purpose: "...by helping *families* develop age-appropriate disciples..." In fact, the best approach to aiding your child's faith development is *not* in the formal setting of the church, but in the informal, everyday life of your home. God's Word clearly reminds us of this in Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. The commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress (teach) them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down at night and when you get up."

We encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to "impress upon your children" spiritual truth. Use dinner conversation, driving in the car, bedtime routines and getting ready each morning as times to reflect and teach about God and his faithfulness.

To help you in these discussions, we have developed a series of tools for you to use. These tools are series of booklets (**THE FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**), each addressing the spiritual growth issues. In them you will find information, discussion questions and activity suggestions to help you guide your children on their spiritual journeys.

Table of Contents

A Note to Parents...5

A Word About Translations...6—7

Bible Reviews...8—23

Age Recommendations...24—26

Dear Parents,

I am often asked to give advice on the best Bible to purchase for a child. This is a difficult question to answer, as there are so many varieties of Bibles on the market to choose from. Then, there is also the reading level and interests of your child to consider. I thought it might be helpful for you to look at some of the most popular Bibles and translations to give you some frame of reference in making your selection.

First we'll look generally at the various translations available so you can choose the translation best for your child. Then we'll give a review of the most popular and finally make recommendations based on the age of your child.

I pray this tool will be of value to you as you guide your children in the knowledge of the Lord. God bless you as you raise your children to love and obey Jesus.

In Him,

Pastor Mark

Description of Bible Translations

A brief note regarding Bible translations

To be honest, there are far too many Bible translations available today to describe them here. We will however attempt to describe several of the more popular versions to help orient you as to what is available. You should know a couple of things about translations. There are two main approaches to translations. The first is known as “functional equivalent”. This means that the translation from the original languages (Hebrew, Greek) was made from the *meaning* of the text. This differs from the second approach known as “formal equivalent” which is a literal, *word-for-word* translation of the original text. You should also know that a paraphrase is different from a translation in that a paraphrase does not look at the original text, but simply restates a current translation in a more contemporary language (an example would be *The Message*).

Contemporary English Version (CEV) The CEV is a functional equivalent translation using contemporary common language. The CEV is designed to be understood when being read and heard out loud. It is one of the better translations for use with children and youth.

English Standard Version (ESV) The ESV is a formal equivalent translation. This is a relatively new translation (published in 2001). The goal of the ESV was to produce an accurate and readable translation.

Holman Christian Standard Illustrated Study Bible for Kids (HCSB) An accurate, easy-to-read translation for kids. This is a functional equivalent translation.

International Children’s Bible (ICB) This Bible is a functional equivalent translation. It was the first translation prepared especially for children. It is simple enough for children to read and understand themselves.

King James Version (KJV) The KJV (also known as the Authorized Version) is a formal equivalent translation originally published in 1611 at the request of King James I of England. It was frequently reprinted and spelling updated, and most copies today are slightly adapted from a

1769 edition. The KJV has been the single most influential book in shaping the English language. While I acknowledge that there are those who believe the KJV to be the only inspired translation, it is not recommended here for use with children.

New American Standard Bible (NASB) The NASB is an excellent example of a formal equivalent translation. This is an excellent study Bible where attention to the original Hebrew and Greek is desired.

New International Reader's Version (NIRV) The NIRV was designed for early readers as a stepping-stone to the NIV Bible (see below).

New International Bible (NIV) The NIV is a blend of both the formal and functional equivalent translations. The NIV has become one of the most popular English translations in use today.

New King James Version (NKJV) The intent of the translators was to capture the accuracy and beauty of the KJV in contemporary, readable language. Just as with the original translation of the KJV, the NKJV was a formal equivalent translation, taking care to capture the devotional quality of the KJV.

New Living Translation (NLT) The NLT is a meaning-based (functional equivalent) revision of the *Living Bible* (a popular 1971 paraphrase of the 1901 *American Standard Version*-have I lost you yet?). The NLT revision involved comparing the *Living Bible* to the original language texts and then making changes so that the NLT is a true translation. The NLT is a good translation to use with kids (and adults) who might have difficulty with the traditional language of a formal equivalent translation.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) The NRSV is a revision of the *Revised Standard Version* (1952). The NRSV is a blending of formal and functional equivalent translation and tries to keep the wording and phrasing of the KJV that are familiar. The NRSV has become a standard translation for serious Bible study especially in seminaries and colleges.

Children's Bibles

Title: *Holman Christian Standard Illustrated Study Bible for Kids*

Publisher: *B&H publishing Group*

Version: *HCSB*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$19.99*

General Description:

An accurate, easy-to-read and understand translation, helps kids connect the people, places and events, giving them a foundation of biblical knowledge they can build upon as they mature. Good for church, school and home use.

Features:

- Durably bound
- Words of Christ in red
- Large, east-to-read typeface
- Plan of Salvation
- 44 full color pages
- 7 full color maps
- The Ten Commandments for Kids
- How to Have a Quiet Time
- Test Your Bible knowledge
- Topical Concordance and Bible Dictionary for Kids
- 1080 pages

Children's Bibles

Title: *NKJV Early Reader's Bible*

Publisher: *Thomas Nelson*

Version: *NKJV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$19.99*

General Description:

Contains the complete Old and new Testaments in giant print making it easy for early readers. Available in fun binding styles and colors

Features:

- Presentation page
- Records pages of Baptisms and other events
- 10 point Text
- Information sections about the Bible and how to use it
- Bible Timeline
- Reading plans
- Memorization Tracks
- Biblical guide to prayer
- Two-color inserts throughout
- Two-column format
- End-of-paragraph references
- Words of Christ in red
- Concordance
- Illustrated Bible Dictionary
- Color Maps

Children's Bibles

Title: *Lucado ICB Children's Daily Devotional Bible*

Publisher: *Thomas Nelson*

Version: *ICB*

Cover: *Softcover*

Retail Cost: *\$19.99*

General Description:

A devotional Bible written especially for children that brings together the gentle wisdom of Max Lucado and the Word of God. Written at a level they will understand, children will grow in their faith as they learn about God's Word and what makes it (and them) so special.

Features:

- Presentation page
- 9 point type
- Double-column format
- Translation/textual notes
- 366 Daily Discovery Devotionals
- Power Prayers (great prayers of the Bible)
- Set the Stage (Bible Book introductions)
- Promise Pointers (100 promises of the Bible)
- Articles (on forgiveness, heaven, faith, family, grace, abundant life, etc.)
- Dictionary
- Subject headings
- How to use this Bible

Children's Bibles

Title: *ICB Holy Bible*

Publisher: *Thomas Nelson*

Version: *ICB*

Cover: *Softcover*

Retail Cost: *\$12.99*

General Description:

Celebrated as the first Bible translation just for kids. Ideal for early readers.

Features:

- Dictionary
- A color books of the Bible contents page
- Four pages of full color maps
- 1508 pages

Children's Bibles

Title: *NiRV Kid's Devotional Bible*

Publisher: *Thomas Nelson*

Version: *NiRV*

Cover: *Softcover*

Retail Cost: *\$20.99*

General Description:

Created especially for young readers, the short sentences and easy words of the NiRV make it a Bible kids can read themselves. Contains thought provoking questions, illustrations and a years worth of devotionals. The NiRV is intended to be a stepping stone to today's most widely read translation, the NIV.

Features:

- "Theme Summary" in 40 books of the Bible, helps kids apply the theme to their lives.
- Artwork
- Daily and weekend devotions
- Presentation page
- 9 point text in dark blue
- Two-column format
- Dictionary
- Subject Guide

Children's Bibles

Title: *NIV Adventure Bible*

Publisher: *Zondervan*

Version: *NIV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$26.99*

General Description:

This best-selling Bible has incorporates four-color tip-ins throughout, identifying key Biblical characters and important facts kids will want to know.

Features:

- “Let’s Live It!” helps kids apply the Bible to their own lives
- “Life in Bible Times” explains what it was like to live in Bible times
- “Did You Know?” points out fun facts about the Bible
- “Words to Treasure” highlights popular Bible verses to memorize
- 15 full color charts
- Book introductions provide basic information about each book of the Bible
- 8 pages of full color maps
- Presentation page

Children's Bibles

Title: *NLT Hands On Bible for Kids*

Publisher: *Group Publishing*

Version: *NLT*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$19.99*

General Description:

This Bible uses hundreds of fun, memorable activities and lessons to highlight the understandable NLT text.

Features:

- FAQ's about the Bible
- Historical charts
- Where to turn in my Bible
- Personal reading plan
- Family devotions
- Dictionary/concordance
- Maps
- Activities (science experiments, snacks, games, crafts, discussions and more)

Children's Bibles

Title: *ESV Children's Bible*

Publisher: *Crossway Books & Bibles*

Version: *ESV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$24.99*

General Description:

Young children will love the 200+ full color illustrations. Not a simplified Bible or storybook Bible that a child will soon outgrow.

Features:

- Presentation page
- 10 point text
- Double-column format
- Bible book introductions
- Words of Christ in red
- Translation and textual notes
- What the Bible says about itself
- The promises of God
- Salvation explained
- Bible reading tips
- Bible reading plan
- Learning to pray
- Bible memory
- Dictionary

Children's Bibles

Title: *NIV Boy's Bible*

Publisher: *Zondervan*

Version: *NIV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$26.99*

General Description:

A bible designed just for boys! With 252 notes, it helps young men “grow deeper, smarter, stronger and cooler” in the Lord. Sections for journaling and a “Grossology” section which highlights “gross and gory” Scripture tidbits (you know, the stuff boys love).

Features:

- Table of weights and measures
- 9 point type
- Double-column format
- Black letter edition
- Concordance
- Bible book introductions and outlines
- 252 in-text notes
- “Get a Load of This” and “Grossology” notes

Children's Bibles

Title: *NIV Children's Bible*

Publisher: *Zondervan*

Version: *NIV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$18.99*

General Description:

This Bible offers best-selling NIV text for kids. Selected full-page color illustrations of bible stories. GHCC has purchased this Bible to use in many of the children's classes. It is a good, basic Bible for children.

Features:

- Presentation & records pages
- Bible time lines
- Color maps
- Dictionary
- Selected full-page color illustrations
- 1248 pages

Children's Bibles

Title: *NIV Discoverer's Bible*

Publisher: *Zondervan*

Version: *NIV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$22.99*

General Description:

Formerly titled the *Young Discoverer's Bible* contains 30 full-color tip-in pages. This Bible offers easy to read, large print type.

Features:

- Presentation page
- Bible book introductions and outlines
- Double-column format
- 30 full-color tip-in pages
- Dictionary-concordance
- 8 full-color maps

Children's Bibles

Title: *NIRV-The Adventure Bible For Young Readers*

Publisher: *Zondervan*

Version: *NIRV*

Cover: *Softcover*

Retail Cost: *\$21.99*

General Description:

Based on The Adventure Bible, this Bible is designed for young readers ready to explore God's Word on their own.

Features:

- Presentation page
- 9 point type
- About the Old Testament books
- 10 Commandments for kids
- Bible book introductions
- Life in bible Times helps kids understand what life was like in Bible times
- People in Bible Times helps kids know who's who in the Bible
- Words to Treasure highlights popular memory verses
- Did You Know? Points out interesting Bible facts
- Let's Live It! Suggests activities to reinforce Bible lessons
- Illustrations index
- General index
- Activities index
- Dictionary
- What I Think Journal
- 8 full-color maps

Children's Bibles

Title: *NRSV Children's Bible*

Publisher: *Hendrickson Publishers*

Version: *NRSV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$16.95*

General Description:

The modern NRSV translation for young readers.

Features:

- Presentation page
- Two-column format
- 8.5 point text
- 8 color pages of maps, charts, and mini-articles about Bible times
- 24 pages of watercolor illustrations
- Simplified Harmony of the Gospels
- Black letter edition
- Gold-toned page edges

Children's Bibles

Title: *NASB Study Bible for Boys/Study Bible for Girls*

Publisher: *World Publishing*

Version: *NASB*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$24.99*

General Description:

A unique study Bible designed for boys or girls. These Bibles include age specific helps specially written for the interest of boys and girls.

Features:

- Bible book introductions
- Good morning God, brief devotionals
- Genuine Heroes, biographical sketches
- Life in Bible times
- Drawings, full color illustrations
- Maps

Children's Bibles

Title: *NKJV The Explorer's Bible for Kids*

Publisher: *Thomas Nelson*

Version: *NKJV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$24.99*

General Description:

The Explorer's Bible brings the Bible-its people, places, and message-into a kid's world. Fun to read, entertaining to learn about and easy to understand.

Features:

- 125 Cameos of Bible personalities
- 93 Bible lessons about Bible character's faith
- 95 News items-retelling of Bible stories in a news format
- 140 definitions of terms found in the Bible
- 100 interesting Bible facts
- 419 Bible notes
- 300 illustrations and photographs
- 9 action maps
- Dictionary/concordance
- Presentation page

Children's Bibles

Title: *The Global Bible for Children*

Publisher: *Authentic Media Publications*

Version: *CEV*

Cover: *Hardcover*

Retail Cost: *\$24.99*

General Description:

The American Bible Society's Global Bible for Children is a colorful Bible with pictures from around the world, boxes of information and numerous pages about various countries around the world.

Features:

- Presentation page
- Double-column format
- Did you know facts
- Look it up questions
- Translation and textual notes
- Fun facts about the continents
- Facts about countries
- Dictionary
- 5 pages of colorful maps
- Photos

Age Recommendations

Age 6

- ICB Holy Bible
- ESV Children's Bible
- NIV The Adventure Bible for Young Readers
- NIV Kid's Devotional Bible
- NKJV Early Reader's Bible
- NRSV Children's Bible

Age 7

- NKJV Early Reader's Bible
- ICB Holy Bible
- NIV The Adventure Bible for Young Readers
- NIV Kid's Devotional Bible
- NRSV Children's Bible

Age 8

- Holman Christian Standard illustrated Study Bible for Kids
- NKJV Early Reader's Bible
- Lucado ICB Children's Daily Devotional Bible
- ICB Holy Bible
- NIV the Adventure Bible for Young Readers
- NIV Kid's Devotional Bible
- NIV Adventure Bible
- NLT Hands On Bible for Kids
- ESV Children's Bible
- NIV Boy's Bible
- NIV Children's Bible
- NIV Discoverer's Bible
- NRSV Children's Bible
- NASB Study Bible for Boys/Study Bible for Girls

Age 9

- Holman Christian Standard Illustrated Study Bible for Kids
- NKJV The Explorer's Bible for Kids
- Lucado ICB Children's Daily Devotional Bible
- ICB Holy Bible
- NIrV Kid's Devotional Bible
- NIV Adventure Bible
- NLT Hands On Bible for Kids
- ESV Children's Bible
- NIV Boy's Bible
- NIV Children's Bible
- NIV Discoverer's Bible
- NRSV Children's Bible
- NASB Study bible for Boys/Study Bible for Girls
- The Global Bible for Kids

Age 10

- Holman Christian Standard Illustrated Study Bible for Kids
- Lucado ICB Children's Daily Devotional Bible
- ICB Holy Bible
- NIrV Kid's Devotional Bible
- NIV Adventure Bible
- NLT Hands On Bible for Kids
- ESV Children's Bible
- NIV Boy's Bible
- NIV Children's Bible
- NIV Discoverer's Bible
- NASB Study Bible for Boys/Study Bible for Girls
- NKJV The Explorer's Bible for Kids
- The Global Bible for Kids

Age 11

- Holman Christian Standard Illustrated Study Bible for Kids
- Lucado ICB Children's Daily Devotional Bible
- NIV Adventure Bible
- ICB Holy Bible
- NLT Hands On Bible for Kids
- ESV Children's Bible
- NIV Boy's Bible
- NIV Children's Bible
- NIV Discoverer's Bible
- NASB Study Bible for Boys/Study bible for Girls
- NKJV The Explorer's Bible for Kids
- The Global Bible for Kids

Age 12

- Holman Christian Standard illustrated Study Bible for Kids
- Lucado ICB Children's Daily Devotional Bible
- NIV Adventure Bible
- NLT Hands On Bible for Kids
- NIV Boy's Bible
- NIV Children's Bible
- NIV Discoverer's Bible
- NASB Study bible for Boys/Study Bible for Girls
- NKJV The Explorer's Bible for Kids
- The Global Bible for Kids

The Spiritual Growth Issues:

Worship

- Salvation
- Worship

Grow

- Bible knowledge/Application
- Bible Memory
- Stewardship
- Healthy Relationships
- Using Gifts, Talents and Skills
- Church Commitment

Serve

- Outreach
- Missions Involvement
- Christian Service