

## **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Family Resources – Children's Bibles**

Reading the Bible together at home is a great way to learn our sacred stories together with your children. Don't be afraid of questions you can't answer; an honest response of, "I don't know, but let's find out together" will show your child that you are on this journey together.

Most children are able to follow the text in the Bible some time around older elementary/younger middle school age. Choose a translation that is clear, such as the Contemporary English Version (CEV). In church we read from the New Revised Standard Version.

Children's Bibles can be a good substitute for children too young to find meaning in regular Bible texts. They rarely have all the stories, and tend to leave out the psalms and other wisdom literature. Stay away from versions that deliver stiff moral interpretations to the stories, and watch out for "Christian interpretations" of the Old Testament. Finally, look for engaging illustrations!

Copies of many of these children's Bibles may be found and previewed on the bookshelves of All Saints' Chapel at St. Andrew's:

**The Little Golden Bible Storybook**, by S. Simeon (Golden Inspirational, 2005). Ages birth – 3. The best first Bible storybook, with good story selection; attractive without being too cute or dumbed down. Board book, 36 pages.

**The Bible for Young Children**, by Marie-Helene Delval (Eerdmans, 2010) for pre-k and very early readers. A summary of important Old Testament stories and the life of Jesus.

*[other board books for young children]* There is a series called "My Very First Bible Stories," by Lois Rock. Most relevant for Family Service families are **Our Father**, the **Lost Sheep**, the **Good Samaritan** and **Jesus and His Friends**. There are also several books of prayers, including bedtime prayers and thanksgivings.

**Children of God Storybook Bible**, by Desmond Tutu (Zondervan, 2010). Ages 4+, with illustrations by artists from around the world and global perspective. Hardcover, 128 pages. This volume is widely available in bookstores.

**The Bible for Children**, by Murray Watts (Good Books, 2002). Ages 5-12, with splendid illustrations of facial expression and gesture plus thematic use of religious symbolism. Hardcover, 352 pages.

**"Reader's Digest" Bible for Children**, by Marie-Helene Delval (J Morris, 1995). Ages 5-12, this classic is currently out of print but used copies are available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Hardcover, 159 pages plus glossary.

**Bible Stories for the 40 Days**, by Melissa Musick Nussbaum (Liturgy Training Publications, 2007). Ages 7-12, with slightly more challenging treatment of Biblical themes than the other books on the list. Also an excellent representation of stories. Paperback, 96 pages.