

BOOKS FOR LITTLE ONES

God hears



BY STEPHANIE CARMICHAEL

Books for Little Ones

The first four years of a child's life are a wonderful time. Children are discovering so much about themselves and about their world. It is a delight—and often lots of fun—to watch the changes taking place. Helping a child learn about God during these formative years is both a great privilege and a unique challenge.

Books for Little Ones is a series of simple books written specifically for 1-4 year olds. Along with beautiful photos, each book provides age-appropriate teaching about God and us, in a way that encourages your child to take the first steps of faith—first steps on what will be, God willing, a lifetime journey of growing in the knowledge and love of God.

Extensive tips and ideas are also provided for parents. For more information, see www.teachinglittleones.com/bfo.

God hears

In this book children will learn that God wants us to talk to him, and he hears us no matter what the time and no matter where we are. I can talk to him whether I feel happy or sad. I can say “thank you”, “please help” and “sorry”.

In the **Books for Little Ones** series:

The Bible

God hears

God is great

God knows me

God loves

God loves me

God made

God made me

Jesus

Please God

Sorry God

Thank you God



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God hears

Notes for parents or other adult readers

Sitting down to read a book with a young child is a special privilege, and helping them take early steps in getting to know their world, themselves and God is even more special. However this book is not just intended to be read, but to be a springboard for helping children learn throughout the day (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Psalm 145:3-7). Here are a few tips to help you adapt your reading and help their learning go beyond these pages:

For really little ones: In this book, we lead up to a generalisation (we can talk to God anywhere and anytime and he hears us) by starting with specifics (e.g. inside, daytime). You can make the transition to your child's life by making it even more specific (e.g. "We can pray here in this room.") Even though we can pray anytime, you can also explain that it's still good to have a regular time each day when you pray. Keep prayers simple and short.

For bigger ones: You can use this book to help your child learn to pray themselves and help them cultivate dependence on God in everyday life. Talk to your child about how they could pray in response to things (for themselves or for others). At first, you can model short, simple prayers. Or you could begin a prayer (e.g. "Please God help...") for them to name the person or the situation. Then you could talk about what to pray and either you pray or you suggest what they can pray. Over time they might pray simple prayers themselves.

Other Bible passages to look at: Psalm 116:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 John 5:14.

Making books for/with your child: Photograph your child and people they know (or an older child can draw). Put the pictures in a small album that can be used as a 'prayer book' when praying.

Pray: Thank God for listening to our prayers. Pray that God will help you both talk to God through the day. Ask God to help you love other people by praying for them. There are other books in this series about prayer too.

For more thoughts and tips see www.teachinglittleones.com/bfo

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God wants me to talk to him.
I can't see him but he can hear me.

I can talk to God in the daytime
and he hears me.



I can talk to God in the nighttime.
I can talk to God anytime and he hears me.

