Book Review by Dawn Engelsma, mother to seven children.

His Friends and Servants by Nathan J. Langerak; Illustrated by Michael Welply.

The questions.

I’m waiting for them. I know they’re coming.

They began on the very first page and haven’t stopped.

We are up to chapter 12, “Joseph Sold.”

As I read the story, I see my 7 year-old boys staring intently at the picture of Joseph being led away by strangers as his brothers scoff and reach out their greedy hands to receive their twenty pieces of silver.

I feel the first tap on my shoulder. Just a tap. Both eyes stay transfixed on the picture.

“Mom?” “Is that for real? Did his brothers really sell him?” “Did that really happen?”

Another tap.

“Wait, mom, his brothers put him in a pit and wanted him to die?”

“Why would God let that happen to him?” “Wasn’t he a Christian?”

And on and on this went; chapter after chapter, throughout the entire book.

So many innocent and teachable moments.

His Friends and Servants is the second volume in the RFPA’s Tell His Wonders series for children. Readers can be assured that this book lives up to the high standard of the author’s previous work, Jehovah’s Mighty Acts.

Rev. Langerak chose the title of this book based on Isaiah 41:8: “Thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.”

Throughout its pages, you will come face to face with examples of God’s goodness to his people in the midst of earthly struggles. The author uses detailed accounts from scripture and familiar language to impress upon his audience the reality and simplicity of God’s word. Michael Welply’s illustrations are striking and powerful. Our children are shown real, tangible examples of God turning evil to our profit and lessons of sin and forgiveness.

From beginning to end, the reader is engaged and asked thought-provoking questions. The illustrations bring the story to life and help children relate to God’s saints from long ago. To my little ones, Joseph became a real person; a younger brother just like they are, and his brothers hated him enough to sell him! Rev. Langerak asks the reader, “Can you hear Joseph weeping? Help! Someone please, help me!”

“But Joseph was a believer,” my son pleads. “Why would God let this happen? “Doesn’t he care?”

Deep questions. As the pages turn and the rest of the story unfolds before them, my children were able to see the hand of God guiding every decision and circumstance of Joseph’s life.

Genesis 50:20: “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good...”
Teachable moments.

These stories are not new to our children. They’ve heard them many times at home, in sunday school and catechism, and during the school day. But sitting down with a book designed specifically for our covenant youth, with a God-glorifying theme woven through every page, is of great advantage to a parent. It is evident that Rev. Langerak had a child’s tender and impressionable heart in view while writing this book. He permits their little mind to imagine, process, and grasp the fact that God’s word is real and powerful.

Rev. Langerak presents to the reader constant evidence of God’s greatness, sovereignty, and faithfulness to his own. He draws these truths out to be front and center so that children are left in awe of the God they are privileged to call their Friend and Father.

*His Friends and Servants* is a treasure. It will aid young readers, both visually and verbally, to grow in their love and appreciation for the written word of God.

Despite the circumstances, because we are the friends and servants of God, we have peace and hope in the midst of the most hopeless of situations.