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# CHILDREN'S BIBLE REVIEWS

## I WONDER: EXPLORING GOD'S GRAND STORY

### OVERVIEW

*I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story* by Glenys Nellist and Alessandra Fusi stays true to its title through and through. Curiosity is key to the experience of reading this picture Bible, because each chapter ends with a series of three "I wonder..." prompts for readers to ponder. Examples include, "I wonder if God can still bring good out of bad situations," in the story of Joseph and "I wonder how I could be a good friend today," in the story of the paralytic lowered through the roof to Jesus.

This Bible is organized in chronological order with chapter titles emphasizing individual Bible characters and their stories. The cumulative effect is a children's Bible that encourages readers to walk alongside key figures in the sacred text.



**AUTHOR: GLENYS NELLIST**

**ILLUSTRATOR: ALESSANDRA FUSI**

### AUDIENCE

*I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story* is designed for young readers and would be suitable for home use. The short stories followed by "I wonder..." prompts make it ideal for bedtime stories or devotional time with caregivers and children.

It would make a good supplement for children's Sunday school resources, but it does not have the activities and breadth to support a full-scale curriculum.

## STRENGTHS

The illustrations in *I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story* manage to bring colorful new life to Bible stories while also creating a cohesive children's Bible format. For example, it is refreshing to see fruit in the garden of Eden portrayed as pomegranates instead of apples. Many of the stories are accompanied by immersive illustrations of the ancient world that may spark curiosity about the historical context of the Bible.

The choice to organize the book by major Bible characters reinforces the main idea that God is active in stories. God is present with each character, including characters in New Testament parables. Along with the prompts at the end of each entry, the content of *I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story* invites readers to make connections between God's presence in Bible stories and God's presence in their own lives.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Though the story style is more traditional and straightforward than some contemporary children's Bibles, Glenys Nellist is obviously thoughtful about avoiding gendered pronouns for God. Most characters in the stories have brown skin, though some characters may have more European features and skin tones.

Some of the stories may lead to more traditional theologies and interpretations. For example, the story of Rahab is treated as a narrative of faithfulness in which Rahab's actions are motivated by God's transformation of her life. This is a valid interpretation that reinforces Nellist's message of God's presence in everyone's stories. However, other storybook Bibles may provide more nuance in similar narratives.