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# CHILDREN'S BIBLE REVIEWS

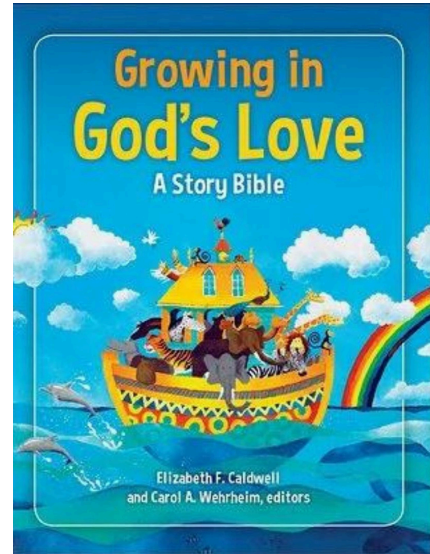
## GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE: A STORY BIBLE

### OVERVIEW

Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible is designed to provide moments for caregivers and children to pause and wonder about Bible stories.

In the introduction, the editors share a desire to write and illustrate stories in fresh ways, including a hope that they "will be accessible for differently abled children"

Even in its variety of illustrations, the experience of reading Growing in God's Love is similar to other children's Bibles on the market. The differences show up in some stories like Noah's Ark, which de-emphasizes God's wrath and teaches children that many cultures have end-of-the-world stories.



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### AUDIENCE

Growing In God's Love: A Story Bible will likely resonate most with caregivers who desire resources that are reminiscent of traditional children's Bibles from their younger years.

It works well as a nostalgic resource that is more race- and gender-inclusive with new interpretations for some classic stories.

## STRENGTHS

Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible is unique because its stories are organized chronologically within specific themes. For example, stories are grouped with titles like "Rivalries," "Strong Women and Men," "People Jesus Met," and "The Early Church." The result is a resource that can be used to point to different stories based on children's emotional needs and curiosities at any point in their development.

Another notable feature is the way this storybook Bible prioritizes women's stories. In the "Strong Women and Men" collection, stories with women as protagonists are told before any stories with men as main characters. This organizational choice shows the authors' intent to showcase women as Bible characters whose stories are just as important as well-known men in the Old Testament.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Growing in God's Love's simple writing style often allows for clear retellings of Bible stories. However, this style leads to glossing over some difficult Bible stories.

For example, the relationship between Sarah and Hagar is treated as a story in the "rivalries" section, setting aside meaningful power dynamics in favor of creating a kid-friendly version of the tale.

Caregivers may wish to read ahead so they can prepare to address these complexities and make sure the messages are clear for their family.