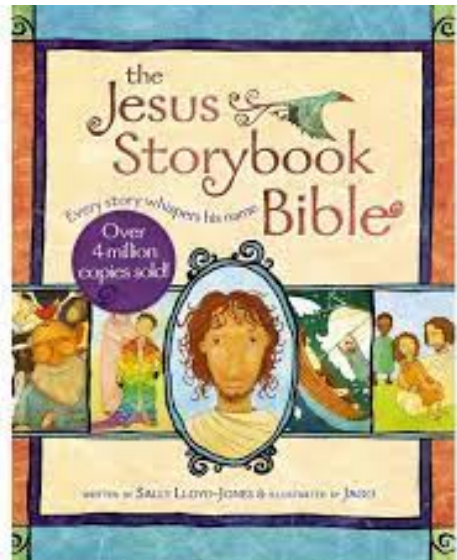


# The Jesus Storybook Bible

## Every Story Whispers His Name

### by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Copyright 2007 by Zondervan



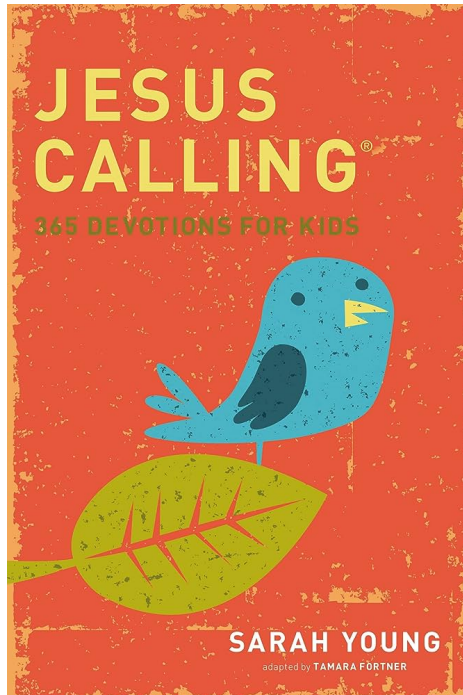
There is a lot to love about this book. The illustrations are simple and are often focused on the faces and emotions of the characters. Rather than starting with the Garden of Eden, this book takes six pages to discuss what the bible actually IS. Here is an excerpt from that introduction:

*"Now, some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the Bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done."*

Things to Consider: Both God and the serpent of the Garden of Eden are referred to in the masculine. A variety of skin tones and body sizes are portrayed. The reading level of this book is higher but the illustrations are more kid like; ie this is set up to be a text where an older child or adult is reading the information TO the intended child/person.

# Jesus Calling 365 Devotions for Kids by Sarah Young

Copyright 2010 by HarperCollins Christian Publishing



Devotions in this edition are dated and contain a bible verse and roughly a third of a page of thoughtful prose written through the perspective of God simply known as “I”. At the bottom of the page there are verses noted for the reader to “Read on Your Own”. There are no pictures and the pages are simply designed. Here is the devotion from Jan 28th which pulls from Matthew 28:20

*I will be with you always. These were the last words I spoke before I returned to heaven. I still make this promise to everyone who will listen.*

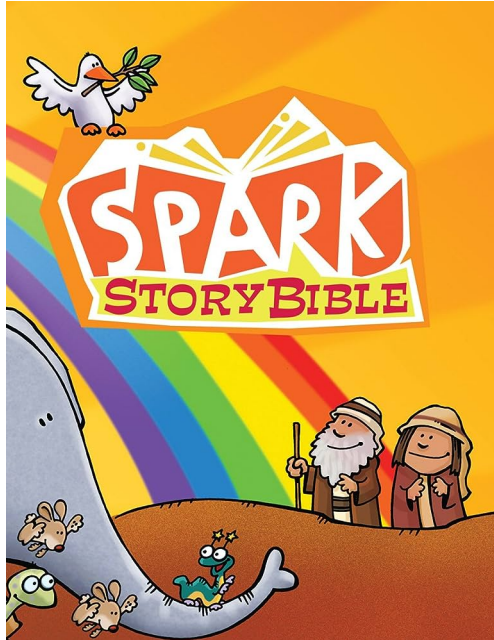
*People see My promise in different ways. Some Christians believe this promise on Sunday mornings, but then they forget about it as soon as the church doors close. Some people are even afraid of the promise, worried that I am constantly judging them. But others know the truth. I am always with you because I love you. I want to be your*

*Light, your Protector, your Peace. Because I am with you all of the time, every moment of your life can be special.*

This book is great for families and older kids wanting a structured approach to reading the bible. I appreciate the first person language and while the devotions are dated, there isn't an implication that the devotion NEEDS to be read daily.

# Spark Storybible

Copyright 2009 by Augsburg Fortress

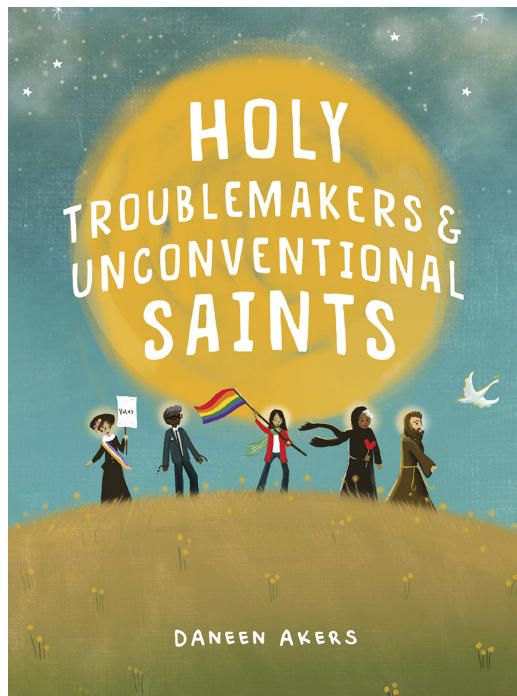


This storybible was recommended to us by Maryn Hakes, former Assistant Director of Campus Ministry and former Director of the Youth Theology Institute at the College of St. Scholastica. This text contains simple, expressive illustrations and an informative Table of Contents that includes the Title of the Bible Story, starting page number, and the verses where that text could be found in another bible. Spark has text that was designed for independent readers ages 3-6th grade, though the pictures will resonate with younger kids ages 2-8. At Neighborhood Kids, we love using this text as an opportunity for older kids to be reading aloud to younger peers. Pictures depict bible heroes in a number of differing shades of tan (though the ends of this color spectrum are rarely seen) as well as a variety of body shapes/sizes. The dark outline gives each page a bit of that “cool” comic book feel. Here is a sample of the Spark Story Bible’s depiction of the Creation.

“On the First day of creation, the wind of God blew. WHISH! WOOSH! SWOOSH! God said, ‘Let there be light!’ CRACKLE! BOOM! BANG! There was light. God saw that the light was good. then, SPLLLLLITTT! God divided the light and the darkness into day and night. On the second day, God said, ‘Let there be a sky!’ PILLOW! BILLOW! PUFF! there was a sky. God saw that the sky was good.”

# Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints

## by Daneen Akers



If you are looking to provide your home with faith based materials that transcend fundamentalism and instead centers on stories of Divine connection through a justice lens, this book is a must. From <https://www.holytroublemakers.com/about> “...*Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints* emphasizes the stories of women, LGBTQ people, people of color, Indigenous people, and others who are too often written out of religious narratives. These stories move us towards more love and a faith that works for the common good of us all.”

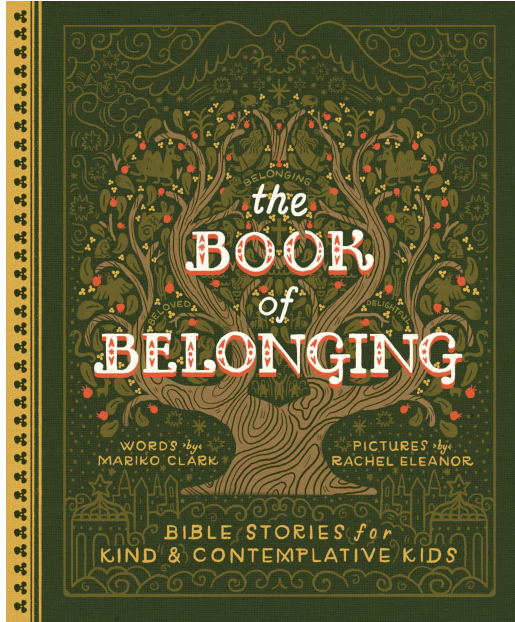
*Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints* is published by **Watchfire Media**, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity. Watchfire Media produces life-affirming, spiritually expansive books and films for the spiritually unconventional who have children in their lives whom they want to be comfortable with the big questions of

faith and meaning, awed by the beauty of the world and her people, and ultimately committed to love, kindness, courage, and justice.

*Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints* is a middle-grade nonfiction (ages 8 and up) book. You can read several sample profiles [here](#).



# The Book of Belonging: Bible Stories for Kind and Contemplative Kids



A beautifully illustrated Bible storybook to help the next generation of kids understand the rich diversity of God's people, emphasizing identity, contemplation, and wonder.

The Book of Belonging is designed for families seeking a Bible storybook that reflects the diversity of God's people and for every reader seeking a more expansive and wondrous view of God. The thoughtful text and rich illustrations present some of Scripture's most important and overlooked stories—including many female-centered ones—alongside old favorites reimagined to convey greater inclusivity, diversity, and historical representation.

Through narratives, mindful practices, and guided wonder moments, children and grown-ups alike will learn who God is and be reminded over and over that God tells each of us, “You are Beloved, you Belong, and you are Delightful.” Because when it comes to the love of God, everyone belongs.

The Book of Belonging features

- Forty-two Bible stories: twenty from the Old Testament, twenty-two from the New Testament
- Rich, vibrant illustrations on every page, showcasing a variety of body shapes, ages, abilities, and skin colors
- Historically accurate depictions of Jesus and God's people, including original Hebrew and Greek names

We understand that families may desire a “standard” bible. Here at Neighborhood, we have extra copies of the following translations. Below you will find the same text, the Sermon on the Mount, in each perspective format. For other helpful factors, please take a look at this link [Which Version of the Bible Should I Read?](#) Should you elect to have one of these texts, it will be presented on Milestone Sunday or another date of your choice.

# The Message

## You're Blessed

**5 1-2** When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

**3** “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

**4** “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

**5** “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

**6** “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

**7** “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

**8** “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

**9** “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

**10** “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

**11-12** “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, / do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

# NIV

## Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

**5** Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2** and he began to teach them.

## The Beatitudes

He said:

**3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

**5** Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

**6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

**7** Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

**8** Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

**9** Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

**10** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.