

# Resources for Christian Families



**4<sup>th</sup> edition - May 2018**

## Introduction

One of the most common reasons parents give for not teaching the Bible or worshipping at home with their children and young people is that they do not know where to start or what good resources they could use. We currently have some wonderful resources which Christian families can use at home but it is important to promote these and encourage parents to try some! Some families prefer not to use resources but to simply read the Bible together – obviously something we all should do. However there is a great value in using quality, Bible-based, Christ-centred resources and this booklet contains a range of just some of them. There is no “one size fits all” and this is not an exhaustive list, but it will be a regularly updated list at:

<http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/Categories/Close-to-Home.aspx>

(then chose the “Family” section).

The PCI Council for Congregational Life & Witness continues in its aim to enable congregations to equip and encourage parents in their crucial role of passing on faith in Jesus to their Children, within the context of a strong covenant community of God’s people. Parents cannot do this alone – we are all in this together! We hope this booklet will be a small support to you in that vital task.

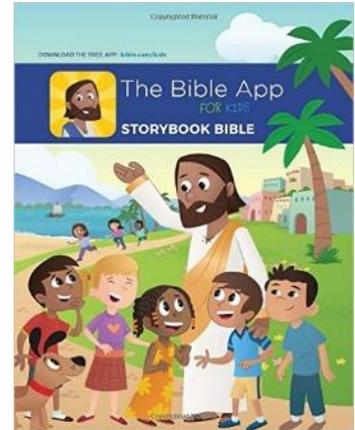
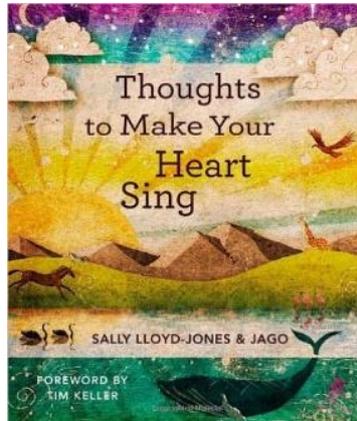
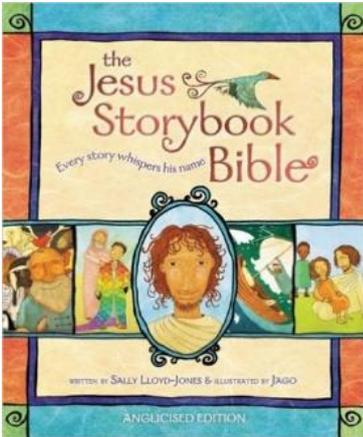


**Close to Home**

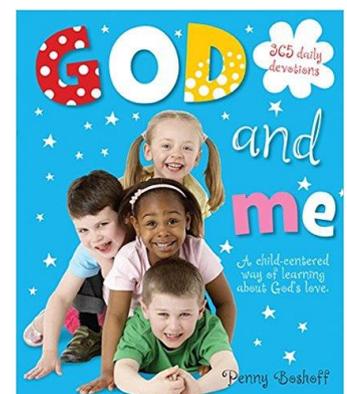
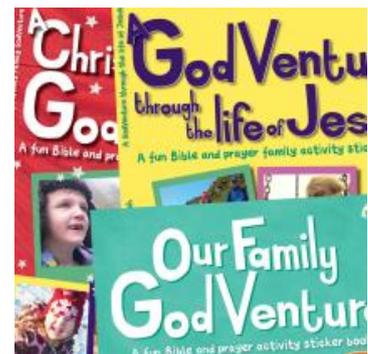
Supporting parents to raise families of faith

# Devotional resources

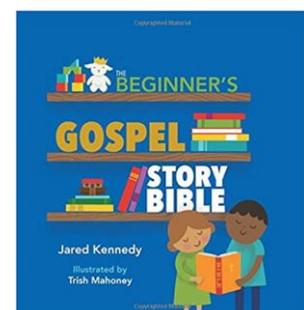
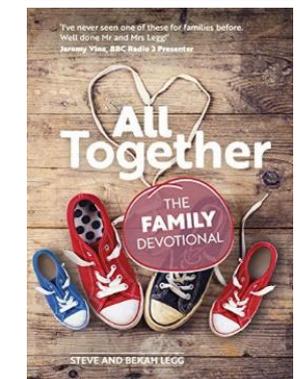
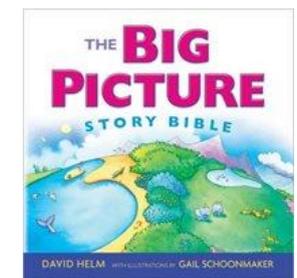
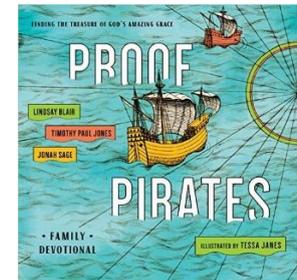
These are just a few ideas of resources which families can use to study God's Word together at home.



- **Jesus Storybook Bible** (Sally Lloyd-Jones)
- **Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing** (Sally Lloyd-Jones)
  - 2 great favourites with many people
- **The Bible App for Kids** (YouVersion) (*find it in your App Store*)
- **The Bible App for Kids Story Book**
- **GodVentures.co.uk** – a web site with a huge range of resources & activities for families to use at home throughout the year, including:
  - **God Venture ticker activity books** with fun for families explore the Bible and pray together
  - **GodVenture52 cards** – creative family devotional sets with 52 cards in each pack, each with a different activity to do 'faith at home'.
- **God and me** – 365 daily devotionals to help children find out all about God.



- **Table Talk** (Good Book Company)  
For families with children from 4+ to use for daily Bible times. Each takes about 5 minutes, whenever suits your family best.
- **Proof Pirates** (Lindsay Blair, Tessa Janes, Timothy Paul Jones)  
Proof of Grace Family Devotional: Finding the Treasure of God's Amazing Grace.
- **Exploring Grace Together**  
(Jessica Thompson & Elyse M Fitzpatrick)
- **The Big Picture Story Bible** (David Helm)  
- simple words & striking illustrations teach children and parents alike the unfolding story of the Bible: God's people, in God's place under God's rule and blessing.
- **All Together: The Family Devotional**  
(Steve & Bekah Legg)  
On the sofa or at the table, explore God's Word. From Genesis, Moses and Esther, to the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus - discover something new each day. Humorous, down to earth, accessible devotions over 12 weeks.
- **52 Creative Family Time Experiences: Fun Ways to Bring Faith Home** (Timothy Smith)
- **The Beginners Gospel Story Bible** (Jared Kennedy)  
A beautifully presented and illustrated Bible storybook for toddlers and pre-schoolers. 52 Bible stories retold in a simple and compelling way to clearly speak the good news of God's love. Includes questions for parents to ask.



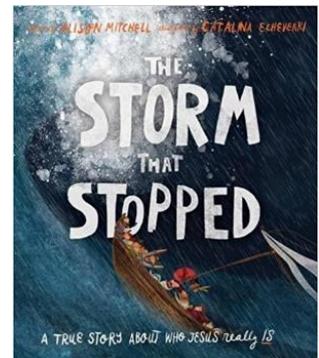
- **The Garden the Curtain & the Cross** (Carl Lafferton)

From the 'Tales that Tell the Truth' series comes this beautiful Bible storybook for 3-6 year olds which takes children on a journey from the garden of Eden to God's perfect new creation. It is a gospel presentation that focuses on the significance of the temple curtain. God said because of your sin you can't come in, but the moment the curtain tore in two, everything changed...



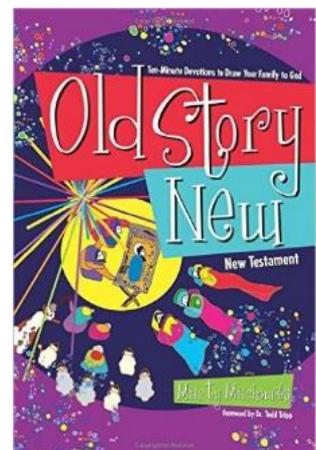
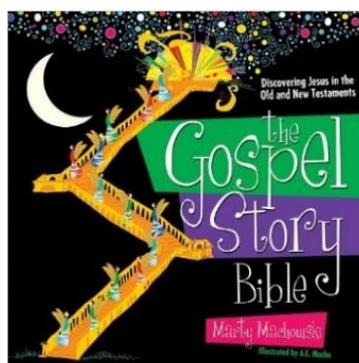
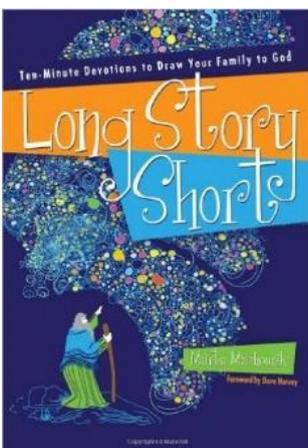
- **The Storm That Stopped** (Alison Mitchell)

In the same series, this book is based on the account of Jesus calming the storm from Mark chapter 4, this dramatic storybook will teach children about who Jesus really is, as they witness his power over nature.



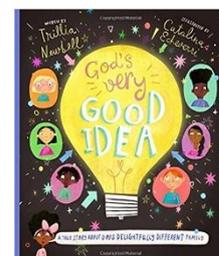
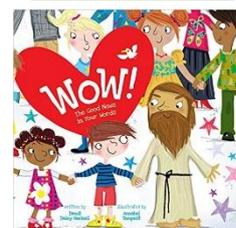
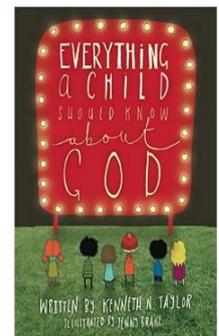
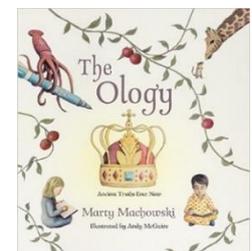
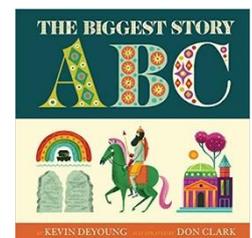
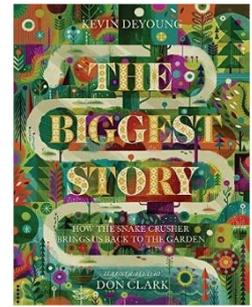
3 books that help families to explore the big picture themes of Scripture by Marty Machowski

- **Long Story Short**
- **The Gospel Story Bible: Discovering Jesus in the Old & New Testaments**
- **Old Story New: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God**



## Theology at home

- **The Biggest Story** (Kevin DeYoung)  
This book leads kids and parents alike on an exciting journey through the Bible, connecting the dots from the garden of Eden to Christ's death on the cross to the new heaven and new earth. This imaginative retelling of the Bible's core message-how the Snake Crusher brings us back to the garden-will draw children into the biblical story, teaching them that God's promises are even bigger and better than we think.  
Ages 5-8 (read to me) 8-11 (read to myself)
- **The Biggest Story ABC**  
a new board book to help kids ages 1-3 to make connections from Genesis to Revelation & A to Z.
- **The Ology** (Marty Machowski)  
Truth is for kids, not just for adults! So “The Ology” gives kids of all ages a beginner’s theology book to help them understand who God is and how we, as his children, relate to him. Arranged within a traditional systematic theological framework, it is designed for six-year-olds through preteens.
- **Everything a Child Should Know About God** (Kenneth N. Taylor & Jenny Brake)
- **Wow!: The Good News in Four Words** (Dandi Daley Mackall)  
a fresh way to present the gospel to young children
- **God's Very Good Idea** (Trillia Newbell)  
A simple theology of church for children.



## Teaching the Bible with audio-visual media



- **This is Awesome Cutlery** (Awesome Cutlery) Songs (and a few sketches) which teach children (and the not so young!) core Bible truths in a really fun way. Also an accompanying family devotional booklet which help root those truths in our hearts.

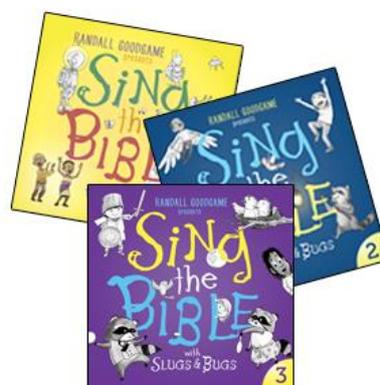
- **Awesome cutlery resources:** [www.awesomecutlery.com](http://www.awesomecutlery.com) - music, videos and family devotional aids to go with the songs

- **Sing the Bible with Slugs & Bugs**

Randall Goodgame

excellent and fun songs whose words come directly from Scripture so kids – and adults – get to learn God’s Word in an effective way they will never tire of.

[www.slugsandbugs.com](http://www.slugsandbugs.com)



CDs for the car or kitchen to teach kids great hymns & songs:

- **Getty Kids Hymnal: In Christ Alone / For the Cause (CDs)**

- **Introducing New Irish Kids: My Lighthouse CD**



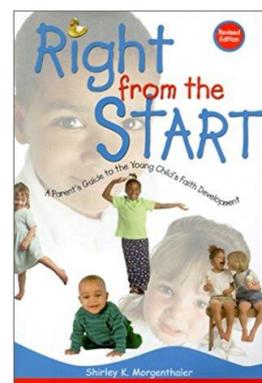
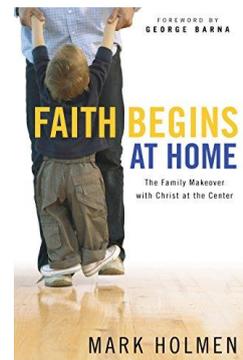
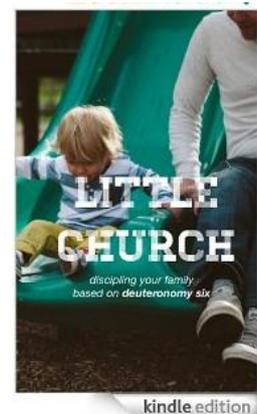
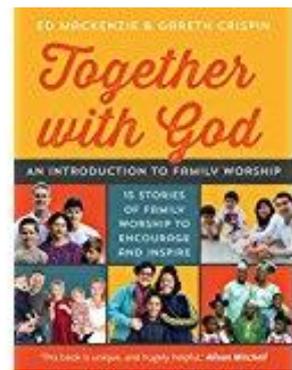
- **LC Lifekids online Bible teaching**

[www.life.church/kids](http://www.life.church/kids) or on YouTube “LC Lifekids” channel

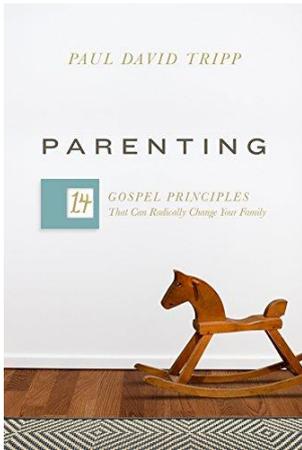
Excellent, professionally made Bible teaching episodes for all ages: Bible Adventure (age 0-6), Konnect (6-10), Loop (10-12), Switch (11-18). Use as part of family worship or just for kids to enjoy watching and learn from Scripture at the same time.

## Books for parents on family faith & worship

- **Together with God**  
(Ed Mackenzie & Gareth Crispin)  
- an inspiring collection of stories of real families about how they worship at home
- **A Neglected Grace: Family Worship in the Christian Home** (Jason Helopoulos)
- **Little Church** (RJ Grunewald) [Kindle Discippling  
- Your Family Based on Deuteronomy 6 -]
- **Faith Begins at Home** (Mark Holman)  
- a book for parents that will inspire, motivate, and equip them to establish their home as the primary place where faith is nurtured. With inspirational stories and practical ideas for families.
- **Opening Your Child's Spiritual Windows: ideas to Nurture Your Child's relationship with God** (Cheri Fuller)
- **Right from the Start: A Parent's Guide to the Young Child's Faith Development** (Shirley K Morgenthaler)  
- discover how young children learn and the countless ways parents' interactions teach about God and His love. Full of really practical and applicable ideas and approaches and also includes new information about brain development and worship and an extensive resource list.



# Parenting



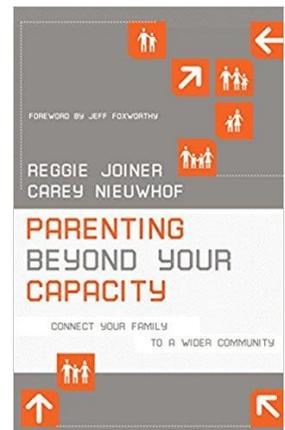
- **Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that can Radically Change Your Family (Paul Tripp)**  
A big-picture view of God's plan for parents. 14 foundational gospel principles show that parents need the rescuing grace of God with power to shape how we view everything we do.



- **Gospel Centred Family (Tim Chester & Ed Moll)**  
This helpful book outlines major Bible principles for family life.

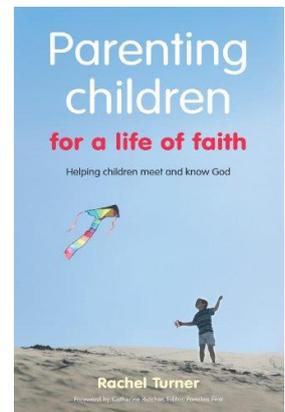


- **Parenting Beyond Your Capacity: Connect Your Family to a Wider Community (Reggie Joiner & Carey Nieuwhof)**



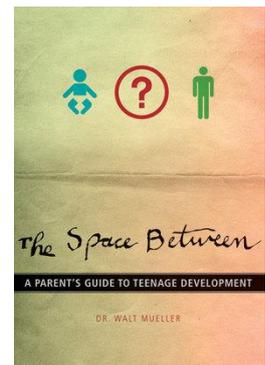
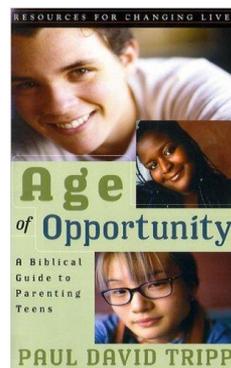
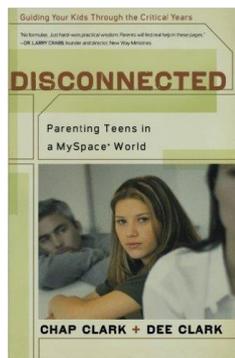
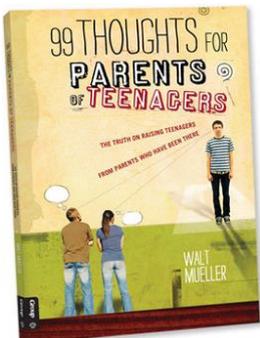
- **Grace Based Parenting (Tim Kimmel)**  
Rejecting rigid rules & checklists that don't work, this recommends a parenting style that mirrors God's love, reflects His forgiveness, and displaces fear as a motivator for behaviour.

- **Parenting Children for a Life of Faith (Rachel Turner)**  
Practical ideas with reference to God's word to help children grow in their faith. It includes real-life stories and tried-and-tested ideas to help children journey with God in their daily lives.



# Resources for parents of teenagers

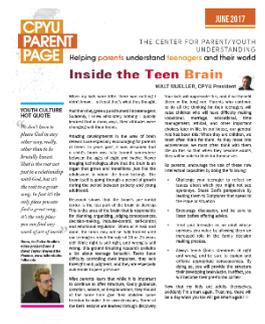
- **The Space Between:** a parent’s guide to teenage development (Walt Mueller)  
For parents who are struggling to cope with the normal changes of their adolescent children, this offers empathy and practical tools to address the important issues teens face.
- **99 Thoughts for Parents of Teenagers** (Walt Mueller)
- **99 Thoughts on Raising Your Parents** (Leisl & Max Oestreicher)
- **Age Of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide To Parenting Teens** (Paul Tripp)  
Are you hoping to merely survive your teenagers? With compassion, wit, and wisdom, Tripp uncovers the heart issues affecting families during the often-chaotic adolescent years.
- **Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids** (Kara E. Powell)
- **Getting Your Kids Through Church Without Them Ending Up Hating God** (Rob Parsons)



**CPYU Parentpage** – from the Center for Parent Youth Understanding



[www.cpyu.org](http://www.cpyu.org) this monthly newsletter for parents is available free by emailing [clw@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:clw@presbyterianireland.org)



## Family Ministry

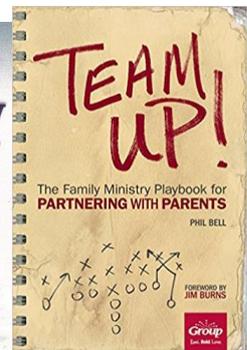
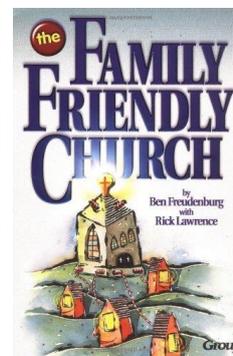
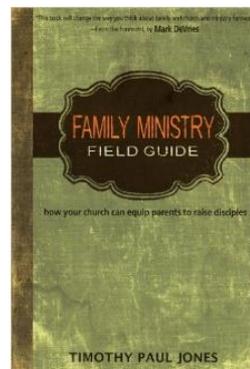
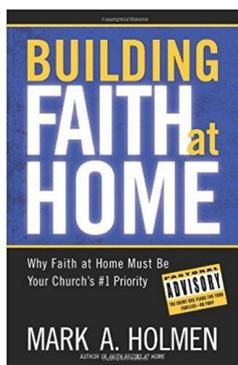
These are some books for church leaders to use to think more about how to develop family ministry within their congregation.

- **Building Faith at Home:** why faith at home must be your church's #1 priority (Mark Holman)

Lasting, lifelong faith is rarely taught in church programs but is "caught" from a lifestyle of faith lived out at home. How can your church equip homes to be the primary place where faith is nurtured rather than a "drop-off centre" for Bible teaching?

- **Connecting Church & Home: A Grace-Based Partnership** (Tim Kimmel)

A child who sees grace lived out in front of him at home and at church is much more inclined toward staying committed to a relationship with God into adulthood. This offers valuable tools for the local church to use to build strong family ministry.



- **Family Ministry Field Guide:** How the Church Can Equip Parents to Make Disciples (Timothy Paul Jones)
- **Family Friendly Church** (Ben Freudenburg)  
A personal journey of discovering why family ministry is vital.
- **Team Up:** Partnering with parents (Phil Bell)  
Proven practical ideas to weave into the things you do already, creating partnership between church & family.



**2018**