

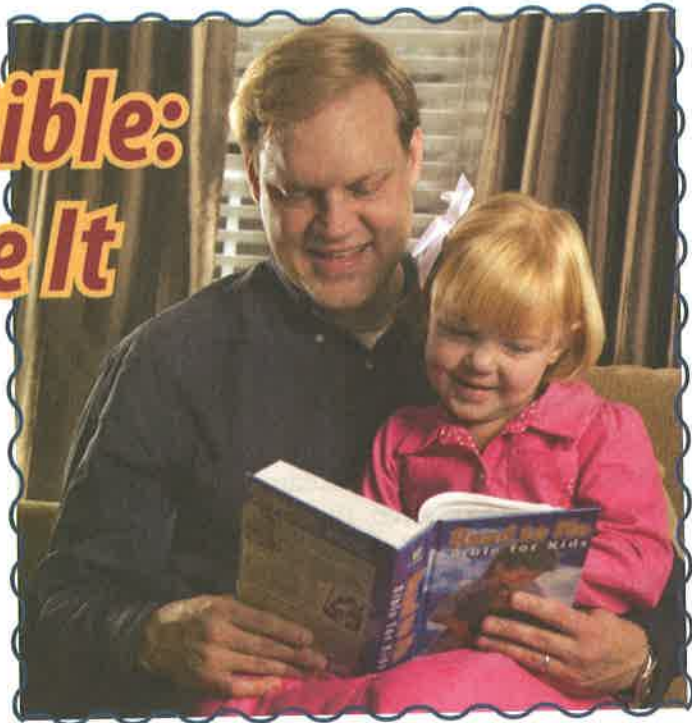
A Preschooler's Bible: Choose It and Use It

Kelli McAnally

One of the most precious gifts you can give your preschooler is her own Bible. At a young age preschoolers can begin to recognize the importance and value of God's special book. Select a Bible your preschooler can use for many years. Using the same Bible reinforces repetition, one of the best ways for preschoolers to learn. As your preschooler sees the same pictures, hears the same stories, and begins to "read" the same words, she can understand that the Bible is a valuable book for her life.

Choose It

- **Size** — The Bible should be large enough to hold easily, but not too large or heavy to carry. The words should be large enough to read.
- **Complete** — Preschoolers need to know that both Testaments are included in the Bible and are equally important. Choose a complete Bible rather than "Bible books" that are storybooks.
- **User friendly** — Consider purchasing a Bible that contains a table of contents and study helps.
- **Realistic illustrations** — Pictures in the Bible should be as realistic as possible. Avoid cartoon illustrations that may confuse your preschooler's understanding that the people and stories in the Bible are true.
- **Translation** — Choose an accurate translation of the biblical text rather than a paraphrase. The best Bible translations for children combine reliability with readability, such as the Holman Christian Standard Read to Me Bible for Kids.
- **Durability** — Make sure the cover is of good quality. Consider purchasing a Bible carrying case that will protect and add length to the life of a child's Bible. Allow your preschooler to help choose her own cover.



Use It

- **Interact and learn** — Allow your preschooler to
 - carry her Bible
 - take it to Sunday School and worship services
 - turn the pages
 - explore its contents
- **Build and learn** — Offer play dough to your child and ask her to build the item found in each of the following verses.
 - Exodus 31:18 (*two stone tablets*)
 - Deuteronomy 17:18 (*scroll*)
 - 2 Kings 4:10 (*room with bed, table, chair, lamp*)
 - 1 Samuel 16:1,12-13 (*horn of oil*)
 - Numbers 13:23 (*bunch of grapes*)
- **Hear and learn** — Ask your preschooler to make the sound found in each of the following verses.
 - Exodus 19:19 (*trumpet*)
 - 1 Chronicles 15:19 (*cymbals*)
 - 1 Kings 18:45 (*rain*)
 - John 20:13 (*crying*)
 - Mark 4:37 (*wind*)

Each interaction with the Bible prepares the way for spiritual conversion and transformation in your preschooler's life. A Bible—now is the time to choose it and use it.

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