

# the Jesus Storybook



Every story whispers his name Bible



WRITTEN BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES & ILLUSTRATED BY JAGO

SAMPLE ONLY – NOT TO BE SOLD

UNCORRECTED PROOF

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## The teeny, weenie ... true king

*(Samuel anoints David, from 1 Samuel 16)*

GOD'S PEOPLE had a new land. Now they wanted a king.

"But God is your King," Samuel told them. "He is the one who looks after you best."

"We want a real king!" they said. "One we can see!"

God knew that a king might not be kind to his people or look after them as well as he would. But God's people didn't care; they wanted a king and they wanted him now.

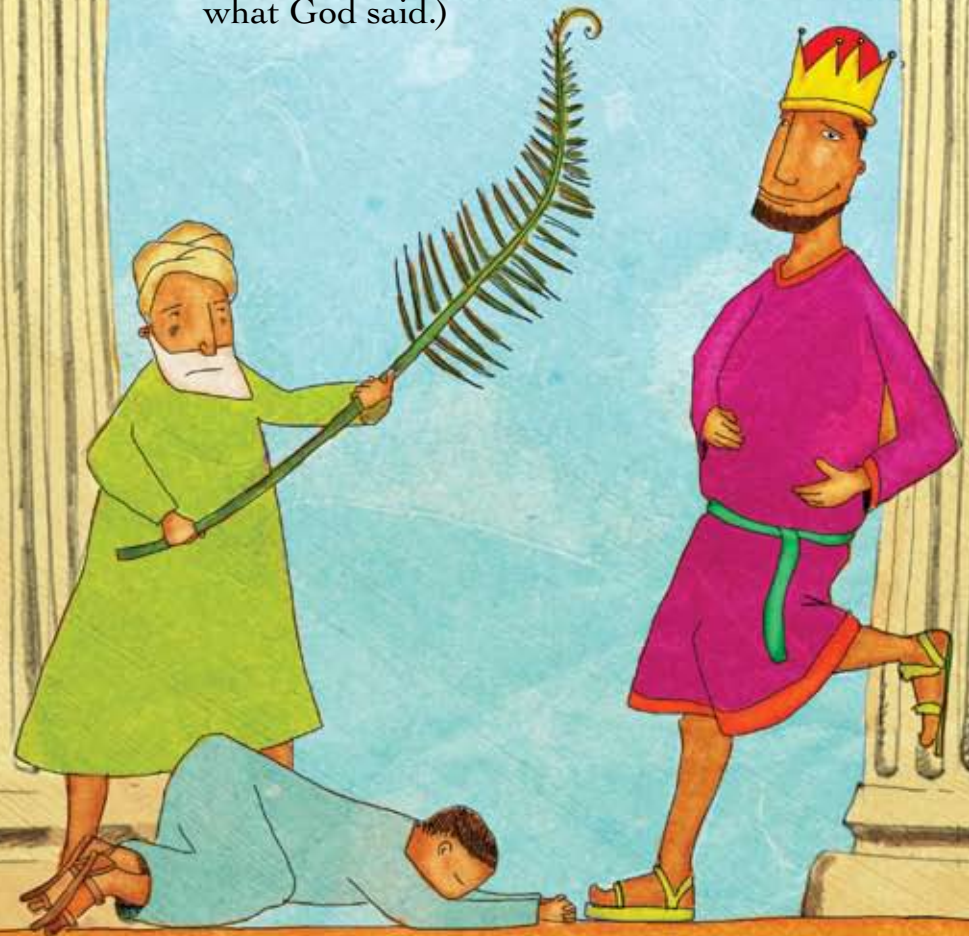
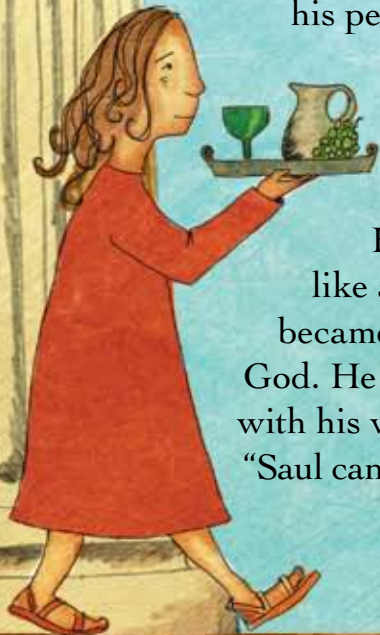
So God gave them a king.

He was called Saul and he seemed like a good king — at first. But he became proud and stopped listening to God. He didn't obey God. Or love God with his whole heart.

"Saul can't help me with my plan," God said.

"I need a king who loves me and will teach my people to love me. I need a true king." God had just the one in mind.

"Go to Bethlehem," God told Samuel. "You'll find the new king there." (Samuel's job was to listen to God and tell people what God said.)



So Samuel went to the little town. God told Samuel to go to Jesse's house. God was going to choose one of Jesse's sons to be the new king.

Jesse had seven strong sons.

Now in those days if you were going to be the king, you didn't have to be the richest or the cleverest (although that was always nice). You had to look like a king, which meant you had to be the tallest and the strongest. (So you could carry the longest swords and biggest armor and defeat everyone.)

And it didn't hurt to be handsome, either.

Samuel asked Jesse to bring him each son in turn. So Jesse brought the oldest, tallest, strongest son. *This must be the new king*, Samuel thought. *He looks like a king.*

But God didn't choose him. "You're thinking about what he looks like on the outside," God told Samuel. "But I am looking at his heart, what he's like on the inside."

So Jesse showed Samuel his next oldest, tallest, strongest son. But God didn't choose him either. In fact, God didn't choose any of the seven sons.

Samuel said, "Is that all?"

Jesse laughed. "Oh, well, there's the youngest one but he's just the weakling of the family, he's only teeny —"

"Bring him," said Samuel.





Jesse's youngest son came running up, and God spoke quietly to Samuel, "This is the one!"

His name was David.

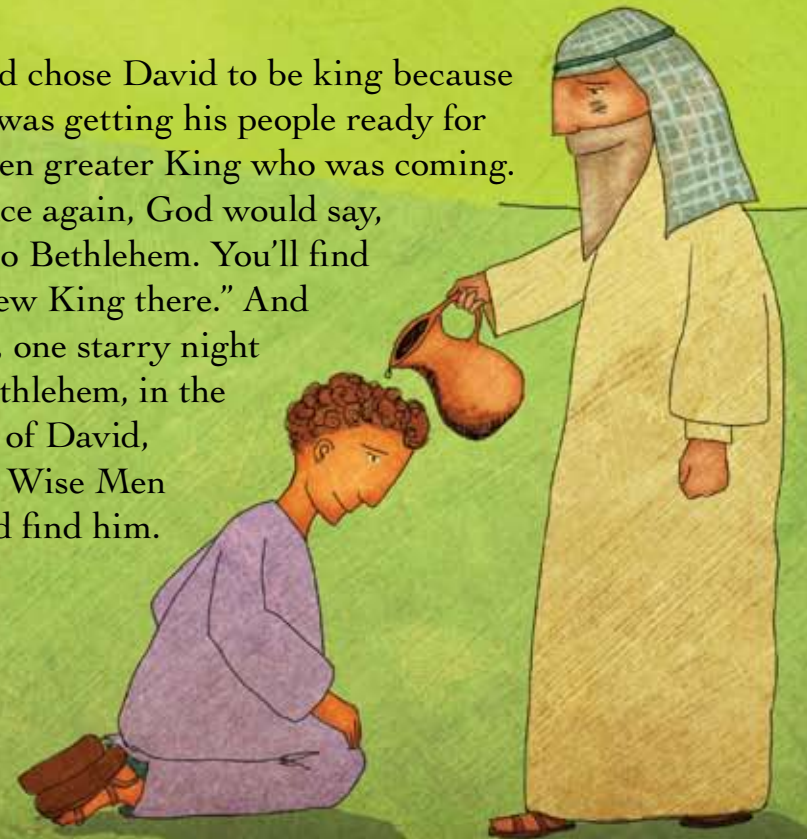
"He has a heart like mine," God said. "It is full of love. He will help me with my secret rescue Plan. And one of his children's children's children will be the King. And that King will rule the world forever."

Samuel anointed David's head with oil — which was a special way to show that you are God's chosen king. "You will be the new king one day," Samuel told him.

And, sure enough, when he grew up, David became the king.

God chose David to be king because God was getting his people ready for an even greater King who was coming.

Once again, God would say, "Go to Bethlehem. You'll find the new King there." And there, one starry night in Bethlehem, in the town of David, three Wise Men would find him.



# Heaven breaks through

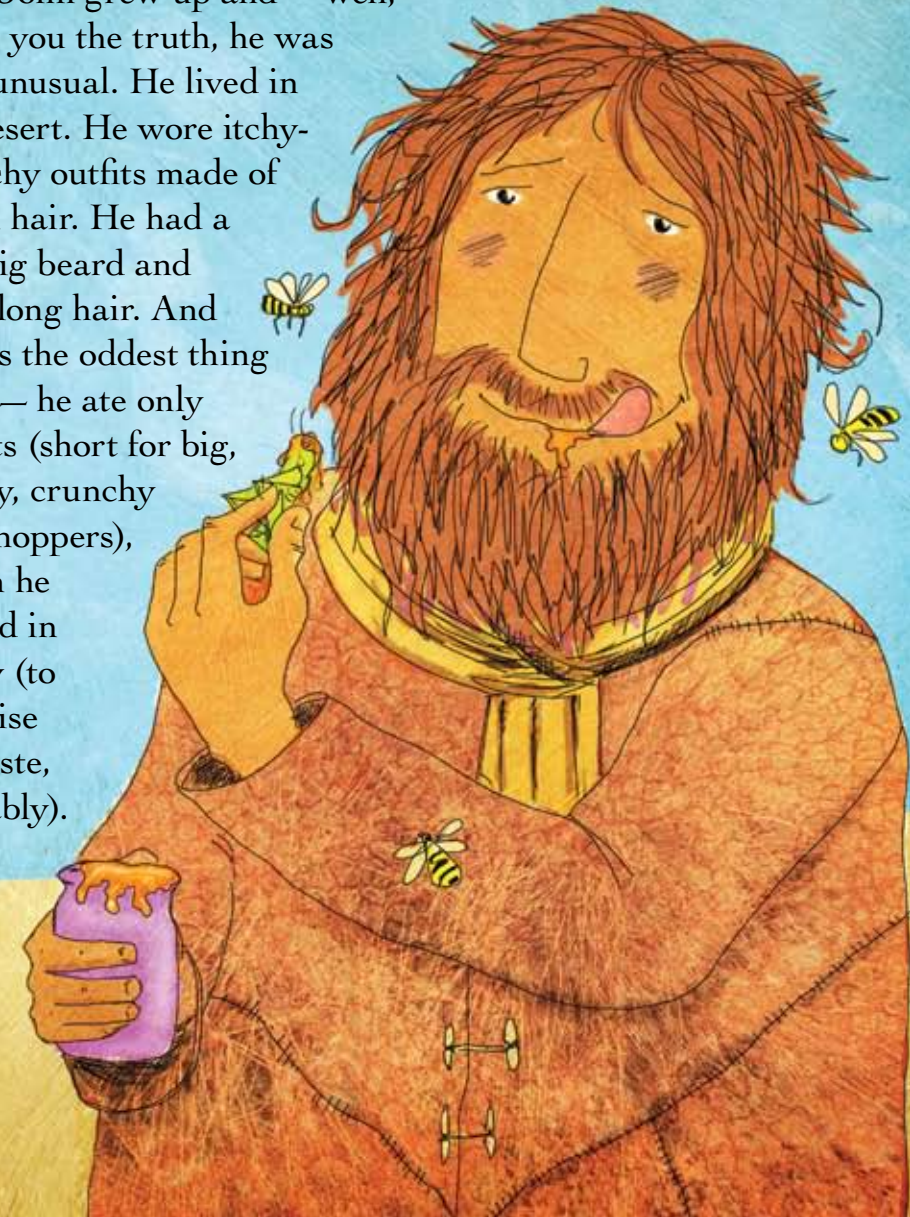
*(The story of John the Baptist, from Luke 1, 3; John 1)*

ABOUT THE same time Jesus was born, another baby was born. His name was John and God had a special job for him. John was going to get everyone ready for Jesus.

The day John was born, his dad knew God's promise to Abraham was coming true — God was sending the Rescuer. And he was so happy he sang a song:

Because God loves us with a Never Stopping,  
Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love,  
Heaven is breaking through!  
He is sending us a Light from heaven  
To shine on us like the sun  
To shine on those who live in Darkness  
And in the shadow of Death  
To guide our feet into the way of Peace.

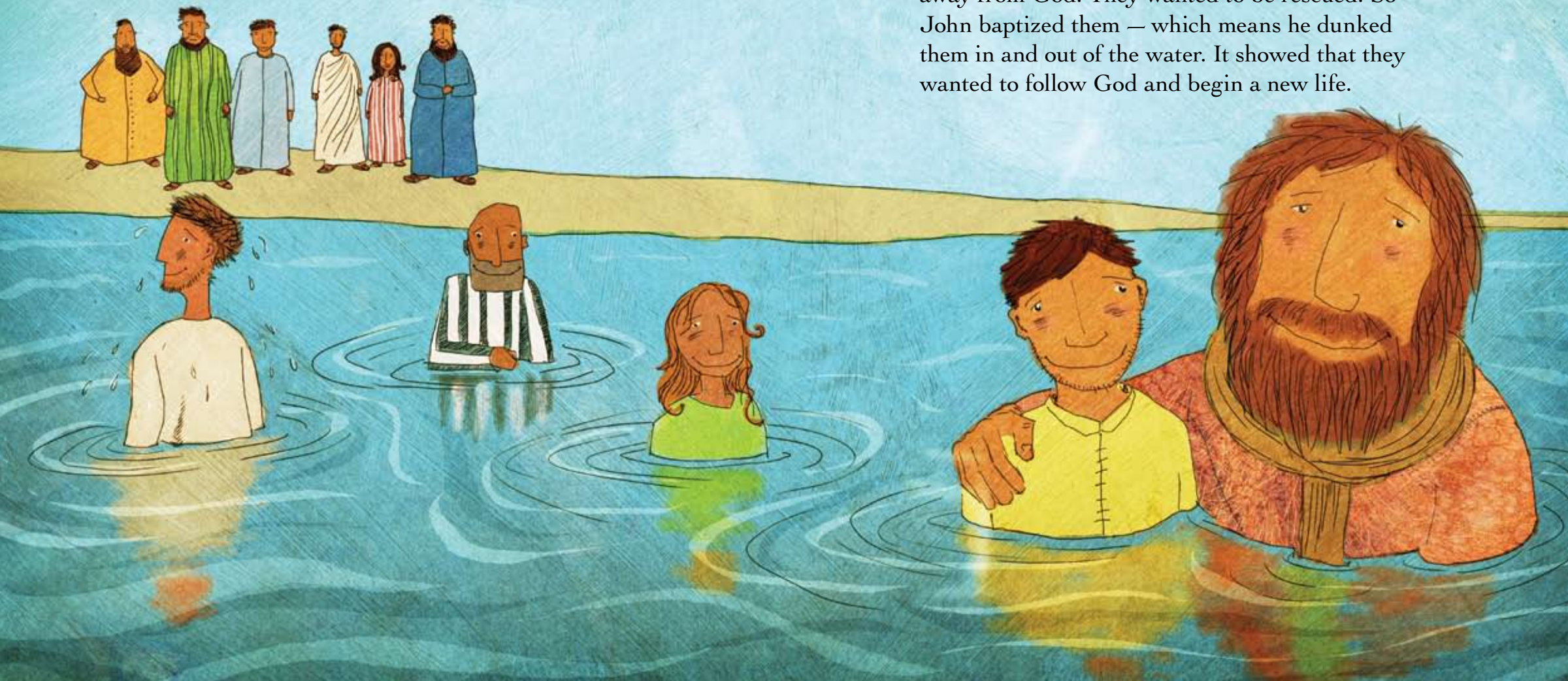
So John grew up and — well, to tell you the truth, he was a bit unusual. He lived in the desert. He wore itchy-scratchy outfits made of camel hair. He had a big, big beard and long, long hair. And here is the oddest thing of all — he ate only locusts (short for big, creepy, crunchy grasshoppers), which he dipped in honey (to disguise the taste, probably).



But God sent John to tell his people something important: “Stop running away from God and run to him instead,” John said. “You need to be rescued. I have good news — the Rescuer is coming!”

“Make your hearts ready for him. Yes! Get ready because your King is coming back for you.”

Great crowds listened to John. They were sorry they had sinned and they wanted to stop running away from God. They wanted to be rescued. So John baptized them — which means he dunked them in and out of the water. It showed that they wanted to follow God and begin a new life.



One day John was baptizing people in the Jordan River as usual, when he looked up and saw a man walking down to the water's edge.

God spoke quietly to John, "This is the One!"

John's heart leaped. This was the moment he'd been waiting for all his life.

"Look," John said, as Jesus came down into the

water. But his voice came out as a whisper. He couldn't make it any louder. It was all he could do to even speak. "The Lamb of God ... God's best Lamb ... who takes away the sins of the whole world."

"Will you baptize me, too?" Jesus asked.

"Who am I," John asked, "to baptize you?"

"It's what God wants me to do," Jesus said.

So John baptized Jesus.



Suddenly it was as if someone had drawn back curtains in a dark room, as if heaven itself had opened, because a beautiful light broke through the clouds and shone down on to Jesus, bathing him in gold. Beads of water glittered and sparkled like tiny diamonds in his hair.

A white dove flew down and gently rested on Jesus. And a voice came down from heaven. It was clear and strong and loud so everyone could hear. "This is my own Son. And I love him. I am very pleased with him," God said. "Listen to him."

Heaven had broken through.

The great rescue was just about to begin.



## About the Author



**Sally Lloyd-Jones is a leading writer** of inspirational books for children, with an expertise in conveying biblical truth to young children. She is the author of three bestselling children's Bibles: the Gold Medallion Award-winning *Baby's First Bible*, *A Child's First Bible*, and *The Lift-the-Flap Bible*.

In 2000, after a seventeen-year career in children's publishing, Sally left her position as publisher of Christian children's books at Reader's Digest to devote more time to writing. She continues to write high-quality Christian and inspirational books that have a strong crossover into the general market, and her titles consistently appear on the bestseller lists.

Sally is British and moved to the States in 1989 "just for a year or two." Born in Kampala, Uganda, and raised in East and West Africa and at a boarding school in The New Forest, England, she lives in New York City, and every day she is grateful that she gets to do what she loves. It's her dream come true.

In addition to her bestselling children's Bibles, Sally is the author of many books for children. Her most recent picture books include *Handbag Friends*, with Sue Heap (David Fickling/Random House); *Time to Say Goodnight*, illustrated by New York Times bestselling illustrator Jane Chapman (HarperCollins); *Little One, We Knew You'd Come*, a Nativity story, illustrated by Jackie Morris (Little, Brown); and *How to Be a Baby: By Me, the Big Sister*, illustrated by Sue Heap (Schwartz & Wade).

## About the Illustrator

**Jago is an accomplished illustrator** with several prestigious awards to his credit including The Macmillan Prize for Children's Illustration in 2003. Some of his works include *Fig's Giant*, by Geraldine McCaughrean and *The Little Red Hen and the Grains of Wheat*, by LR Hen.

Jago works entirely digitally, using a secret blend of the finest textures, papers, and digital paints. He loves experimenting with strong colors and interesting textures. He and his lovely wife, Alex, live in Cornwall, England, and are expecting their first child in the summer of 2006.



## God's Great Story of Salvation



"IT'S AN ADVENTURE story about a young hero who came from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave prince who leaves his palace, his throne, everything to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful of fairy tales that has come true in real life.

"You see, the best thing about this story is—it's true.

"It takes the whole Bible to tell this story. And at the center of the story there is a baby. Every story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle—the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture.

"And this is no ordinary baby. This is the baby on which everything would depend. This is the baby that would one day—but wait, our story starts where all good stories start. Right at the very beginning ..."

*(excerpt from The Jesus Storybook Bible)*

Containing forty-three Bible stories from creation to Revelation with beautiful, rich, and vibrant artwork, *The Jesus Storybook Bible* invites children to join in the greatest of all adventures and discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation—and at the center of their story, too.

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