



Dear friends, little and big (and grown-ups, you can stay too, it's okay)—

Before the beginning of time God had a wonderful plan. He would come down and rescue his children. He would send his Great Rescuer, Jesus. And together they would pull off the greatest Rescue the world has ever known.

But just before Jesus began his Great Rescue operation—where did he go?

To a university to get trained? To important leaders to get their help? To a spa to get some rest?

No. He went out into the desert.

That seems like a bit of an odd place to go. Why did he go there?

“Jesus needed to get away by himself and be somewhere quiet and lonely. He needed to be with his heavenly Father to get ready for his new life.

In the desert, Jesus thought about the Secret Rescue Plan he had made with God. Before the foundation of the world, they both knew what would have to happen. To rescue God's children, Jesus would have to die. There was no other way. It was the reason he had come.”
<THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE, p.208>

“Lent” is the time we remember this Secret Rescue Plan as well. And we make room for time with our Heavenly Father, too. As we read the stories of God's great Rescue we remember important things: we remember why we needed Jesus to come. That we can't rescue ourselves. How much he loves us.

“Lent” is the time just before Easter. It's a strange word. But it comes from an old English word meaning “Spring”.

Think about spring for a minute. Just before Spring arrives, when it's still winter, what does it look like?

Not good.

The trees have no leaves. The flowers have all disappeared. The ground is hard as stone and the water is frozen. Most of the animals and birds have gone. It looks like everything is dead. But Spring is coming. And when it does—flowers, blossoms, rivers, leaves, life!

As we read this great Rescue Story together, God wants us to remember: however we are feeling today, wherever we are today, whatever is happening in our lives today—spring is coming. It may look like nothing is happening. It may even look like everything has died.

But...

Spring is coming!

Easter is coming!

Jesus dies but he comes alive again!

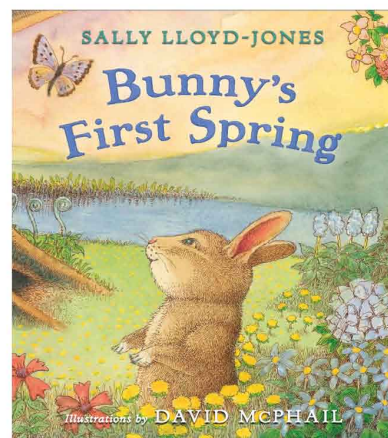
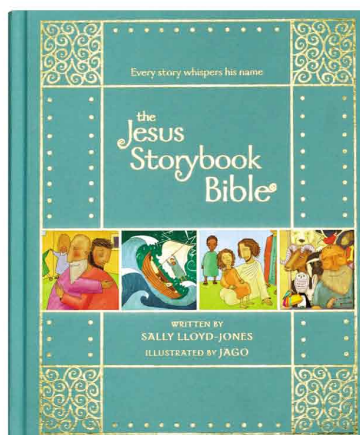
And one day death and sickness and tears—they will be no more. Because God is making the story end happily for his world—and his children!



Sally

PS:

This year Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent fell on the exact same day. Isn't that great? Because the Bible—the story of how much God loves us and comes to rescue us—that is the most wonderful love story there ever has been.



LENT 2018 READING PLAN for The Jesus Storybook Bible

By Sally Lloyd-Jones

Day 1: Wednesday, February 14
The Story and the Song

Day 2: Thursday, February 15
The beginning: a perfect home

Day 3: Friday, February 16
The terrible lie

Day 4: Saturday, February 17
A new beginning

Catch up day: Sunday, February 18

Day 5: Monday, February 19
A giant staircase to heaven

Day 6: Tuesday, February 20
Son of laughter

Day 7: Wednesday, February 21
The present

Day 8: Thursday, February 22
The girl no one wanted

Day 9: Friday, February 23
The forgiving prince

Day 10: Saturday, February 24
God to the rescue!

Catch up day: Sunday, February 25

Day 11: Monday, February 26
God makes a way

Day 12: Tuesday, February 27
Ten ways to be perfect

Day 13: Wednesday, February 28
The warrior leader

Day 14: Thursday, March 1
The teeny, weenie... true king

Day 15: Friday, March 2
The young hero and the horrible giant

Day 16: Saturday, March 3
The Good Shepherd

Catch up day: Sunday, March 4

Day 17: Monday, March 5
A little servant girl and the proud general

Day 18: Tuesday, March 6
Operation "No More Tears!"

Day 19: Wednesday, March 7
Daniel and the Scary Sleepover

Day 20: Thursday, March 7
God's messenger

Day 21: Friday, March 9
Get ready!

Day 22: Saturday, March 10
He's here!

Catch up day: Sunday, March 11

Day 23: Monday, March 12
The Light of the whole world

Day 24: Tuesday, March 13
The King of all kings

Day 25: Wednesday, March 14
Heaven breaks through

Day 26: Thursday, March 15
Let's go!

Day 27: Friday, March 16
A little girl and a poor frail lady

Day 28: Saturday, March 17
How to pray

Catch up day: Sunday, March 18

Day 29: Monday, March 19
The Singer

Day 30: Tuesday, March 20
The Captain of the storm

Day 31: Wednesday, March 21
Filled full!

Day 32: Thursday, March 22
Treasure hunt!

Day 33: Friday, March 23
The friend of little children

Day 34: Saturday, March 24
The man who didn't have any friends

Catch up day: Sunday, March 25

Day 35: Monday, March 26
Running away

Day 36: Tuesday, March 27
Washed with tears

Day 37: Wednesday, March 28
The Servant King

Day 38: Thursday, March 29
A dark night in the garden

Day 39: Friday, March 30
The sun stops shining

Day 40: Saturday, March 31
God's wonderful surprise

Sunday, April 1 – Happy Easter!
www.sallylloyd-jones.com