



What Is the Bible?

Kathleen Long Bostrom
Illustrated by Elena Kucharik



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What Is the Bible?

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To Elena:

*Your beautiful paintings bring my words to life.
I am grateful for our partnership and our friendship.
Blessings of all sizes to you!*

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*Jan Axford, Stephanie Voiland, and Katara Washington Patton.
Thank you for your encouragement and guidance every step of the way!*

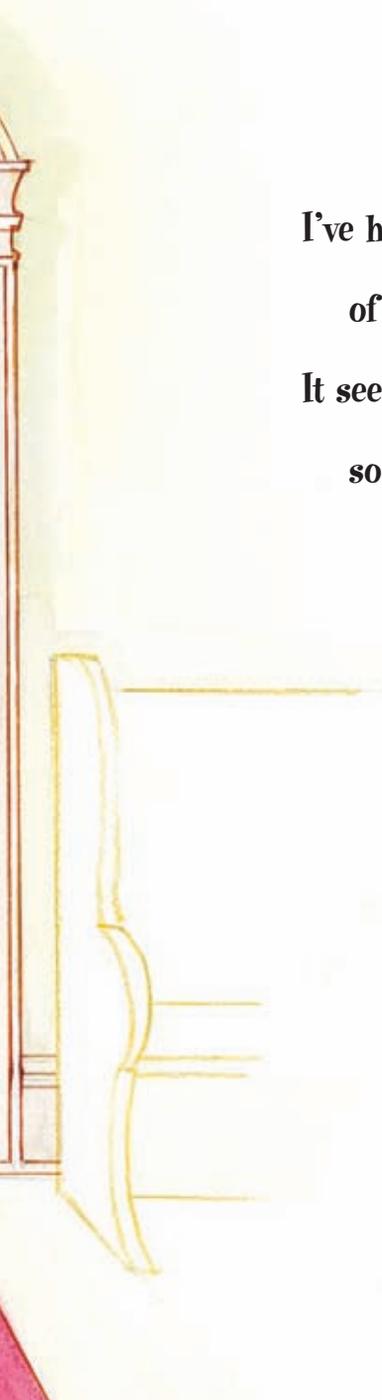
—K. B.

For my Heartlights, Max and Luke.

I love you to pieces!

—E. K.



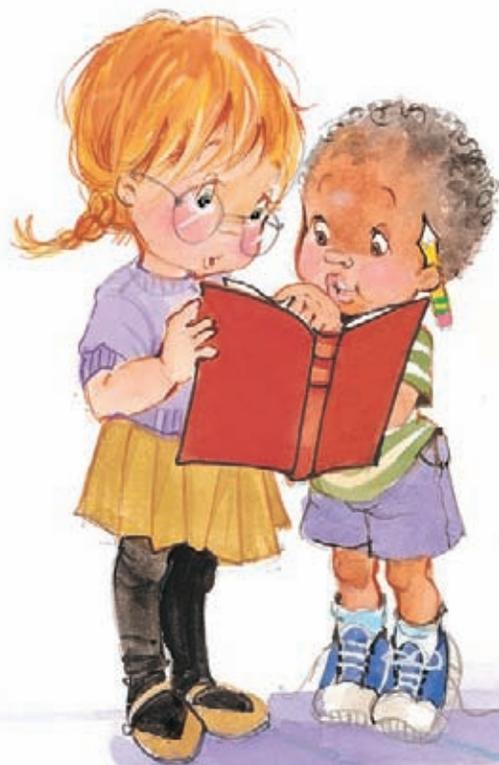


I've heard people talk
of the Bible in church.
It seems extra special,
so I'm on a search.



Who wrote the Bible?

One person? A few?



What does it say?

Can you give me a clue?

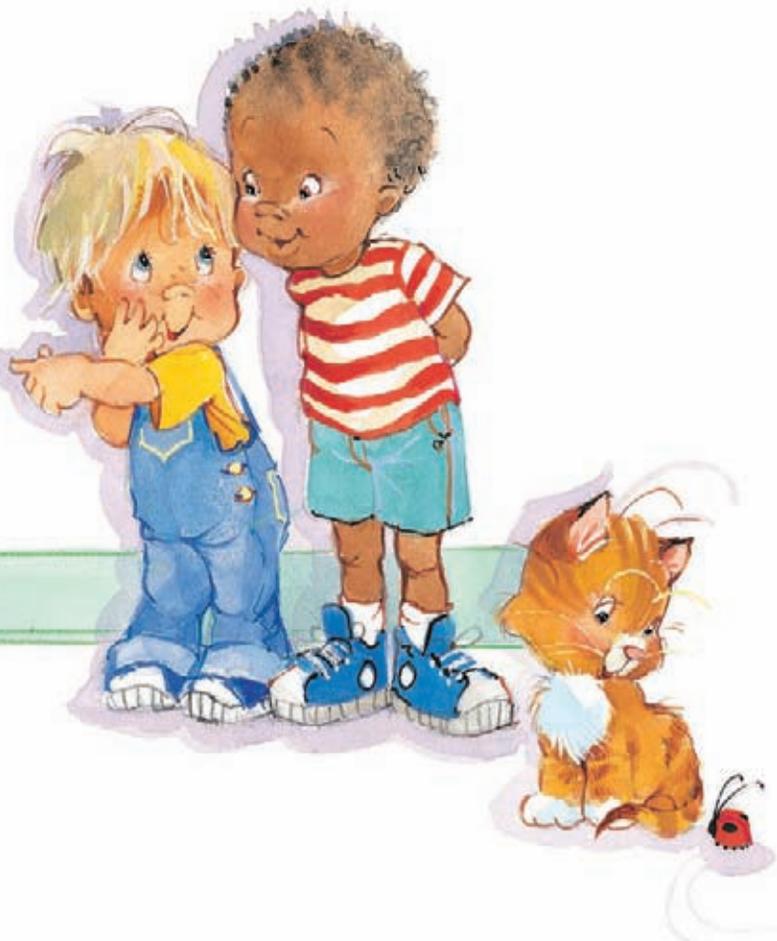


Is it a book

I will need as I grow?



Does it tell stories
of people I know?



*You're right that the Bible
is one of a kind.*

*There's no other book
that is like it, you'll find.*





*The Bible is more
than just any old book.
You want to know why?
Come with me! Take a look!*







*The Bible is special—
indeed, have you heard?
The Bible is also called
God's Holy Word.*



Bible References



Here are some Bible verses to talk about as you read this book again with your child. You may want to open your Bible as you read the verses. This will help your little one understand that God's answers in this poem come from his Word, the Bible.

The Bible *is* special—indeed, have you heard?

The Bible is also called God's Holy Word.

The word of God is alive and powerful. Hebrews 4:12

The Word became human and made his home among us.
John 1:14

It took many people to write what's inside.

But God used the Spirit to serve as their guide.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true. 2 Timothy 3:16

When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:13

The Bible was not written down at the start.
At first, people learned all the stories by heart.

I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD. Psalm 78:2-4

Though it was written a long time ago,
the Bible's a book you will never outgrow.

Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven.
Psalm 119:89

You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 3:15

Inside the Bible, there's much to explore—
with people you've heard of and so many more.
Like Noah, who built a gigantic, big boat,

When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah,
"Go into the boat with all your family." Genesis 7:1

and Joseph, so proud of his colorful coat.

One day Jacob [Joseph's father] had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. Genesis 37:3

Esther, who wasn't afraid of the truth,

Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared." Esther 7:3

and David's great-grandma, a woman named Ruth.

He [Obed, the son of Ruth and Boaz] became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David. Ruth 4:17

That isn't all that the Bible can hold.

It's where all the stories of Jesus are told.

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. Mark 1:1

This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate. Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

John 21:24-25

Learn of his birth on the first Christmas Day.

While they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son.

Luke 2:6-7

About the Author



Kathleen Bostrom has been an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) since 1983. She and her husband, Greg, have served as copastors of Wildwood Presbyterian Church in Wildwood, Illinois, since 1991.

Kathy has won awards for preaching and is often requested to speak to groups at the national level. She has published numerous articles in various journals and newspapers, and is the author of over a dozen books for children. *Who Is Jesus?* was a finalist for the 2000 Gold Medallion Award, and *What about Heaven?* was nominated for the People's Choice Award. Kathy's books have sold well over one million copies.

Kathy has been a board member of the Presbyterian Writers Guild since 1998 and has served as president. She is also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Kathy earned a master of arts in Christian education and a master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a doctor of ministry in preaching from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Kathy and Greg have three children: Christopher, Amy, and David.

About the Illustrator



Elena Kucharik, well-known Care Bears artist, has created the Little Blessings characters that appear in the line of Little Blessings products for young children and their families.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Elena received a bachelor of fine arts degree in commercial art at Kent State University. After graduation she worked as a greeting card artist and art director at American Greetings Corporation in Cleveland.

For most of her career, Elena has been a freelance illustrator. She was the lead artist and developer of Care Bears, as well as a designer and illustrator for major corporations and publishers. Most recently Elena has been focusing her talents on illustrations for children's books.

Elena and her husband live in Madison, Connecticut. They have two grown daughters and three adorable grandchildren.



Books in the Little Blessings line

- ♥ *Prayers for Little Hearts*
- ♥ *Questions from Little Hearts*
- ♥ *What Is God Like?*
- ♥ *Who Is Jesus?*
- ♥ *What about Heaven?*
- ♥ *Are Angels Real?*
- ♥ *What Is Prayer?*
- ♥ *Is God Always with Me?*
- ♥ *Why Is There a Cross?*
- ♥ *What Is the Bible?*
- ♥ *Who Made the World?*
- ♥ *The One Year Devotions for Preschoolers*
- ♥ *The One Year Devotions for Preschoolers 2*
(available soon)
- ♥ *God Loves You*
- ♥ *Thank You, God!*
- ♥ *Many-Colored Blessings*
- ♥ *Blessings Come in Shapes*
- ♥ *God Created Me!*
A memory book of baby's first year



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