

BOOKS FOR LITTLE ONES

God loves



BY STEPHANIE CARMICHAEL

Books for Little Ones

The first four years of a child's life are a wonderful time. Children are discovering so much about themselves and about their world. It is a delight—and often lots of fun—to watch the changes taking place. Helping a child learn about God during these formative years is both a great privilege and a unique challenge.

Books for Little Ones is a series of simple books written specifically for 1-4 year olds. Along with beautiful photos, each book provides age-appropriate teaching about God and us, in a way that encourages your child to take the first steps of faith—first steps on what will be, God willing, a lifetime journey of growing in the knowledge and love of God.

Extensive tips and ideas are also provided for parents. For more information, see www.teachinglittleones.com/bfo.

God loves

In this book children will learn that God not only made us—he loves us too. He loves my family, my friends, and all the people in my street. In fact he loves everyone. He showed his love by sending Jesus. Thank you God that you love us so much.

In the **Books for Little Ones** series:

The Bible

God hears

God is great

God knows me

God loves

God loves me

God made

God made me

Jesus

Please God

Sorry God

Thank you God



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Notes for parents or other adult readers

Sitting down to read a book with a young child is a special privilege, and helping them take early steps in getting to know their world, themselves and God is even more special. However this book is not just intended to be read, but to be a springboard for helping children learn throughout the day (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Psalm 145:3-7). Here are a few tips to help you adapt your reading and help their learning go beyond these pages:

For really little ones: To help their understanding, we start with the child ('God loves me') and move outwards to groups of people, and then 'everyone'. You can tell them about the different people in the photos and what they do. The Bible verse begins to establish a link between God's love and Jesus (which you can build on as they get bigger). In the Bible verse, explain that 'the world' means 'everyone'. (See the online help for more about this.)

For bigger ones: Can they identify the occupations of people in the photos (or even think of more)? Explain that the Bible tells us about Jesus and God's love, and so the Bible is a really important book to read (listen to). As appropriate, start explaining that God sent Jesus so we can be God's friends. (For more ideas, see the website.)

Other Bible passages to look at: Psalm 118:1; Psalm 145:8; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10.

Pray: You can make a pictorial prayer diary to pray for people they know and that those people would understand that God loves them. Also thank God for Jesus.

For more details of these and other tips see www.teachinglittleones.com/bflo

Important note: The theme of 'God loves' is not as simple as it seems. Does God love sinners? If so, does that mean he accepts them? What sort of love is it? How do Jesus and faith fit in? And how does all this relate to young children? Space prevents us exploring these vital issues here. But we urge you to go to the website to read more.

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God made me and God loves me.



God made these babies and God loves them.



God loves every baby.

