

BOOKS FOR LITTLE ONES

Thank you God



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.

Thank you God

Thank you God for all the things you give us. Thank you for people who love me and for friends to play with. Thank you for water and food. Thank you for Jesus and the Bible. Thank you that I can talk to you and say “thank you”.

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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Thank you God

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: This book has generalizations that you can make specific for your child (e.g. names of friends, or food liked, or other uses for water). As you see and do things during each day, respond with "We can thank God for...". You could pray a one sentence "thank you" to God then or at a special time in the day. (See the website for ideas for each page.)

For bigger ones: Encourage them to find more things in the photos to thank God for and to think of other things too. Ask "Why thank God for...?". Some photos have a deeper meaning to talk about (e.g. a tap is something many children would love to have). Give thought to how to talk about Jesus, and his love for us, beyond this book. Encourage (and model) a sense of thankfulness to God in everyday life. (See the website for ideas for each page.)

Other Bible passages to look at: Psalm 118:28; Psalm 145:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Making books for/with your child: Photograph (or older children can draw) people, places and things in their life that they can thank God for. You could even draw simple drawings for a toddler to 'scribble on' (i.e. colour in) to add to your book. Use this when you pray, choosing one thing to thank God for.

Pray: Think how thankfulness to God can become a natural part of life from a very young age. Find other ways to express praise and thanks to God (e.g. "Dear God, you are very clever to make pretty butterflies. Thank you." "Thank you, God, for sending Jesus.")

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

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Thank you God for people who love me.



Thank you God for friends to play with.

