

my Read and
Rhyme

BIBLE
Storybook





To Teri—you have touched many lives with your kindness,
compassion, and wisdom. May your faith continue to be strong and
your love continue to be deep.

You are my daughter, my friend, my angel.

—C. B.

I'd like to dedicate this book, with all my love, to my husband, Jim,
and my two boys, Andy and Jimmy.

Without them, my life would have no “rhyme or reason.”
Because of the precious times we've spent together as a family,
I feel inspired and encouraged to provide fun
and meaningful stories of faith for other families to enjoy.

—C. K.



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My Read and Rhyme Bible Storybook

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Designed by Jacqueline L. Nuñez

Edited by Stephanie Voiland

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Bowman, Crystal.

My read and rhyme Bible storybook / Crystal Bowman and Cindy Kenney ; illustrated by Christiane Engel.
p. cm.

“Tyndale kids.”

Includes indexes.

ISBN 978-1-4143-2016-8 (hc)

1. Bible stories, English. I. Kenney, Cindy, date. II. Engel, Christiane. III. Title.

BS551.3.B72 2009

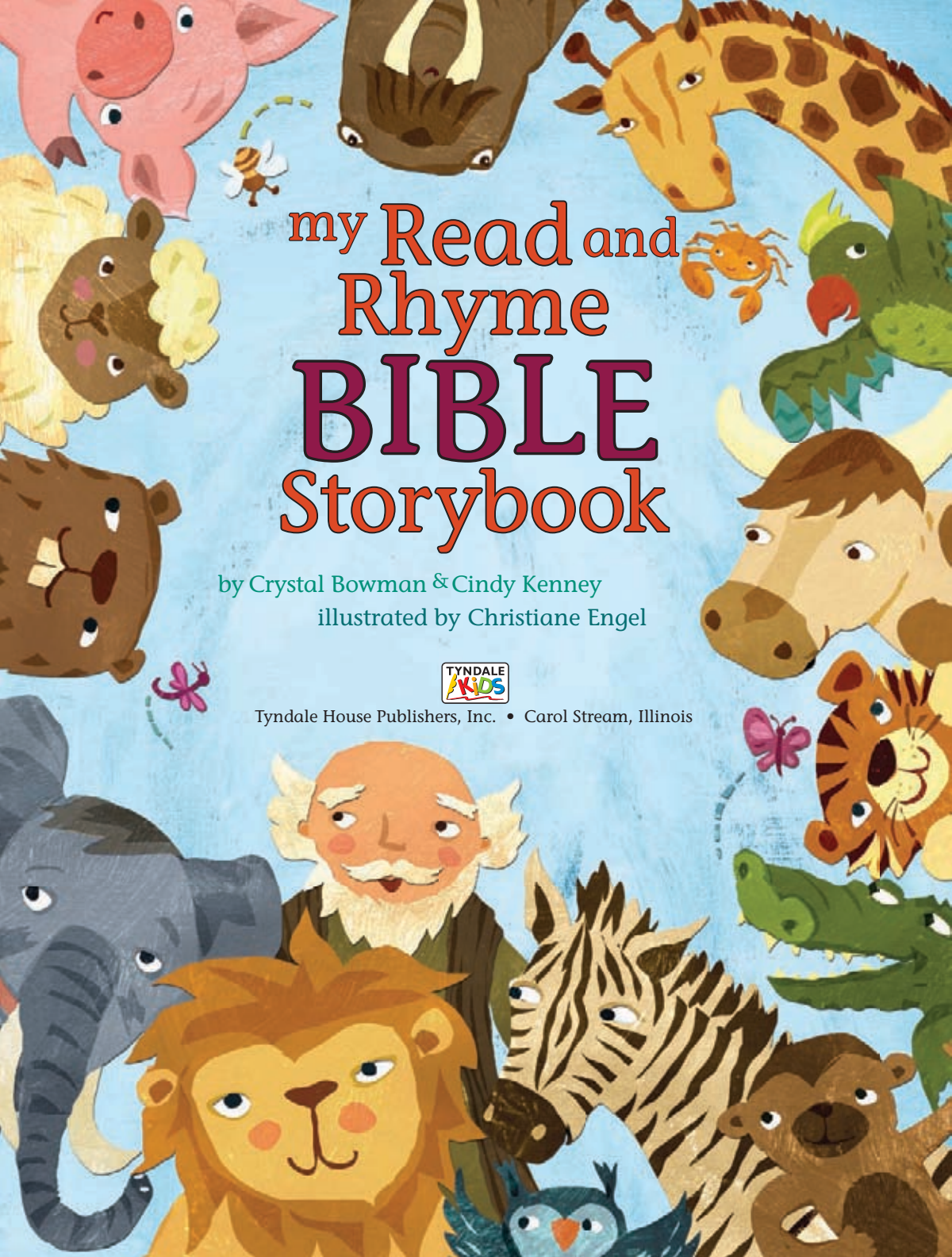
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2008051925

Printed in Singapore

15 14 13 12 11 10 09

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by Crystal Bowman & Cindy Kenney

illustrated by Christiane Engel



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. • Carol Stream, Illinois

Contents



Introduction	VI
Old Testament	
God Makes a Big World	3
The First Family	13
Noah Builds an Ark	23
A Tall Tower	33
Abraham Trusts God	41
Twin Brothers	51
Joseph and His Brothers	61
Baby Moses	71
Moses Leads God's People	81
The Ten Commandments	89
Big Walls Fall Down	99
God Sends Gideon	109
A Very Strong Man	119
Ruth's Love and Kindness	131
David and the Giant	141
The Shepherd's Psalm	151
Three Brave Friends	161
Daniel and the Lions	171
Jonah's Big Adventure	181
New Testament	
Happy Birthday, Jesus	191
Jesus at the Temple	201
John the Baptist	211
Fishermen Follow Jesus	221
Jesus Teaches the People	229



Jesus Calms the Storm	237
A Boy Shares His Food	245
Jesus Walks on Water	255
Help Your Neighbor	265
Two Sad Sisters	273
The Lost Sheep	283
The Son Who Left Home	291
People Praise Jesus	303
Wash Your Feet before You Eat	311
Jesus Dies on a Cross	321
Jesus Is Alive!	333
A New Follower of Jesus	343
Paul Shares the Good News	353
Bible Names	360
Bible Places	364
Bible Words	365
Scripture Index	367
About the Authors	368



Introduction



Every parent searches for a Bible that will draw his or her child into God's Word in a fun and engaging manner. Parents are also looking for ways to help their children learn how to read. Because time is precious, we created *My Read and Rhyme Bible Storybook* as a tool to excite and involve children in God's message while also teaching them how to read and rhyme!

My Read and Rhyme Bible Storybook will provide you with great opportunities to connect with your child as you spend time sharing God's Word and take part in fun activities together. Your child will soak in the fascinating messages presented in a fun, new, and unique way. Learning to read has never been so appealing, as children connect the rhymes, observe patterns, and put the words together on their own.

Teachers will find *My Read and Rhyme Bible Storybook* a great resource too. Every story is solidly grounded in the Bible and accurately reflects God's Word with language designed for young readers. Follow-up questions are provided after each story, along with fun, simple activities that everyone will enjoy.

Each Bible story has words for beginning readers to sound out and comprehend. Short, simple words and sentences allow readers to understand the stories without getting tripped up by concepts that are beyond their reading level. The rhythm and rhymes allow for easy word connections, a fun and whimsical flow, and a positive reading experience.

Each story provides the following tools to enhance the reading experience for children, parents, and teachers alike.

- **I Can Learn These Words**

Key words and concepts that may be new to beginning readers are introduced at the start of each story. The pronunciations for these words are found before each story as well.

- **I Can Say These Names and Places**

Children are introduced to key people and places from the Bible at the beginning of each story. The words are broken down into smaller segments to help readers learn how to say each one, and a glossary at the end of the book provides brief descriptions.

- **I Can Read These Words**

Learning to read is a process of discovery that involves encountering new words and keeping up with familiar ones. At the end of each story are age-appropriate words that children can practice reading and can find in the story.

- **I Can Find the Words That Rhyme**

Two columns of rhyming words can be found at the end of each story to encourage readers to learn how to rhyme. Children can say each word aloud and then find the words from column one that rhyme with the words in column two. This list also serves as a starting point for readers to come up with additional words of their own that rhyme with each pair.

- **I Can Answer These Questions**

Each story is followed by questions to help readers comprehend what they've read and apply it to their everyday lives. Some questions are factual, and others encourage readers to think beyond the facts to connect with the story on a personal level.

- **I Can Do These Activities**

After each story, there are fun activities, games, and crafts that will help readers engage in creative application of the message. Readers can participate in these activities on their own, with a friend or adult, or in a classroom setting.

My Read and Rhyme Bible Storybook is the perfect book to inspire children with God's Word while helping them learn to read and understand rhyme. It also serves as a useful devotional tool, a helpful teaching device, and a wonderful way to connect children with God's messages and with others. Don't wait a minute longer—share this book with your child and have some fun!







Old Testament





God Makes a Big World

GENESIS 1-2

I Can Learn These Words

buzzing (BUZZ-ing)
twinkle (TWINK-ull)
special (SPEH-shull)
holy (HOLE-ee)
blessed (BLEST)



A long time ago
there was nothing at all.
No sand, no lakes,
no bugs that crawl.
No dogs, no fish,
no buzzing bees.
No hills, no grass,
no flowers or trees.



But God was there.
He knew what to do.
He said, "It is time
to make something new.
I'll make a big world.
I'll start right away."
And so God made
the very first day.

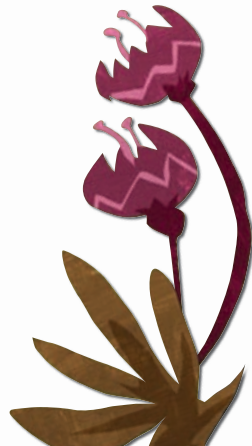




God said to the dark,
“Let there be light!”
The light he called day.
The dark he called night.
God liked what he did,
for it was just right.

The next day God made
the earth and the sky.
The earth was down low.
The sky was up high.
The sky was big.
The sky was blue.
That’s what God did
on day number two.

The next day God made
the land and the seas.
He made the grass,
the flowers and trees.
God said to himself,
“I like what I see.”
That’s what God did
on day number three.









The fourth day God made
the sun and the moon.
The moon shone at night.
The sun shone at noon.
He made pretty stars
to twinkle and glow.
God said the words,
and then it was so.






The fifth day God made
the birds in the air
and fish in the sea,
so they could swim there.
God looked all around
at the skies and the shore.
He said, "This is good!
But I want to do more."

The sixth day God made
something else that was grand!
He made the animals
to live on the land.
Some could run fast,
and others could crawl.
But this you should know—
that God made them all!



And then God said,
"I like what I see!
But I want some people
to spend time with me."
So God took some dust
right from the land.
He held it closely
and breathed in his hand.
Then God made a man
and a woman, too.
And then his work
was finally through.

God looked around
at the end of the day.
The world was good
in every way.



God did not work
on day number seven.
God took a rest
that day in heaven.
And it was so,
right from the start.
One special day
was set apart.
The day was holy.
The day was blessed.
The day became
a day of rest.

I Can Read These Words

world
animals
rest

I Can Find the Words That Rhyme

sky	trees
blue	grand
land	high
bees	two

I Can Answer These Questions

How many days did it take God to make the world?

Why do you think God rested on the seventh day? Can you think of times when it is good for you to rest?

I Can Do These Activities

Make a big picture of the world God made. On your picture, write the names of some of the things God made.

Draw a picture of your favorite animal. Color it and cut it out. Write down the name of the animal. Can you move around and make sounds like that animal?





New Testament



Happy Birthday, Jesus

MATTHEW 1:18–2:12;
LUKE 1:26-38; 2:1-21

I Can Learn These Words

gentle (JENT-ull)
impossible (im-PAH-sih-bull)
stable (STAY-bull)
manger (MANE-jur)
Savior (SAVE-your)
frankincense (FRANK-in-sense)
myrrh (MURR)
celebrate (SELL-uh-brate)

I Can Say These Names

Jesus (JEE-zuss)
Mary (MARE-ee)
Immanuel (ee-MAN-you-el)
Caesar (SEE-zer)

I Can Say These Places

Galilee (GAL-uh-lee)
Bethlehem (BETH-luh-hem)

There was a girl named Mary
who lived in Galilee.
She was as kind and gentle
and loving as can be.
God sent her an angel,
who said, “Please do not fear.
You will have a baby boy
around this time next year.

“You will name him Jesus.
He will be God’s Son.
He’ll be called the Most High.
He’s God’s chosen one.”

The angel said, “Don’t worry.
The Lord has chosen you.
Nothing is impossible
for God to ever do.”
Mary made a promise
to stay forever true.
“I will always serve the Lord
and care for his Son too.”

An angel said to Joseph,
“Take Mary as your wife.
God has chosen her to give
his Son an earthly life.



“He’ll be called Immanuel
and save people from their sins.
You will name him Jesus
when his life on earth begins.”

Then Caesar made a rule
that everyone must go
back to his home town—
and no one could say no.
Joseph was from Bethlehem,
far from where they were.
So he brought his wife along
and took good care of her.



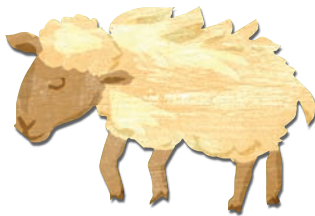
The time was very close
for Mary to give birth.
They traveled very far
across the dusty earth.
When at last they got
to Bethlehem one night,
the inns were all too full.
Would Mary be all right?




One man told them kindly,
“My inn is full today.
But you may use my stable
and rest upon the hay.”
Chickens peeped, the cow said, “Moo,”
and “Baa” came from the sheep,
while Joseph and dear Mary
both tried to get some sleep.

And when the right time came
for Mary to give birth,
she wrapped her baby boy in cloths.
God’s Son was here on earth!

In the fields nearby,
watching sheep that night,
the shepherds saw an angel.
Oh, what an awesome sight!






The angel said, "I have good news!
A baby born today
is lying in a manger
upon a bed of hay."
A group of angels filled the sky
and then began to sing.
"Glory in the highest
to the newborn King!
Let's give praise to God above
for all the love he'll bring!"

The shepherds were excited!
Could this baby be
the promised Savior of the world?
They couldn't wait to see!
The shepherds found the child
just like the angel said,
sleeping in a stable,
tucked in his manger bed.

After baby Jesus came,
some wise men traveled far
to see the little baby born
beneath a shining star.
They came from very far away.
It took them many days.
They longed to see the newborn King
and bow to him in praise.
The star shone brightly in the sky,
showing them the way.
It led them straight to Jesus.
They thanked the Lord that day.



The wise men said to Jesus,
“Please take these gifts we bring—
frankincense and gold and myrrh—
all for the special King.”

No need to wait for Christmas
to celebrate his birth.
Happy Birthday, Jesus!
And peace to all the earth!

I Can Read These Words

wife
save
peace

I Can Find the Words That Rhyme

birth	earth
were	far
star	bring
King	her

I Can Answer These Questions

A stable is like a barn. Why was Jesus born there?

Who sent the shepherds to find the baby Jesus? How would you have felt if you heard a message like that?

I Can Do These Activities

Jesus' birth was a wonderful miracle, and you are one of God's miracles too! Grab some friends or family members to play this game. Pass around five small pieces of paper to each person. Write down one word that describes something special about you and one word that describes something special about Jesus on your piece of paper. One person can collect the papers and read each set of words aloud while the rest of the players guess who is being described.

Make a birthday cake for Jesus—on paper. Draw the cake on a piece of paper and color it in, but leave room to write some words. If Jesus came to your house this Christmas to celebrate with you, what gifts do you think he would like to get? Write them on his birthday cake. Now bake Jesus a real cake and enjoy it to remember his birth!



Bible Names



Abednego – one of the brave friends who didn't burn up in the fiery furnace	161
Abel – Adam and Eve's second son, who was killed by his brother, Cain	13
Abraham – a man who loved and obeyed God; the husband of Sarah and the father of Isaac	41
Adam – the first man God created; Eve's husband	13
Ananias – the man God used to heal Saul's blindness	343
Andrew – one of Jesus' twelve helpers	221
Bartholomew – one of Jesus' twelve helpers	221
Boaz – a man who was kind to Ruth and Naomi and married Ruth	131
Caesar – the ruler when Jesus was born	191
Cain – Adam and Eve's first son, who killed his brother, Abel	13
Christ – another name for Jesus	321
Christians – people who believe in Jesus	343
Daniel – a man who was put in a lions' den for praying to God	171
Darius – the king who had Daniel put in the lions' den	171
David – a shepherd boy who killed the giant Goliath	141
Delilah – a woman who tricked Samson to find out the secret to his strength	119
Egyptians – people who live in Egypt	81
Esau – the older son of Isaac and Rebekah and the twin brother of Jacob	51
Eve – the first woman God created; Adam's wife	13
Gideon – the man God used to defeat the people of Midian	109



Goliath – a giant who scared the people of Israel until David fought him	141
Hebrew – another name for the people of Israel; also the name of their language	71
Holy Spirit – God’s Spirit, who lives in us when we believe in Jesus	211
Immanuel – one of the names for God, which means “God is with us”	191
Isaac – the son God promised to Abraham and Sarah	41
Isaiah – a prophet who promised Jesus would come	211
Jacob – the younger son of Isaac and Rebekah and the twin brother of Esau	51
James – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers; the brother of John	221
James – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers	221
Jesus – God’s Son, who came to earth as a baby, did a lot of miracles when he grew up, and died on the cross for our sins	191
Jews – the people who came from the twelve sons of Jacob	321
John – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers who was a good friend of Jesus; the brother of James	221
John the Baptist – a man who preached about Jesus and told the people what Jesus would do	211
Jonah – a prophet who ran away from God and was swallowed by a fish	181
Joseph – the favorite son of Jacob who was sold by his brothers and sent to Egypt as a slave	61
Joseph – the man who married Jesus’ mother, Mary	191

Joshua – the leader who helped God’s people win the battle of Jericho	99
Judas – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers	221
Judas – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers; helped Jesus’ enemies kill him	221
Lazarus – a friend of Jesus and the brother of Mary and Martha; was raised from the dead by Jesus	273
Martha – a friend of Jesus and the sister of Mary and Lazarus	273
Mary – the mother of Jesus and the wife of Joseph	191
Mary – a friend of Jesus and the sister of Martha and Lazarus	273
Mary – a friend of Jesus who saw him alive after he rose from the dead	333
Matthew – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers	221
Meshach – one of the brave friends who didn’t burn up in the fiery furnace	161
Moses – the man God used to lead his people out of Egypt	71
Naomi – the mother-in-law of Ruth and Orpah	131
Noah – the man who built a big boat to save his family and the animals from the Flood	23
Orpah – Naomi’s daughter-in-law who went back to her home after her husband died	131
Paul – the new name Saul was given after he started preaching	343
Peter – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers	221
Philip – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers	221

Pilate – the ruler who had Jesus killed	321
Rebekah – Isaac’s wife and the mother of Jacob and Esau	51
Ruth – the daughter-in-law of Naomi who stayed with her after her husband died; married Boaz	131
Samaritan – a person from Samaria	265
Samson – a very strong man who helped God’s people fight their enemies	119
Sarah – Abraham’s wife, who had a son, Isaac, when she was very old	41
Saul – a man who was mean to Christians at first but later followed Jesus and was known as Paul	343
Shadrach – one of the brave friends who didn’t burn up in the fiery furnace	161
Simon – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers	221
Spirit – see “Holy Spirit”	
Thomas – one of Jesus’ twelve helpers	221

Bible Places



Bethany – a town where Jesus’ friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived	273
Bethlehem – the town where Jesus was born	191
Damascus – the town where Saul was healed of his blindness	343
Egypt – a country where the people of Israel were slaves for many years	61
Galilee – an area with some towns and a sea where Jesus taught and did a lot of miracles	191
garden of Gethsemane – the place where Jesus prayed before he was arrested	321
Israel – God’s chosen nation that came from Jacob’s twelve sons	71
Jericho – a city with big walls that tumbled down	99
Jerusalem – a city where the Temple was and where Jesus was killed	303
Jordan River – the river Joshua led God’s people across before they went to Jericho	99
Midian – a country that Gideon and God’s people fought against	109
Nineveh – the city where God told Jonah to go and preach	181

Bible Words



advice – what you tell someone when you want to help them make a good decision	171
angel – a heavenly messenger	109
ark – a large boat that Noah built	23
birthright – a special blessing usually given to the oldest child in a family	51
blessed – happy and taken care of in a special way by God	3
celebrate – to have a big party in honor of something good that happened	191
commandment – a rule or law that God gives us to help us live good lives	89
cross – two big wooden boards in the shape of the letter t; used as a form of punishment in Jesus' time	321
frankincense – a nice-smelling gift that the wise men brought to Jesus	191
hosanna – a word that people use to praise God	303
Kingdom – all the people who belong to God	171
leprosy – a disease that causes sores on a person's skin	221
miracle – an amazing thing that only God can do	245
mute – unable to speak	221
myrrh – the nice-smelling part of a special plant that the wise men brought to Jesus	191
neighbor – someone who lives on your street or in your town; also anyone you should show kindness to	265
peace – the knowledge that God takes care of everything so you don't have to worry	229



plagues – sicknesses or unpleasant things that happen to a lot of people at the same time	81
praise – to tell God how great he is	161
priest – someone who leads others in worshipping God	265
prophet – a person who receives a special message from God and tells it to others	109
psalm – a poem or song to God	151
respect – to show honor to others	89
Sabbath – one day of the week set aside to worship God and rest	89
shepherd – someone who takes care of a flock of sheep	141
soldiers – people who are part of an army	81
stable – a place where animals eat and sleep	191
statue – something made from metal or stone that looks like something real	161
Temple – the building in Jerusalem where people went to pray and bring money to God	201
worship – to spend time with God by praying, singing, or reading the Bible	41

Scripture Index



Genesis 1–2 (God Makes a Big World)	3
Genesis 2–4 (The First Family)	13
Genesis 6–9 (Noah Builds an Ark)	23
Genesis 11 (A Tall Tower)	33
Genesis 12,15–18, 21–22 (Abraham Trusts God)	41
Genesis 25; 27; 29 (Twin Brothers)	51
Genesis 37; 39–47 (Joseph and His Brothers)	61
Exodus 2 (Baby Moses)	71
Exodus 3–15 (Moses Leads God’s People)	81
Exodus 20 (The Ten Commandments)	89
Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1; 3; 6 (Big Walls Fall Down)	99
Judges 6–8 (God Sends Gideon)	109
Judges 13; 16 (A Very Strong Man)	119
Ruth 1–4 (Ruth’s Love and Kindness)	131
1 Samuel 17 (David and the Giant)	141
Psalms 23 (The Shepherd’s Psalm)	151
Daniel 1; 3 (Three Brave Friends)	161
Daniel 6 (Daniel and the Lions)	171
Jonah 1–4 (Jonah’s Big Adventure)	181
Matthew 1:18–2:12; Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-21 (Happy Birthday, Jesus)	191
Matthew 3 (John the Baptist)	211
Matthew 5:1-12 (Jesus Teaches the People)	229
Matthew 14:22-33 (Jesus Walks on Water)	255
Matthew 21:1-11 (People Praise Jesus)	303
Matthew 26:47–27:68; Luke 23:26-56; John 18–19 (Jesus Dies on a Cross)	321
Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20; John 20:19-23; Luke 24:36-43, 50-53 (Jesus Is Alive!)	333
Luke 2:41-52 (Jesus at the Temple)	201
Luke 4–6 (Fishermen Follow Jesus)	221
Luke 8:22-56 (Jesus Calms the Storm)	237
Luke 10:25-37 (Help Your Neighbor)	265
Luke 15:1-7 (The Lost Sheep)	283
Luke 15:11-32 (The Son Who Left Home)	291
John 6:1-15 (A Boy Shares His Food)	245
John 11:1-45 (Two Sad Sisters)	273
John 13:1-30; Matthew 26:20-30, 36-44 (Wash Your Feet before You Eat)	311
Acts 9:1-31 (A New Follower of Jesus)	343
1 Corinthians 12–13 (Paul Shares the Good News)	353



About the Authors



Crystal Bowman has been writing books for many years. She has written more than fifty books for children as well as three books for women. She is a poet, lyricist, and author of a best-selling holiday board book series. She has also written several books for Tyndale's Little Blessings line, including *The One Year Book of Devotions for Preschoolers*. Crystal enjoys sharing her poems and stories with both children and adults. She speaks at schools, churches, conferences, and MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). She and her husband are the parents of three grown children. They live in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, where she loves going for walks on the beach.



Cindy Kenney is an award-winning author, editor, international speaker, and seminar leader. Cindy studied elementary education and began her career as a Christian education director. She served as senior managing editor and writer for Big Idea Productions (VeggieTales) for eight years before working as the publishing director for Exclaim Entertainment. To date, Cindy has published more than sixty books, as well as numerous curriculum programs, articles, scripts, lyrics, and more. Cindy received the 2005 Editor of the Year award from the Christian Writers Association, a 2004 Gold Medallion for *The Mess Detectives*, and a Gold Medallion nomination for *God Loves You Very Much*. Cindy's *VeggieTales Bible Storybook* was selected as one of the top five children's books by the Christian Booksellers Convention in 2006. Cindy resides in the Chicago area with her husband and two boys.



Christiane Engel is a freelance illustrator who is based in London. She is originally from Germany but moved to England in 2001, where she wrote and illustrated her first children's book—*Louis & Bobo—We Are Moving*. Her collage style mixes both traditional and digital techniques to create an organic feel and can be found in children's books, advertising, and editorial illustration across the world. You can see more of Christiane's work on her Web site, www.desertfriends.com.