

Hints and Helps

Christianity is essentially a faith in which God reveals Himself. Exodus 3:4 provides an example in which God spoke plainly and openly to His servant Moses. Numerous other times God spoke audibly from Heaven to His creatures. God sometimes dispatched angel messengers or sent earthly messengers. These occasions complement the ultimate communication of God to man in Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth. His words from God fill most of the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Furthermore, the whole Bible is the complete message from God to us.

Verse to Memorize

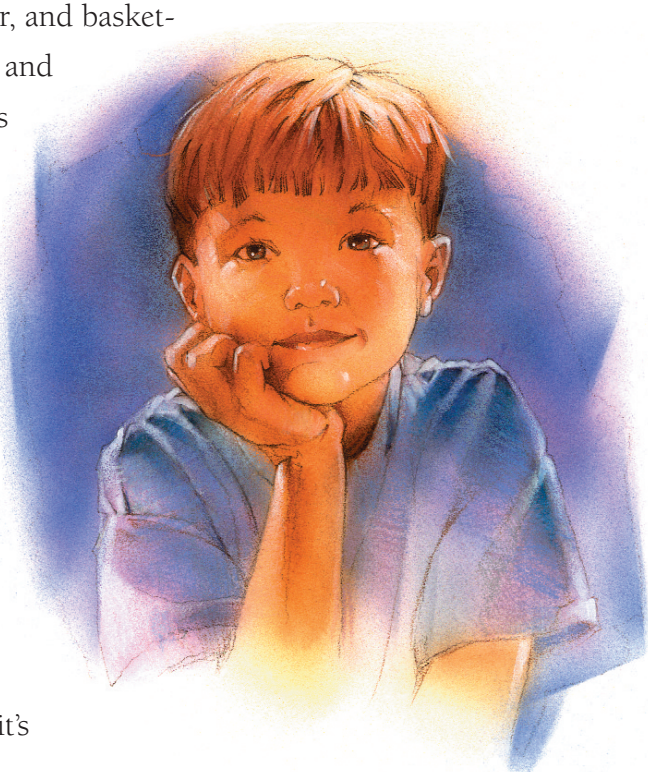
2 Timothy 3:16: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Does the Bible Have Pictures?



Hi! *My name is Toph*er. Really my name is Christopher, but my friends call me Toph or Topher. I'm eight. I like to ride my bike and play T-ball, soccer, and basketball. I have two sisters, Megan and Bobbie. Megan is ten and plays the piano all the time. She takes lessons. Roberta is four. We call her Bobbie. She's fun to tease, but she drives me nuts, always asking, "What's that?" or "What does this mean?" Mom and Dad say she'll grow out of always asking questions, but I doubt it.

Mom takes us to the library once a week. I don't like to go—until I get there. Then it's





okay. Megan loves to go. She always beats Bobbie and me to the car. She takes this huge book bag to hold all the books she finds.

Bobbie can't read at all because she's only four, but she says she loves books too. That's because Megan or Mom reads and reads and reads to her. Sometimes at night after I can't play outside anymore, I read to Bobbie too.

Bobbie tries to read the pictures. Sometimes when I go by her room, I hear her "reading" to her dolls and stuffed animals. She puts them in a row on her bed and "reads" the pictures to them. When we go to the library, Bobbie picks the books with the best pictures.

A little while after her birthday, Bobbie got a package in the mail. It had "Bobbie Schmidt, 1022 Brewster Court, Grafton, Ohio," written on it. It was from Grandpa Williams in Pennsylvania! Bobbie went crazy when she saw it. I wanted to know what it was too. Grandpa and Grandma had already given Bobbie a birthday present.

Bobbie ripped off the paper and found a book. She didn't know what it was, so she showed it to Mom. Mom told her it was a children's Bible. Then Mom opened to the first page and read a note from Grandpa. It said, "Joshua 1:8. This book will be the best one you could ever read."

Bobbie looked kind of confused. "Why does Grandpa say that, Mom?" "Let's read the verse and find out." Mom read the verse from the

Bible. Then she told us, “It says we must never quit talking or thinking about this book. If we keep thinking about it, we’ll have a prosperous way and good success.”

“What’s ‘prosperous way’ mean?” I didn’t know that word either.

“Pros-per-ous.” Mom said the word the right way because Bobbie had said it wrong. “Prosperous usually means rich, but here it means doing really well. It means if we keep talking about and thinking about the Bible, we’ll have a good life.”

I wanted to have a good life so I told Mom, “Then we should read the Bible a lot.”

Mom looked a little sad. “I used to read the Bible all the time when I was a girl. Bobbie, maybe you and I can read from your new Bible every night before you go to bed.”

Bobbie didn’t seem too excited. “Does this Bible book have pictures?”

Mom took the Bible. “Yes, it does in several ways.” She turned some pages and gave it back to Bobbie. “Here, look for yourself.”

I looked too. There was a picture of a man with lions standing around him. Bobbie turned some more pages. “Here’s a picture of a man and a big funny looking boat.” Bobbie let me turn some more pages, and I found a picture of a boy throwing a rock at a huge giant. A few pages later we found another picture. “Here’s a lady and man with a baby in a barn,” Bobbie told Mom. “And here’s a man with children all around Him. He looks nice.” Bobbie turned some more pages, and we saw a sad picture. She gave the book to Mom. “What’s this a picture of?”

“That man with the tied hands is on trial,” Mom told us. She gave the Bible back to us. Bobbie let me turn the pages again. “Look, Bobbie! A picture of angels and a giant rock!” Bobbie liked that picture, but then we couldn’t find any more.

“That’s all the pictures.” Bobbie closed the book.

But Mom said, “There’s more, Bobbie.”

I knew there weren’t, so I told Mom, “No there’s not.”

“Yes there is. Let me show you. The Bible is full of pictures told in stories. Jesus loved to tell picture stories called parables. Here’s one in Luke about a sheep and a coin.”

“Like Grandpa’s sheep and Topher’s coins?”

“Yes, like that, Bobbie.”

Verses to Read

Luke 15:3–10. Take time to explain that the lost sheep pictures lost people away from God. The lost coin is like lost people whom God seeks and finds. Young children take things quite literally and will not comprehend the truth behind the parables. However, they can enjoy the picture stories, and later as they mature, they will understand the meaning.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD



1. *What is the best book you could ever read?*
2. *What is a picture story called?*
3. *How often should you read the Bible?*