

Evaluating Bible Storybooks

Title:

Publisher:

Year of Publication:

1. Is this
 - a) A complete Bible
 - b) New Testament only
 - c) Old Testament only
 - d) Selections from throughout the Bible, but not the entire Bible
 - e) A few selected Biblical stories, on a theme
 - f) One Bible story
 - g) Other (specify):

2. Is this
 - a) A formal translation (if so, which translation: for example NRSV, NIV, etc.)
 - b) An informal translation (for example: The Message or The Good News Bible)
 - c) A paraphrase (not a direct translation)
 - d) Midrash (creative commentary on one or more biblical stories)
 - e) Other (specify):

3. Age level for whom this Bible or Bible storybook is intended:

How appropriate for this age level is the content, language, illustrations (if any), etc.?

How well (responsibly, based on good translation, exegesis, and interpretation) does this Bible, or Bible storybook, translate and present the original text? (look up some Biblical passages for which you have done exegesis, and see how you feel about the way this children's or youth Bible has translated and presented the passages in light of your study of those texts)

4. How is this Bible or Bible storybook intended to be USED by the child or adolescent? (for example, is it simply to be read, is it framed for devotional use, is it a study Bible, is it to be read aloud, is it meant for use in a class or community, etc.)

5. What does this Bible or Bible storybook ask of the READER AS BIBLICAL INTERPRETER? (for example, nothing – all interpretation is provided, or it asks guiding questions of the reader, etc.)

6. What accompanying interpretive materials come in it, to aid the children or youth in interpreting the texts? (for example, background material on each book of the Bible, information about the writers and their settings, maps, cross references, word definitions/studies, etc.)

7. * Advanced theological question, if you can:

We believe, and we say we want children and youth to experience, the Bible as the “Word of God” But what does that mean? For some people, it means we want them to experience every word in the Biblical text as God’s very own speech. For others, “Word of God” means it reveals God’s self to us. Others think it means the Biblical texts witness to the story of God with us...and so on. Implicit in this Bible or storybook, what does it mean to say the Bible is “Word of God”?

8. Over all, how do you feel about this children’s or youth Bible, or Bible storybook? Would you recommend it? If not, why not? If so, for/to whom (for example, for Sunday School classes, to parents, to an adolescent who wants a study Bible, as a first Bible, as a confirmation gift, etc.)

Developed for use in the CHILDREN’S AND ADOLESCENT LITERATURE IN THE CHURCH class at UNION-PSCE, Charlotte.