

Catholic Bible Study Resources

Bibles and Bible Books for Families, Teens, Youth, and Children

For Families

The Catholic Faith & Family Bible

Harper Collins (2010)

A great new Bible that really helps Catholic parents bring the Bible into a family's life. Articles such as "Reading the Bible as a Catholic Family" and "Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Bible," provide parents guidance they may need to feel secure with the Bible. Excellent sidebars present family-oriented ideas for prayer, reflection, and action. Short articles make connections to many aspects of Catholic faith and practice useful for the whole family. Uses the New Revised Standard (NRSV) translation. (For younger children, you may want to substitute the Good News translation of the biblical text.) There's no other Bible like this available today.

For Teens

The Catholic Youth Bible (2010 edition)

Saint Mary's Press (www.smp.org)

Highly recommended for teen Bible study and personal use. Includes accurate, easy-to-read, and interesting articles and notes that help teens understand biblical books and difficult passages based on the mainstream Catholic approach to Scripture. Excellent short features help teens pray Scripture, apply texts to real-life situations, and make connections to Catholic doctrine and practices. Includes maps, a Bible timeline, a concordance. Attractive, illustrated, and colorful. Available in both the New Revised Standard (NRSV) translation and the New American Bible (NAB) translation (the translation used at Mass). The best Bible you could get for teens!

For Youth

Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics

Saint Mary's Press (www.smp.org)

Highly recommended for youth fifth-grade and older. Uses a simplified but good translation of the Bible, the Good News translation. Includes accurate and easy-to-read notes and explanations about biblical books and texts based on the mainstream Catholic approach to Scripture. Guides the young readers to understanding how to read the Bible as a modern Catholic. Excellent short features such as "Bible People Interviews," "Live It," and "Pray It," help younger readers experience the Bible in a meaningful way.

In addition, Saint Mary's Press has many other Scripture-related resources for teens and youth. It's one of the best Catholic publishers for these resources.

For Children

Animals of the Bible from A to Z by Alice Camille ACTA Publications (www.actapublications.com)

Teach young children the alphabet by making connections to biblical stories. For readers ages 4-8, or can be read by an adult. Includes "Pages for Grownups" and verse citations so the adult can easily explain the biblical connection to the child. (64 pp.)

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Sacred Stories: A Child's Bible Book

Pflaum Publishing Group (www.pflaum.com)

Simple retellings of 17 key biblical stories, faithful to the original texts. Each story is followed by an activity that helps the child learn something for his or her life. An excellent introduction to the Bible's stories for children in the primary grades. (32 pp.)

My Bible: The Story of God's Love

Pauline Books & Media (www.pauline.org)

All the major stories of the Bible, retold in simple but theologically accurate language and beautifully illustrated. Includes sidebars for basic catechetical topics and a nice section on "My Prayers." Appropriate for ages 6-8. Makes a great First Communion gift! (232 pp.)

God Is Calling Story Books

St. Anthony Messenger Press (www.americancatholic.org)

Highly recommended series of faith stories based on Scripture. Includes *Yahweh Calls*—Old Testament stories; *Jesus Lives*—a retelling of the life of Jesus; and *Spirit with Us*—stories of the early Church and saints. Each storybook is available for either ages 7-10 or ages 11-14. You can also get a companion activities book for each set of stories and for each age group to help parents and children learn from the stories. An excellent package.