

“I cannot think of anything more important for a child to know than the fact that God delights to hear their prayers – especially when those prayers are grounded in Scripture. This resource is going to help families and children learn that God loves it when we pray the truths in his word back to him.”

**J.T. English**, Lead Pastor, Storyline Church, Arvada, Colorado; Author of *Deep Discipleship* and *You Are a Theologian*

“Vibrant prayers are informed by God’s word and fueled by his promises. Using *God’s Big Promises Bible Story Prayers* with your children can help them get into the rhythm of responding to God’s word through prayer even before they can read. It’s never too early for children to learn to respond to God’s great and precious promises through prayer!”

**Betsy Childs Howard**, Editor, The Gospel Coalition; Author of *Arlo and the Great Big Cover-Up*

“Here is a great and faithful way to engage precious little minds and hearts that every parent, grandparent, relative and friend can use. This wonderful resource will help children share in prayers of praise, thanksgiving, confession and petition, using words and ideas that are just right for them (and – say it quietly – just right for grown-ups too!).”

**Adrian Reynolds**, Head of National Ministries, FIEC, UK

“Learning to pray the Bible changed the way I talk to God. I’m thankful for a resource that will help my kids learn to pray Scripture much sooner than I did!”

**Hunter Beless**, Founder of Journeywomen Ministries; Author of *Read It, See It, Say It, Sing It!* and *Amy Carmichael: The Brown-Eyed Girl Who Learned to Pray*

“Prayer is a privilege... and it can be hard. That’s why written prayers are a gift to the whole church, and I love how this resource offers this gift to our kids. Each prayer is simple enough that a child can understand it yet rich enough to stir their hearts (and ours) with God’s amazing truth. My kids will love this!”

**Kristen Wetherell**, Author of the *For the Bible Tells Me So* board book series and *Hope When It Hurts*



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**GOD'S BIG PROMISES**

**Bible Story  
Prayers**

Written by  
**Carl Laferton**

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Illustrated by  
**Jennifer Davison**



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# WELCOME

## **HOW TO USE THIS BOOK**

God made every star in the sky. God gives every beat to our hearts. And this God hears us as we talk to him.

That's *amazing!*

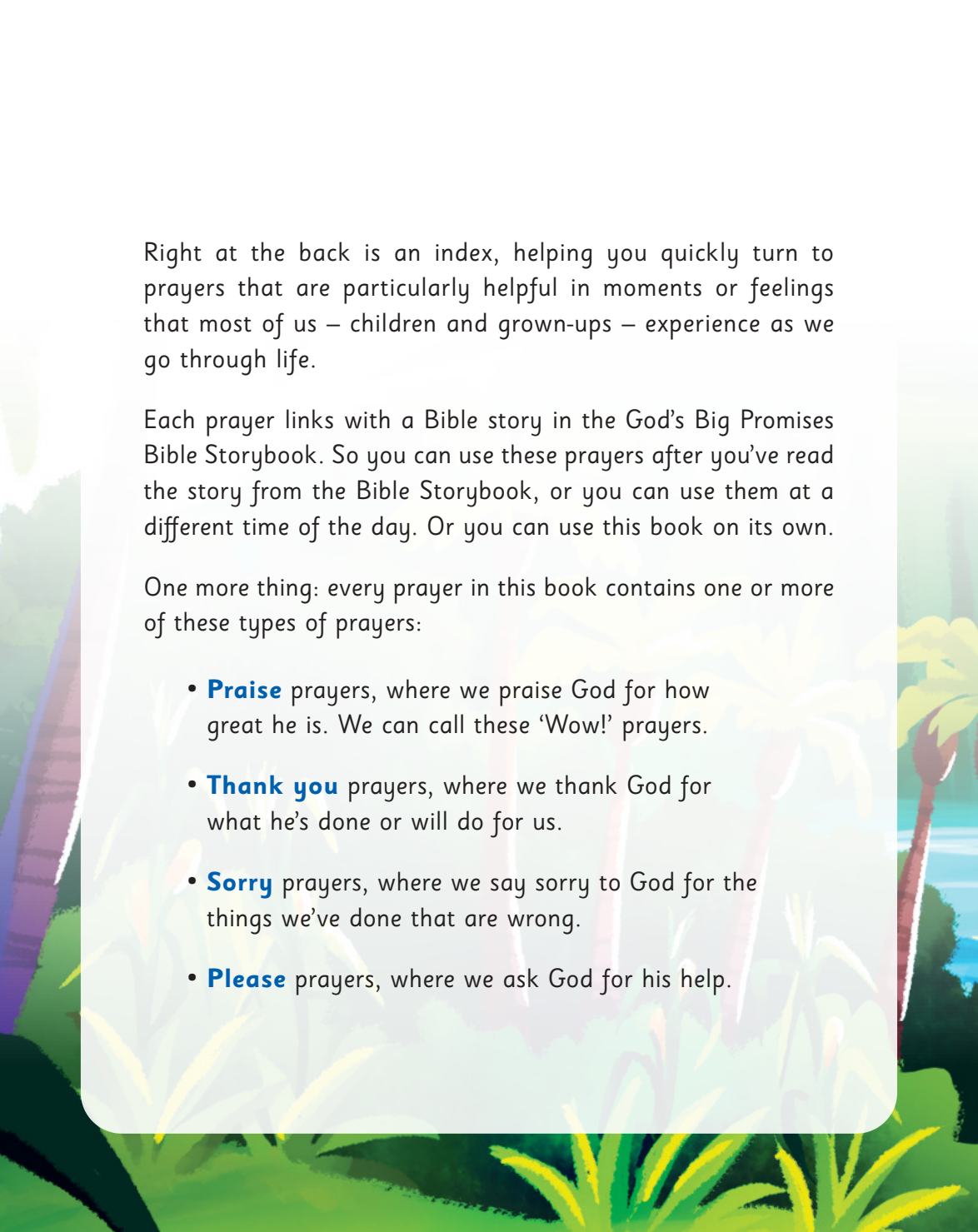
When we pray, God promises to listen to us.

When we pray, God promises to give us what we need.

And the Bible shows us that God always keeps his promises.

When you have a conversation with someone, you listen to them and you speak to them. It's just the same with God. Prayer is us speaking to God, and the Bible is God speaking to us. So it's great to pray in response to what we hear in the Bible.

In this book, you'll find 92 prayers that are each linked to a summary of and a verse from a Bible story. These prayers will take you all the way from beginning to end of the true story of the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation. And at the end of this book, you'll find nine prayers that are perfect for praying at bedtime.



Right at the back is an index, helping you quickly turn to prayers that are particularly helpful in moments or feelings that most of us – children and grown-ups – experience as we go through life.

Each prayer links with a Bible story in the God's Big Promises Bible Storybook. So you can use these prayers after you've read the story from the Bible Storybook, or you can use them at a different time of the day. Or you can use this book on its own.

One more thing: every prayer in this book contains one or more of these types of prayers:

- **Praise** prayers, where we praise God for how great he is. We can call these 'Wow!' prayers.
- **Thank you** prayers, where we thank God for what he's done or will do for us.
- **Sorry** prayers, where we say sorry to God for the things we've done that are wrong.
- **Please** prayers, where we ask God for his help.

Each of these types of prayers – Wow, Thank you, Sorry, and Please – are marked in a **different type of writing**. And each comes with its own action to do with your body, if you'd like to:



**Wow**



**Thank you**



**Sorry**



**Please**

That will help everyone join in with the prayer as it's read aloud.

Being able to pray to God really is amazing. God promises that if we are followers of Jesus, he'll listen to us in the same way that a great dad listens to his children. And, as the Bible story tells us over and over again, God always keeps all of his promises!





**GOD'S BIG PROMISES**

**Prayers**  
based on  
**The Old Testament**

# In the Beginning

1

In the beginning, God made everything. The best thing God made was a man and a woman to be friends with him and take care of the world. It was all very good.



The Bible says, “God created human beings in his image ... He created them male and female. God blessed them.”

(Genesis chapter 1 verses 27-28)



Dear God,  
You made the stars and the mountains, the seas and the rivers. **Wow!**  
You made all the fish and birds and every plant and every animal, including the ones I love the most! **Wow!**  
You made everything from nothing.  
I praise you for your power and imagination.  
**Thank you**, God, most of all, for making me. Amen.

## In the Garden

God gave the first people a wonderful garden to live in. They could enjoy life with God forever. There was just one tree that God told them not to eat from – the tree that showed who was in charge.



“The Lord God commanded [the man], ‘You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil.’” (Genesis 2:16-17)



Dear God,  
We know that you are in charge of this world.  
You always know what is best for us, because you made us.

**Thank you** that you put so many good things in this world for us to enjoy. **Thank you** that you give us good rules that help us enjoy everything.

**Please** keep reminding us that your ways are always best. Amen.

# The Snake and the Tree

Adam and Eve listened to the snake instead of to God. They decided to disobey God, and ate from the tree God had told them not to eat from. But they did not feel as happy as they had before.



“The woman ... took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.”

(Genesis 3:6)



Dear God,

It is sad that the first people chose to disobey you instead of loving and obeying you.

Sometimes we are tempted to do the same thing.

Sometimes we think that disobeying you will be good. But it never is.

So, we are **sorry** for the times when we don't obey you.

**Thank you** that you always love us, even when we disobey you. Amen.

# Out of the Garden

Because Adam and Eve had sinned by not loving and obeying God, they could not enjoy life with God forever. But God promised that one day someone would put everything right again.



“The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)



Dear God,

The world has gone wrong because people sin. I am **sorry** for the ways that I sin by not loving and obeying you.

**Thank you** that you can forgive me and help me do the right thing next time.

**Thank you** for promising us that one day Jesus will put everything right again!

**Thank you** that you always keep your promises.

Amen.

# Noah Builds an Ark

5

God told Noah to build a huge boat so that he would be safe when God sent a flood. Noah believed God's promise, so he did as God said. When the flood came, God kept Noah's family safe in the ark.



“Noah did everything that God commanded him.” (Genesis 6:22)



Dear God,

**Thank you** that you warned Noah about the flood.

**Thank you** that you told him to build a boat.

**Thank you** that you speak to me in the Bible to help me know what to do, too. Your commands are always good and right. **Thank you** that I can trust you when you tell me what to do.

**Please** help me to listen to you and obey you, just like Noah did.

Amen.

# The First Rainbow

God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. He promised never to flood the world again, and put a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of his promise.



“God said to Noah, ‘That rainbow is a sign. It is the sign of the agreement that I made with all living things on earth.’”

(Genesis 9:17)



Dear God,

**Thank you** that you rescued Noah and his family from the flood, just as you had promised.

**Thank you** that you have made promises to me.

You have promised to love me and look after me.

You have promised to forgive me if I ask you to.

You always keep your promises. **Wow!**

**Please** remind me of that whenever I see a rainbow in the sky.

Amen.

# The Tall Tower

7

People worked together to disobey God. They built a tower to show how great they were. God stopped them building, so that they would spread out and fill the world, just as he had planned.



“The Lord scattered them from there over all the earth. And they stopped building the city. That is where the Lord confused the language of the whole world.”

(Genesis 11:8-9)



Dear God,

You have a good plan to make sure that there are people all over the world who love and obey you.

**Thank you** that your good plans always happen and that no one can stop them.

**Thank you** for people who have gone to live in other countries so that they can spread the news about you there. **Please** give them bravery and energy.

Today, right now, **please** cause more people in more countries to become your friends. Amen.



## God's Promises to Abram

God promised Abram a huge family and a good land to live in. They would live under God's rule and be happy. God promised to use Abram's family to bring that happiness to people all over the world. Abram believed God.



“Then the Lord said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your relatives and your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you.

I will make you a great nation,  
and I will bless you ...

And all the people on earth  
will be blessed through you.’”

(Genesis 12:1-3)



Dear God,

You make big promises, and you keep your big promises.

**Thank you** that you have promised us that you will always love us, that you are with us, and that all your people will enjoy life with you forever.

**Please** help us believe your promises, just as Abram believed the promises you gave him.

**Please** help us to obey you, just like Abram obeyed you.

**Please** help us to show people around us how great it is to know you. Amen.

# Stars in the Sky

Abram's wife, Sarai, could not have children, but God promised that their family would become so big, it would be like the stars in the sky. Abram believed God's impossible, unbreakable promise.



“God said, ‘Look at the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. And your descendants will be too many to count.’

Abram believed the Lord. And the Lord accepted Abram's faith, and that faith made him right with God.” (Genesis 15:5-6)



Dear God,

I know that you are super-powerful and that you are always good. You can keep promises that would be impossible for anyone else to keep. **Wow!**

**Thank you** that none of your promises can ever be broken.

**Please** help me to be like Abram and believe in your promises to me, even when they seem impossible.

Amen.

## A Baby at Last

When Abraham and Sarah were nearly 100 years old, God gave them a son. They called him Isaac. They laughed with happiness that God had kept his impossible promise.



“Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. And Sarah said, ‘God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.’” (Genesis 21:5-6)



Dear God,  
You gave Abraham and Sarah a son even though it was impossible. **Wow!**

**Thank you** that we can see in this true story that you always keep your promises.

Sometimes things happen that make us feel sad or worried. **Please** remind us that you are always keeping all of your promises. As we think about that, **please** give us the same happiness that you gave Abraham and Sarah. Amen.