

## Why include the Bible in Quaker religious education?

The stories of the Bible are our stories as people of God, Friends, and culturally literate members of the world community. Whether Friends are teaching Bible stories or the Quaker testimonies to children, the Bible offers context and language for understanding. To delve into early Quakers' connection to scripture, or the connection between the three Abrahamic faiths, stories from the Christian Bible are an important tool. These stories offer inspiration, dilemma, and questions we continue to wonder about today.



### Why Teach the Bible to Young Friends?

*by Sita Diehl, Nashville Meeting, SAYMA*

From panel remarks delivered at the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative retreat, August 19, 2017 at Quaker Hill, Richmond, Indiana. (<https://goo.gl/nYQgBa>)

### Bible Orientation – 3 Lessons

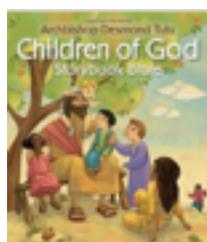
*by Beth Collea, NEYM Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator*

An "orientation" to exploring the Bible with children. ([neym.org/qye/fds/lessons/bible-orientation-3-lessons](http://neym.org/qye/fds/lessons/bible-orientation-3-lessons))

"Our children need a conceptual framework and fuller sense of the narrative arc of the Bible in order to make sense out of Bible stories. We often teach stand alone lessons to compensate for sporadic attendance. To the children, this can seem like offering them loose pearls which are easily lost. These lessons give them a stand to hold the pearls, acquaint them with the structure of the Bible, and highlight Quaker themes found in various passages to pull it all into the broader Quaker framework as well."

### Suggested Children's Bibles

Desmond Tutu's "Children of God Storybook Bible" includes multicultural art work (ages 0-5)  
Dorling Kindersley's "The Children's Illustrated Bible" (ages 6-12)



### A reflection on Children's Bibles From Friends General Conference:

*by Michael Gibson, former FGC Religious Education Coordinator*

A comprehensive commentary on seven children's Bibles; explores their style, age appropriateness, and approach, including how the different authors treat some of the same passages, such as the creation story in Genesis.

[www.fgcquaker.org/resources/children-s-bibles](http://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/children-s-bibles)

## Bible Curricula from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

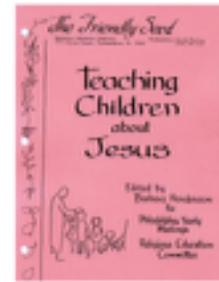
Edited by Barbara Caldwell

[www.pym.org/religious-education/curricula/](http://www.pym.org/religious-education/curricula/)

[Teaching The Old Testament To Quaker Children](#)

[Teaching Children About Jesus - Part 1](#)

[Teaching Children About Jesus - Part 2](#)



## Teaching the Bible To Quakers – Lessons compiled by Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Religious Education Committee

Lesson ideas for Old and New Testament, for various ages of children and youth.

[sites.google.com/site/bymreligioused/first-day-school-ideas/topics/teaching-the-bible-activities](https://sites.google.com/site/bymreligioused/first-day-school-ideas/topics/teaching-the-bible-activities)



## How is Godly Play® a resource for Friends?

A growing body of Friends use this Montessori-based resource and method to teach stories from the Bible. Bible material is presented in a way that invites children to experientially find themselves in the stories and is open to continuing revelation. Friends find this a welcoming and Quaker-friendly way to approach the Bible and the Judeo-Christian heritage.

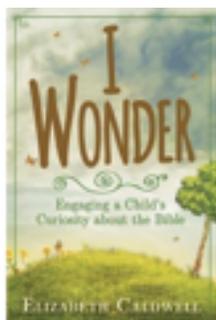
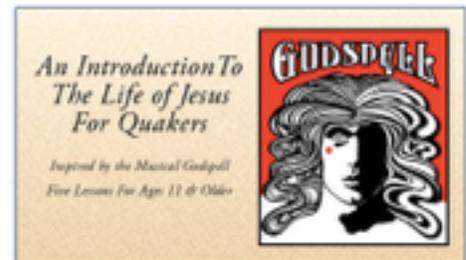
For ideas about using Godly Play and Faith & Play stories in First Day programs, contact [faithandplaystories@gmail.com](mailto:faithandplaystories@gmail.com).

## An Introduction to the Life of Jesus for Quakers

*KidsQuake: A Quaker Youth Outreach Project*  
created by Dana Kester-McCabe

Learn about Jesus' life as it was told in the musical *Godspell* and the New Testament gospels of Matthew and Luke in five multimedia lessons. Each lesson covers one part of Jesus' story and a little bit about how it relates to Quakerism. There are also queries for discussion.

([friendsmedia.org/index.php/kidsquake/article/an-introductionto-the-life-of-jesus](http://friendsmedia.org/index.php/kidsquake/article/an-introductionto-the-life-of-jesus))



## I Wonder: Engaging a Child's Curiosity about the Bible

by Elizabeth Caldwell

"A resource for adults who want to explore ways to help children read, engage, wrestle, and grow into deeper understanding of the Bible. It will also help readers address timeless questions and issues including recent biblical scholarship, literary analysis, reading the Bible from their social location and reading the Bible in a multi-faith world."

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