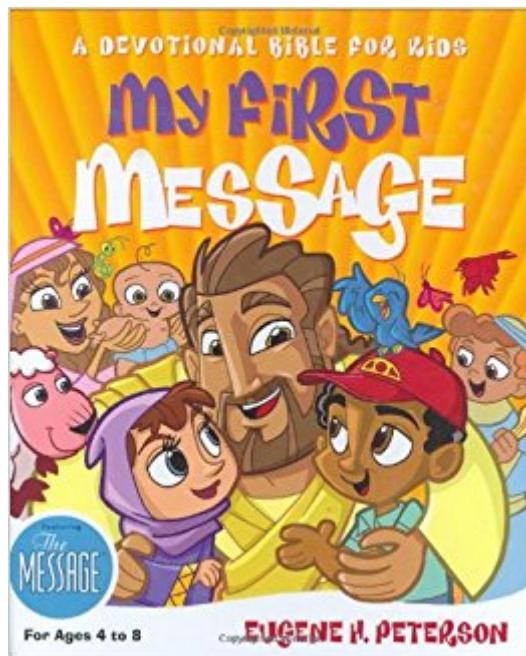


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# My First Message



## **Synopsis**

Parents want their children to discover the value of God's Word. My First Message is a one-of-a-kind Bible that transforms family devotions into interactive experiences. The great Message style offers a version of the Bible that is easy to read and understand. Children ages 4-8 are encouraged to learn to study the Bible through a "read, think, pray, and live" approach. Filled with lively illustrations and fun activities for parents and children, My First Message keeps in mind the short attention span of its readers and moves the stories along at a good pace.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: NavPress (May 31, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1576834484

ISBN-13: 978-1576834480

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 1 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #48,941 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Bible > Reference & Interpretation #349 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens #361 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bibles

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

A unique devotional Bible designed to encourage parent-child interaction, My First Message introduces children to God's Word through the best-selling Message Bible text, lively illustrations, short lessons, and a format that considers a small attention span. Much more than a storybook, it's an easy and fun way for parents to teach their children about God's Word and learn a lifelong devotional method. Features include: \*A unique devotional Bible for children ages 4 to 8 \*An illustrated design \*Each story designed to be read in 10-15 minutes \*Durable casebound cover \*Fun activities for parents and children

EUGENE H. PETERSON is a pastor, scholar, writer, and poet. He has authored more than twenty books, including *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, *The Contemplative Pastor*, and *Leap*

Over a Wall. He is Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Eugene founded Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland, where he was the pastor for twenty-nine years. He lives with his wife, Jan, in Montana. They have three children and six grandchildren.

I LOVE this devotional. My 4 year old understands most of the stories and sometimes I break it down just a little more for her but the questions it tells parent's to ask hit really spot on and let me know if she is comprehending the material or not! And then I can keep going or stop and break it down further. Such a good children's Bible!!

We bought this Bible for our 4 year old son as an Easter gift, expecting to use it for a couple years until he was reading enough to move up to a "real" Bible. We read a Bible story each night, and he takes his My First Message Bible to church with us each week. We love the format of the book, including the Message text, the illustrations, the discussion questions, and the ideas for follow up after the story. However, the binding on the book is awful. It began to fall apart after just a couple weeks. In comparison, we have two other children's Bibles ("The Rhyme Bible" and "The Beginners Bible"), both purchased used, and both also carried around and read from for over a year, and neither one has an issue with the binding. The cover on our copy of My First Message is almost completely off the book, despite all of our attempts to handle it carefully. We've owned it for barely 5 months. It's a great book, but really cheaply made. If you only want to read from this once a week, it might last longer, but it's not well constructed for daily use for a child in the targeted age group. I wish our son could continue to use it for another year or so, but we're going to have to look for something more durable.

I bought this Bible to read to my kids (ages 2,4,6) every night before bed. We really like it, they get really into it and understand it well. I like that its to the point and not too wordy like some of the other Bible story books out there that speculate a lot as well as adding a lot of storyish writing. This seems really to be more true to the Bible just broken down for kids. I would like for it to be longer and include more of the Bible though. It really only hits the most well known stories so there is a lot left untold and you will read through it very quickly. We did really enjoy that on each page there are questions to ask your children as you are reading to them as well as a prayer to pray at the end of each chapter. This makes it really nice for bedtime and keeps the children engaged and thinking about the story. Even though I have some things I would change about it I would still purchase it

again.

Great book to use for night time devotion. It has a few engaging questions through the story to ask your child. At the end of the story it offers a open ended prayer suggestion along with a couple actions that can be done that are relevant to the presented story. My 5yr old son loves the book's presentation and format.

My grandson is 5 years old and his mom wanted a good bedtime book for him. She says he loves hearing the stories every night and she would definitely recommend it to anyone.

I bought a small started bible for my boys and when they were done I wanted something to bridge the gap between a toddler bible and a young adult bible, this is perfect!

Most children's Bibles offer simplified retellings of Scripture. This one doesn't. This book tells real Bible stories, from Genesis to Revelation; it even uses the same text as the adult version. Toss in kid-friendly cartoon illustrations and age-appropriate applications and you've got an excellent study Bible to keep kids interested in Scripture. The devotional format encourages children to Read, Think, Pray and Live.-- Read: Included are 50 Bible stories. Biblical references are clearly featured.-- Think: Colorful "bubble" sidebars ask questions to involve children in the story. For example, the chapter on Exodus 7-11 (The Plagues) asks "What does it mean to be stubborn?" and "Would you change your mind if all these things were happening to you? Why or why not?"-- Pray: Prayer prompts are at the end of each chapter. After reading about the good Samaritan, children are encouraged to "pray for neighbors on your block, in your school and around the world."-- Live: A special character, Manty the praying mantis, details fun activities and applications right next to the prayer prompts. Some are service activites or ways to reach out to friends at school. Others are drawing or craft projects. All of them reinforce the lessons from the stories. Additional features include a parents' guide (in the front of the book), vocabulary words (definitions offered in the margins), and hidden Mannys (Manny the praying mantis is hidden in several of the illustrations). Rob Corley and Tom Bancroft have filled this book with inviting illustrations kids love. The characters are distinct (as opposed to some children's Bibles where every character looks the same) and active. Their cartoony, comic book style comes from over 30 years combined experience in animation, most of which while working for Disney. What I Like: This is the first children's Bible I've found to make real age-appropriate connections. For example, the author makes the story of Jonah

personal, understandable by saying "God sent Jonah to time-out in the belly of a huge fish." (This is in the Pray section, not the story section.) It then encourages kids to confess their sins to God and ask Him to help them obey. I think this is a fabulous application! I also really like the introductory material. The front of the book gives several pages of parent helps to direct them in how to use this book with their children, how to effectively teach their children to love God. What I Dislike: Some of the illustrations are a little odd, but this may be my more conservative nature popping through. My kids LOVE this book, especially the illustrations. It's the new favorite Bible in our house -- and we have a lot! Overall Rating: Excellent. Tanya -- Christian Children's Book Review

This is one of the best kids Bibles we've seen. I really like that it's interactive. There are kid-friendly questions in bubbles near the text. Then each story ends with good suggestions for prayer & creative ideas for activities to help kids think about the topic more and ways to apply it in their own lives. The pictures are great too - in a cartoon style, but pretty accurate to middle-eastern culture. My only critiques are that I was disappointed that Abraham & Sarah's story isn't included (it jumps from the flood to Jacob & Esau), and that a lot of the text isn't in kid language. It would be nice if the text could be adapted more for kids because it's occasionally awkward, since it's trying to follow the original Biblical text so closely.

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