

A photograph of a sunlit forest with tall trees and a red diagonal overlay. The sun is shining through the trees, creating a bright glow and lens flare. The red overlay is a large triangle that covers the bottom right portion of the image.

AN INTERACTIVE  
FAMILY  
DEVOTIONAL

*Glorious* **GOD**  
*Glorious* **GOSPEL**

**Truth:78**

SALLY MICHAEL & JILL NELSON

There is no more important assignment for parents than the spiritual development of your children. Nothing matters more. Nothing. And *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* is going to make this task a whole lot easier for a lot of moms and dads.

**BOB LEPINE**, *Co-Host, FamilyLife Today®*

*Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* is one of the most creative, practical, and biblically-faithful overviews of central aspects of Gospel truth available for parents to use with their children. I can only imagine the hours of joyful learning and sharing that will take place in homes where these lessons are studied together. What a wonderful tool for families, and for the next generations of Christians who know the Gospel and know their gracious and glorious God well.

**BRUCE WARE**, *Ph.D., Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of Big Truths for Young Hearts*

We know how loud and unavoidable the voice of the world is that speaks into the lives of our children, and we long for God's voice to be heard in their lives. *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* provides everything parents need for meaningful, interactive discussions about foundational truths and essential equipping for every parent who is intimidated by the idea of leading family times focused on biblical truth.

**NANCY GUTHRIE**, *author of One Year of Dinner Table Devotions & Discussion-Starters*

Sally Michael and Jill Nelson have captured the essence of their entire Sunday school curriculum in one easy-to-use family devotional. Use *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* with your family and take your children through a heart-engaging study of our awesome God and His merciful Gospel rescue. You'll be so glad you did, and so will your kids.

**MARTY MACHOWSKI**, *pastor and author of The Ology, The Gospel Story Bible, and Dragon Seed*

All parents want to pass on Gospel truths to our children but we sometimes feel inadequate or inconsistent. *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* helps fathers and mothers introduce the deep and delightful truths of Scripture to our children, skillfully targeting their hearts, minds, and wills. The layout is easy to read, the structure is flexible for different family schedules, and the supplemental materials aid application. This book is an incredibly valuable tool for parents who want to guide their family through God's wise and wonderful plan of salvation.

**NICOLE WHITACRE**, *author of True Feelings, True Beauty, and Girl Talk: Mother-Daughter Conversations on Biblical Womanhood*

One of the most pressing needs when it comes to training parents to disciple their children is simple, interactive, Gospel-centered family devotional curriculum. *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* fills that gap admirably.

**TIMOTHY PAUL JONES**, *Ph.D., Professor of Christian Family Ministry, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of Family Ministry Field Guide*

Children are gifts from God and are examples of His amazing grace and generosity. Parenting those children is rewarding, but it is also intimidating. We are to faithfully raise them in the discipline and instruction of God's Word. That is a daunting task. And resources like *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* help make that task less intimidating. Sally Michael and Jill Nelson have produced a remarkable devotional that will help us glorify God through the faithful, systematic, and thorough teaching of God's glorious Gospel to our children, that they might live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

**ANDREW ROGERS**, *Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Counseling, Boyce College*

In *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* you will find superb interactive material which expresses the riches of the Bible in child-appropriate language and ideas with plenty to engage their young hearts and minds. But this is more than just another resource for family devotions.

Consider these words: 'Solid theology. Rich spiritual food.' Not usually associated with family devotions material *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* is full of these things. It will enable parents to fulfill their calling to raise their children to know and love God in Christ deeply.

What about these words: 'God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated'? *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* contains the biblical themes emphasized in the ministry of John Piper. It will enable families to aim high in what they communicate to and desire for their children.

**IAN FRY**, *Associate Minister for Families, St. Ebbe's Church, Oxford, England*

*Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* is a great new tool to help you disciple your children. These are deep, biblical truths about God and the Gospel. Nothing fluffy or fuzzy, here. And while it's filled with questions to spark conversation and increase understanding, the real goal is to engage your kid's hearts. Reading these devotions, I found myself regularly responding, "Yes, that's true! God really is glorious!" That's how we pray our children will respond, by God's grace, with loving hearts and joyful obedience.

**BRUCE HOFFMIRE**, *Pastor of Children's Ministries, CrossWay Community Church, Bristol, Wis.*

---

---

*I give thanks to you,  
O Lord my God,  
with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify  
your name forever.*

PSALM 86:12

---

---



# CONTENTS

Preface .....	ix
Introduction .....	xi
<b>01 Knowing God's Word .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>02 Knowing God's Divine Character .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>03 Knowing God's Glorious Deeds .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>04 Knowing God's Purpose for His People .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>05 Knowing God's Promises .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>06 Honoring the Most High God .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>07 Treasuring God Most .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>08 God Calls His People to Be Holy .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>09 All Have Sinned .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>10 God's Gracious Redemptive Plan .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>11 Jesus, the Only Savior .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>12 Daily Walking With Jesus .....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>13 Everything Needed for Walking With Jesus ....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>14 Living Together As God's Family .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>15 Living for the Glory of God .....</b>	<b>134</b>
About Truth78 .....	145
The Authors .....	151



# PREFACE

As parents, we want many things to be true of our children as they grow and mature. For example, we want our children to be loving, respectful, caring, productive, motivated, resilient, happy, and more. All are good things and worthwhile goals. All require some measure of our time and attention as we instruct and train our children toward these goals. But consider these words from 3 John 1:4:

*I have no greater joy than to hear that  
my children are walking in the truth.*

This simple statement can serve to orient all of our parenting. It directs us to what is most important: More than anything else, our children need to know, embrace, and walk in the truth—the truth of God. The truth revealed in His Word has the power to make them wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ—the truth that all-satisfying and everlasting joy is found in Him alone, the truth that saving faith will be evidenced by a life that submits to the Savior and walks in His ways.

What a wonderful privilege and sacred responsibility God has entrusted to us! It aims and steers our parenting toward one grand vision for our children, which is reflected in Truth78's Vision Statement:

**Our vision is that the next generations know,  
honor, and treasure God, setting their hope  
in Christ alone, so that they will live as  
faithful disciples for the glory of God.**

This resource has been developed to help parents in this grand endeavor. This tool is meant to be a small part of a lifetime of teaching, training, and discipling children in the Word of God.

**At its very heart, *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* is meant to clearly and succinctly summarize the essence, means, and goal of the Gospel.**

We hope and pray that you find it a valuable tool that serves your family as you explore together the majestic truth of our glorious God and His glorious Gospel!

A man and a young girl are running together outdoors. The man, on the left, is wearing a grey t-shirt and tan shorts, and is laughing with his mouth open. The girl, on the right, is wearing a white t-shirt and light blue shorts, and is also smiling. They are holding hands, and the man is holding the girl's hand. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting with trees and foliage. The overall mood is joyful and energetic.

*When God speaks  
through the Bible,*

**THINGS  
HAPPEN.**

# KNOWING GOD'S WORD

## INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS



President Theodore Roosevelt once said:

**A thorough knowledge of the Bible  
is more important than a college education.**

Whatever Roosevelt's intention in saying this, his statement is true. It is true because the sovereign God of the universe has revealed Himself in a Book that can be read, studied, and understood. That, in and of itself, is a glorious reality. Furthermore, it is through this Book—the Scriptures—that we learn the most important truths ever given to man, truths that are essential for our lasting joy. The Bible acquaints us with God's divine character, His glorious works and deeds, and His redemptive purposes accomplished through Christ on behalf of His chosen people.

There is a popular trend, especially seen in children's Bible materials, that highlights these truths by conveying that the Bible is, first and foremost, a *story*. Yes, in one sense, the Bible is one grand story, and our children need to know the metanarrative of Scripture that unifies and clarifies all the diverse books, genres, and themes. However, the Bible is also much more than a story! It is the God-breathed, authoritative Word of God. God has given it innate power. It is crucial that we teach our children this greater understanding of the Bible so that they might be encouraged to truly know, love, and trust the Author of the Bible and joyfully submit their lives to Him.

**GATHER:** Bible, tissue or piece of paper

## PIQUE THEIR INTEREST



Ask each member of the family to name a favorite book and then briefly describe a favorite character, event, or some other quality he or she likes about the book.

There are many wonderful books. Some are silly stories that make us laugh. Some may be sad in parts but have a “happily ever after” ending. These are often “pretend” stories. But some books tell true stories of exciting adventures that make us want to join in, or that tell us about someone who has done something wonderful. Other books teach us important things we need to know. No matter how old or young you are, books are really special.

But there is one book that stands apart from all others. **What is this book?** (Hold up a BIBLE.)

- ? **Why does the Bible stand apart from all other books? Why is it so special?** (Encourage a few brief responses.)

## INSTRUCT THE MIND



Read and interact with the following Scriptures.

*All Scripture is breathed out by God...*  
—2 TIMOTHY 3:16A

**ILLUSTRATE:** Have your child hold a PIECE OF PAPER or TISSUE in front of his face and instruct him to blow on the paper or tissue like he is blowing out a candle. **Where did the air that moved the paper or tissue come from?** [inside of your child]

- ? **Where did the words of the Bible—all Scripture—come from?** [God. It was as if God “breathed them out.”] **So, even though God**

used men to write the words we see in the Bible, who is actually speaking to us when we read the Bible? [God]

*Every word of God proves true;—PROVERBS 30:5A*

*...your word is truth.—JOHN 17:17B*

- ❓ Is some of the Bible true? Is most of it true? What do these two verses tell us? [Every word proves true. The entire Bible is truth.] So when the Bible says something about what God is like or how we are to act toward Him, does it have the “final say”? Should we believe what God has said?

*Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed  
in the heavens.—PSALM 119:89*

ILLUSTRATE: What would make a better road to drive on? Cement or ice? What will happen to the ice on a warm sunny day? How can this example help us to understand this verse?

- ❓ Will the words of the Bible ever change and become unreliable? Will God change His mind and decide to tell us something different from what He has told us in the Bible? What three words does this verse use to tell us that God's Word will not change? [forever, firmly, fixed] Can you think of one example in which people are now trying to say that God's Word is no longer relevant or true?

**God's Word is  
able to revive  
the soul, make  
wise the simple,  
rejoice the heart,  
and enlighten  
the eyes.**

*The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise  
the simple; <sup>8</sup>the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD  
is pure, enlightening the eyes;—PSALM 19:7-8*

- ❓ In these verses, what do the words “law,” “testimony,” “precepts,” and “commandments” have in common? [They are all “of the LORD”—God. They are all part of the Bible.]

- ❓ **According to these verses, what four things is God’s Word able to do in our lives?** [revive the soul, make wise the simple, rejoice the heart, and enlighten the eyes] **Why is God’s Word able to do these kinds of things?** [It is perfect, sure, right, and pure. It’s powerful, and is from God Himself. It is “living and active.” (See Hebrews 4:12.)]
- ❓ Suppose someone said, “All that’s very nice, but I really don’t need the Bible.” **What would you say to him?** (Encourage some brief responses and then read the text below.)

*...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.—2 TIMOTHY 3:15*

- ❓ **Why must you know the Bible?** [It’s able to make a person wise for salvation through faith in Christ.]

## SUMMARY

The Bible is like no other book. Yes, in some ways the Bible is a type of story—“the best, true story ever written.” But the Bible is much more than a story. The Bible is the one true God telling us the most important things we need to know. We need to know who He is, what He is like, and how we are to act toward Him. When God tells us something in the Bible, that is the way it is. God has the final say. There is no higher authority. When God speaks through the Bible, things happen. The Bible is powerful and active. When God speaks through the Bible, everyone must listen—both children and adults, people in our neighborhood, and people all around the world. Through the Bible, God tells us about our greatest need and problem, and God’s perfect provision and solution. The Bible tells us the only way to have lasting joy and happiness.

**Through the Bible, God tells us about our greatest need and problem, and God’s perfect provision and solution. The Bible tells us the only way to have lasting joy and happiness.**

No other book is more important than the Bible. It is “one of a kind” and perfect in every way. It is God’s Holy Word.

## ENGAGE THE HEART



Choose one or more of the following topics to discuss. You may need to simplify the language or concepts for younger children. Suggestions for wording changes and questions specifically geared toward younger children are provided in parentheses.

### GOD-BREATHED SCRIPTURE

There are more than 31,000 verses in the Bible...all of them coming from God Himself. **What does this tell you about God?**

Point your child to the vastness of God’s wisdom and knowledge, the protection of God over His Word, which was produced by 44 human authors over a period of about 1,500 years, and God’s desire to communicate with man.

**Why is it so important to God to preserve a written record of His commands and deeds? The Bible is a great gift to us. How is God’s grace and kindness shown in giving us the Bible? How can you tell if you treasure the Bible?**

(What would happen if God’s Word was not written and we only heard it from what people have remembered about it? What does having a written Word of God show you about the wisdom and goodness of God?)

### EVERY WORD TRUE

**Why is truth more important than opinion? What verses or parts of the Bible are easy for you to trust? What verses or parts are harder for you to trust? Why? How can you measure how much you trust in the truthfulness of God’s Word?**

(Suppose you read a verse in the Bible that tells you something you must do—like obey your parents, as it says in Ephesians 6:1. Would it be okay for you to say, “I don’t really have to do what it says”? Why not?)

## FOREVER FIXED

Why is it important that God’s Word is “forever fixed” or permanent? What are some things in your life that might change? How does that affect you? What is most troubling or worrisome? What things will not change? What is most comforting about this? What can you be confident or sure of? Is there a verse you can stand on for reassurance, peace, and stability (comfort, peace, encouragement, and strength)? What about this verse gives you confidence for the future?

Why would it be inadequate (not enough, not complete) to say that the Bible is mostly a story? Why is it so important that the Bible is more than a story? What “more” is it? Why is this so important? How does this affect your life?

(The word “authoritative” means that it can be trusted as being correct and true. What does it mean that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God?<sup>1</sup> If the Bible was only a story and not God’s authoritative Word, what would that mean?)

*Every word of  
God proves true;*

PROVERBS 30:5A

## THE BLESSING OF GOD’S LAW

The words “law,” “testimony,” “precepts,” and “commandments” in Psalm 19 mean God’s whole mind and will—everything that God wants us to believe and do. It is God’s whole teaching on what we should think and how we should act.

Explain how the words “perfect,” “sure,” “right,” and “pure” rightly characterize or describe God’s Word.

<sup>1</sup>Make sure that your child understands not only that it is correct and true, but also it carries the weight of demanding obedience.

How does the Bible—the wisdom and will of God—revive the soul? How does it make the simple wise? How does it cause the heart to rejoice? How does it enlighten the eyes?

Make sure your child understands that when the Bible “enlightens the eyes,” it opens our eyes to our sinfulness, the holy and righteous nature of God, our need for a Savior or sin-bearer, and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Explain one way that the Bible has refreshed you or given you hope, one way it has given you wisdom by showing you the right thing to think or do, one way it has caused you to rejoice, and one way that it has opened your eyes to the character of God and your true condition.

**Are there any verses that you can share that have been especially encouraging, helpful, comforting, or convicting to you? What is it about these verses that has touched your heart?**

## SALVATION

Knowing the Bible is not the same as knowing or having a relationship with God. **How is the Bible “able to make you wise for salvation”? How can we obtain salvation?**

Make sure your child knows that faith in Jesus is more than just believing that He came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again. Help your child understand what it means to place your confidence in Jesus, trusting in Him alone for salvation, and entrusting your future to Him so as to embrace His lordship.

How can we pray for you?

**INFLUENCE THE  
WILL**



What action or actions can you take this week to strengthen your determination to read the Word, memorize the Word, or trust the Word?





Who is God, and what is He like? Why do I exist? How am I to act toward God? What is my greatest problem and need? What has God done to solve this problem? How can I be saved? How should I now live?

This family devotional is designed to help your children answer these important questions and ground them in the essential, foundational, and glorious truths of the Gospel.

Additionally, the interactive format is meant to encourage your children toward life-transforming faith in Christ by guiding, inspiring, and imploring them to personally and sincerely respond to God's truth with their minds, hearts, and wills. Each chapter includes three major, distinct sections to accomplish this:

INSTRUCT THE  
**MIND**



ENGAGE THE  
**HEART**



INFLUENCE THE  
**WILL**



*"Glorious God, Glorious Gospel is one of the most creative, practical, and biblically-faithful overviews of central aspects of Gospel truth available for parents to use with their children."*

**BRUCE WARE, PH.D.**

*Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

*"There is no more important assignment for parents than the spiritual development of your children. Nothing matters more, and *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* is going to make this task a whole lot easier for a lot of moms and dads."*

**BOB LEPINE**

*Co-Host, FamilyLife Today®*

*"Use *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* with your family and take your children through a heart-engaging study of our awesome God and His merciful Gospel rescue."*

**MARTY MACHOWSKI**

*Pastor and author of  
The Gospel Story Bible*

*"Glorious God, Glorious Gospel provides everything parents need for meaningful, interactive discussions about foundational truths."*

**NANCY GUTHRIE**

*Author of One Year of Dinner Table Devotions & Discussion Starters*

SALLY MICHAEL and JILL NELSON are the authors for Truth78. They have written a combined total of 27 curricula, 11 books, and countless resources to equip churches and parents for the spiritual development of the next generations.

TRUTH78 is a vision-oriented ministry for the next generations—that they may know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

**Truth:78**

Equipping the Next Generations  
to Know, Honor, and Treasure God

[Truth78.org](http://Truth78.org)

