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Long Story Short: Ten-Minute Devotions To Draw Your Family To God



Synopsis

Transform Your Family with Ten Minutes a Day in the Gospel Story Christian parents know the importance of passing the gospel story on to their children, yet we live in a busy world filled with distractions. Schedules collide, there is homework and yard work and dishes and laundry, the car's oil should be changed, there are phone calls to make and before you know it, everyone is getting to bed late again. The Bible can seem like a long story for an active family to read, but when you break it down into short sections, as Marty Machowski does, family devotions are easy to do. Long Story Short will help busy parents share with their children how every story in the Old Testament points forward to God's story of salvation through Jesus Christ. You won't find a more important focus for a family devotional than a daily highlighting of the gospel of grace. Clever stories and good moral lessons may entertain and even help children, but the gospel will transform children. The gospel is deep enough to keep the oldest and wisest parents learning and growing all their lives, yet simple enough to transform the heart of the first grader who has just begun to read. Ten minutes a day, five days a week is enough time to pass on the most valuable treasure the world has ever known. Long Story Short is a family devotional program designed to explain God's plan of salvation through the Old Testament and is suitable for children from preschool through high school. This devotional is also a companion product to the Gospel Story Curriculum which is available at New Growth Press. 2012 ECPA Christian Book Award Finalist!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are looking for a book to help you teach the Old Testament in a Gospel Saturated, God

-Centered way you have found it! Each story points to Jesus! The book is chronological, teaching 78 of the main stories and characters of the Old Testament. Each week one story / character is taught. 3 days are spent on the actual story, one day is spent seeing how this story points to Jesus, and the 5th day a different Bible passage is read with the purpose of seeing what it teaches about Jesus. This book is appropriate for preschool - elementary children as written. It could be modified fairly easily for younger and older children so the whole family can learn together. Each week starts with an object lesson of some type. This relates to the story for the week. There are (usually) short passages from the Bible to read each day. (This is important, we want children to hear God's Word.) Then, the author does a brief recap of what the Scripture says. I have found these recaps to be very accurate and worded in ways that will help children understand. Next there are a few focus questions to discuss the story. Finally there is a prayer suggestion. The book claims to be "Ten-Minute Devotions" and it is possible that it could be finished in 10 minutes. I believe that many parents and children will stretch the 10 minutes! I love the way the author teaches great truths about God drawn from the story or character being studied. The one weakness I see is that there are no pictures! The book is intended for adults to read to children, but many children will benefit from pictures to help them understand the story. A Bible story book is due out in about a year from the same author that will have pictures.

"Daddy, can we read from the blue book today?" My oldest daughter asks this every night, which should tell you how much she enjoys going through Long Story Short: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God by Marty Machowski. Although we'd been consistent in reading stories from (more or less) age-appropriate storybook Bibles since Abigail was about 18 months old, we hadn't yet tried out "doing devotions" with her. I had no idea how to really get started and I really wasn't sure if she'd be interested at all. (At this point, our 2 year-old, Hannah, participate all that much, but still likes to hear the "Bible stowies.") When I was first recommended Long Story Short I was intrigued. This devotional covers the entire Old Testament through 78 weekly lessons, showing how it all points to Jesus. The format of each week is simple: days one and two are spent in your primary passage, day three typically looks at a New Testament passage that directly relates to the main story, day four returns to the main story for its conclusion and day five is a reading from either the Prophets or Psalms that talks about Jesus. And like the subtitle says, it really does take only about ten minutes a night to read the passage, go over the brief explanation provided in the book and wrap up with a few discussion questions. Since November, this has been our family's practice at dinner time; so far, it's been a big hit. The content is solid, Abigail loves the discussion,

and we're seeing real growth in our family's worship of Jesus in a couple of interesting ways. First, our family devotions have caused us to begin to address some subjects that we might prefer to downplay or ignore to all of our detriment.

I have used, read, and evaluated many, many children/family devotionals over the years, and this one ranks as my all time favorite! I cannot wait for the New Testament edition to be released in October 2012. There are several reasons why this devotional is especially unique: 1. It is written from a God-Centered, Gospel-Centered, Christ-Centered foundation. God is Holy. Christ is Worthy. This is not a man-centered approach that leads the reader to believe that the Bible is "all about us", but instead leads the reader to know the truth: The Bible is all about God --and how He chose to redeem mankind to Him! 2. It asks the parent to actually read the Bible. Although there is a Story Bible by the same publisher (that is excellent), this resource actually has the parent read from actual Scripture. The Scripture selections are not long, but are sufficient for the story that is being taught. 3. The devotionals are short enough to hold the attention of small children (as young as 3), but thorough enough that the parents leading will also be challenged and taught. 4. There are 5 days of devotions for each week. On day 3, the devotion leads the family to look at how Christ fulfilled or is implicated in the Old Testament story. It shows that Christ was there with God from the beginning, and that the OT is a foreshadow of His coming redemption. On day 5, the devotional leads the family to Psalms or Proverbs or one of the Prophets and also points towards Christ. 5. It isn't "light" on doctrine. Even though it is written for family devotions, this does not dumb down sound doctrine and leads the parent to teach foundational doctrinal truths. 6. Finally, each major "story" of the OT is given a full week of learning and study. For example, Week 22 is "Joseph's Dream."

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