



Bibles for Bubs

Overview

The Bibles for Bubs project introduces children to the Bible from a very young age by providing their parents with age-appropriate Bibles and resources in the first five years of their life. The project enables families to engage with the Bible and encourages them to develop a family Bible reading practice.

The Need

Reading aloud to children is one of the most rewarding and beneficial activities an adult can choose to do. A survey conducted by Australian publisher Scholastic showed that, across all ages, the overwhelming majority of children (86%) say they loved being read books aloud at home. The top reason children say they enjoy being read aloud to is because it's a special time with their parents. Parents are encouraged to read to their children for at least 10 minutes a day. And what better book to read to children than the Bible?

Bibles For Bubs began in 2018 to celebrate Bible Society's bicentenary. It is now in its sixth year and has become much bigger than anyone expected! The project helps enable parents to teach their young children the wonder of Opening The Bible and hearing God's stories.



13,700+

children have Opened The Bible throughout the course of this program (2018-2023)

2,183

CEV Big Rescue Bibles were distributed to children turning 5 years old in 2023

1,600

new sign ups to the program in 2023

'Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these!"'

Matthew 19:14, NIV

Goals

The goal of this project is to build a lifetime of faith and reliance on God's word for children through early engagement with the stories of the Bible. Each year up until 2023, the project provided Bibles for 2,000 babies born in the previous year. Up until 2027, during their birthday month, the children receive a hand-written birthday card with an insert for parents with ideas to encourage faith and family Bible reading. On their fifth birthday, the children receive the gift of a CEV Big Rescue Bible that they can read through their primary school years.

There will be no further registrations for the Bible for Bubs program in 2024. Children registered in the program in 2023 and past years will continue to receive their annual birthday cards and a Bible for their 5th birthday.

Impact

Since its establishment in 2018, the Bibles For Bubs program has Opened The Bible to over 13,700 Australian children and their families. The project has provided parents with helpful resources and content to engage their children with the Bible, which have been received well.

Just as Timothy was 'made wise for salvation' from his childhood knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, taught to him by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 3:14-15), so these children are being helped to build a foundational knowledge of God's word.

The project has gained popularity as grandparents and friends encourage their loved ones to apply. The influx of applications in the program's final registration intake in 2023 (reaching over 1,600 applications) is a testimony to the value that parents, grandparents and friends see in giving children the gift of God's word.

Testimonies

"I am so grateful my Bub has been a part of this initiative! She has loved, and we have displayed in her room, the yearly card. The Bible itself is her choice of bedtime book at the moment and is a perfect one with all the great practical ideas in it! Thank you, Bible Society! — Kym, parent

"I just wanted to thank you for the Bible's for Bubs program. My daughter was so excited to receive her new Bible in the mail! She wanted to say 'thank you for my Bible I really like it. It's the best Bible in the whole wide world. I like Jesus and I want to learn Him more and I love Him up to the moon and heaven' (Khloe, 5 yrs). Thank you for the great work you do" — Rosie, parent

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the children, that they would know God's love through reading his word.
- Pray that parents will use the Bibles and resources to help build a lifetime of faith for their children.
- Pray for families that they may be united in Christ through reading God's word.