

## NOTES

### **Some reasons why a “complete” children’s bible is needed**

#### *The “Christian” child*

1. A child aged 10 or older is mature enough to relate personally to the Bible, its counsel and encouragement. He can find blessing and help from texts he has underlined for this purpose. There is very little of this nature in just “stories” or selections.
2. He knows there is a “proper” Bible—it is complete, has special covers and special paper and so on. He sees this in church and at home. He wants to be “grown up” and have a “proper” Bible too, and try to look up texts in church and study groups like others do. This means that chapter and verse numbers have to be clearly marked in the child’s version too, so he can find his way around quickly.
3. Junior Bible study groups, Sunday Schools and other organizations use the whole span of the Bible for their material. Why should they not have access to a complete Bible in easy language both for use in class and for setting assignments?
4. We want our children to form the “habit” of daily private devotions. Reading the Bible on their own is too difficult for most children under the age of 14 if they have to use a standard version such as RSV, NIV, or even GNB.
5. Children aged 10-14 in particular are very keen on memory work, such as learning the books of the Bible in order. Therefore, if they have a version of their own it should follow the accepted order of the Books. In this way they can learn to orientate and locate texts to such an extent that they can then do the same in any other version. (Even children under 10 can learn to find their way around the Bible quite well—Paul’s letters at the end, Psalms in the middle, and so on—and comprehend that the Bible is a collection of different books.)
6. A child with a Christian background is seldom in any doubt about the existence of “rules” for Christian living—adults usually keep him well aware of this. He also has at least some notion about “teachings” even if he does not yet label them as such. Why should he not be able to read about these aspects of the Bible for himself in language he can understand?
7. Children are usually not very bashful about witnessing to their non-Christian friends. It would be wonderful if they could have a clear and easy version to use when “showing” truths to their friends.

#### *The Non-Christian Child*

8. This type of child may have been told that the Bible is just a collection of myths, stories and old-fashioned ideas. If all we give him is a collection of stories (with elements of the strange and supernatural) he is going to continue to believe this about the Bible—it will rank with fairy-tale and fiction.
9. An outsider is usually aware that a Christian has a creed and a life-style which is “different”. Why shouldn’t the 10-14 year old be able to find out about all this for himself from a translation on his own level. he is much more likely to be “hooked” and convinced if he can understand what he is reading.

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