

## Saplings Parenting & Home Schooling

### Book Review

# The Spirit of God Illustrated Bible: Over 40 Stories of God's Power and Presence

Doris Wynbeek Ridders



I'm always looking for a good bible story book for my grandkids. I think I've found one. [The Spirit of God Illustrated Bible: Over 40 Stories of God's Power and Presence](#) takes a unique approach to a children's bible by focusing on the Spirit rather than on Jesus. It reminds us that God's Spirit has been active with us from creation until now.

This bible is also unique in that it skips many familiar stories and instead focuses on many I've never seen in a children's bible.

### **Skips Familiar Stories**

Every story emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit. In the process, it skips many of the stories are children are familiar with. For example, it doesn't include the fall, Abraham and Sarah's years of faithful waiting for Isaac's birth, David and Goliath, or Solomon's reign. Most surprisingly, it skips the life of Jesus from Nicodemus to the last supper.

## **Unusual Choices**

Instead of these familiar stories, the book contains a number of unusual choices of stories, including many that are not in any children's bible I'm aware of. For example, it tells the story of the Spirit inspiring Saul to raise up army against the Ammonites (who had cut out the eyes of the local men) and the stories of lesser known characters like Amasai, Azariah, Jahaziel, Belshazzer, Haggai, and Philip. It concludes with a story of the Spirit in the world today. Parents and grandparents who read a lot of bible stories will find this refreshing, and it will offer the kids a much broader view of scripture.

The book is written at a preschool level by Doris Wynbeek Ridders and illustrated using an angular style by Spanish illustrator Fernando Juarez. I think my grandkids are going to enjoy it. I know I'll enjoy giving them a broader exposure to scripture than they presently have from their many bible story books

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