

# Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers

THE GOSPEL  
BY JOEY ALLEN



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For my mom

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# FOREWORD

Knowing how to tell a child about believing in Jesus Christ is a precious opportunity that starts with a loving touch. How beautiful was the approach of Jesus when He responded so graciously to the people who brought their infants, eager to have Him touch them (Luke 18:15-16). Before our children ever understand our words, we will have clearly communicated through a loving touch.

Joining loving words with a loving touch, however, is a challenge. You don't want to tell them so much that they are confused. What are the essentials? Who was Jesus Christ? What do I need to believe about Him to become a Christian? Why do I need to become a Christian? These questions exercised our minds and hearts regularly. Joey's *Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers* gives help.

We have four children. There are two pairs of them, two years apart and four and one half years between the pairs. Having devotions with them was a challenge. We finally hit upon the habit of having two devotional times. The older kids could sit in on the devotions with the younger kids, and the younger kids could sit in with the older kids. Most nights, everyone was present during each devotion time. That way the younger kids heard more advanced ideas and the responses of the older children. That may be why the younger children came to the Lord at an earlier age than the older ones.

This book by Joey Allen is an excellent tool with carefully chosen words and eye-catching art. It will be of significant value in helping you make the Gospel simple enough so that younger children can understand the gift of salvation, but also advanced enough for older children to delve into the rich truths of God's Word for themselves. We wish we had had books like this when our children were small, but now we look forward to using *Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers* with our grandchildren.

– Earl and Ruth Radmacher  
President Emeritus  
Western Seminary  
Portland, Oregon

# A WORD TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Out of the overflow of the love shared between the members of the Trinity, God created us. God created us to love Him. Despite our rebellion against God, and at great expense to himself, God sent His Son so we could once again fulfill the purpose for which He created us. Paul summarized the crux of the gospel message, the good news, in 1 Corinthians 15:3–5, “I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared.” Christ’s death paid for our sins, and His resurrection ensures that we, too, will experience resurrection. Is that good news, or what!

The Bible affirms the value of grounding children in the gospel from an early age. Paul endorsed the teaching his protégé Timothy received from his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. Paul encouraged him, “Continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that *from childhood* you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:14–15, emphasis added).

We never outgrow our need for God’s grace. While we need to press on to maturity in the faith, we never come to God except by grace through faith (Galatians 3:3). The more we ponder the gospel, the more we become aware of our sin and, at the same time, amazed by the depths of God’s grace. For this reason, let me encourage you to read this book to your child often, ask probing questions, and evaluate your child’s level of comprehension. The faith of a child is all that is needed — after all, salvation is God’s work! I pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will use this book to touch your child’s heart and make it His.



– Joey Allen



**H**i! My name  
is Gracie. I

want to tell you  
the best news in  
the whole world.

The best news is  
that God loves you, and  
He wants you to be with  
Him forever.

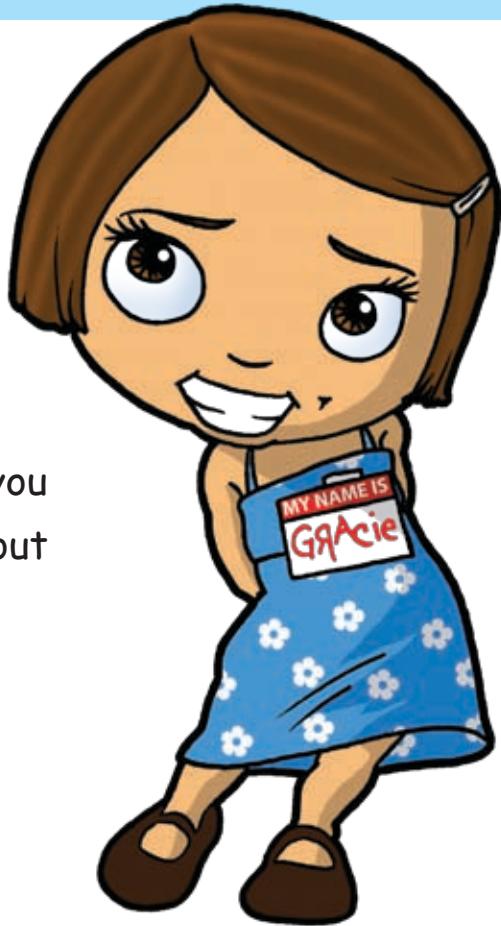
**G**od created the whole world. He made trees and colors and puppy dogs!



*Genesis 1:1-31; Isaiah 45:18;  
Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3*

God created  
you, too.

God knows  
your name. God  
knows what  
makes you happy  
and what makes you  
sad. He cares about  
you very much.



*Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 43:1; 1 Peter 5:7*