

➤ Family discipleship refers to the responsibility of every Christian family to pursue growth in godliness together as a family. Family discipleship is (normally) overseen by the father and must be tailored to the unique needs of each family member, depending on their spiritual state (e.g., saved or unsaved) and level of maturity. Family discipleship takes place in both formal and informal contexts and should work in conjunction with local church involvement.

"The Pentateuch, the Old Testament historical books, and the book of Psalms are pervaded by the consciousness that parents (and especially fathers) must pass on their religious heritage to their children. God's express will for his people Israel is still his will for God's people in the church today. Christian parents have the mandate and serious obligation to instill their religious heritage in their children. This heritage centers on the personal experience of God's deliverance from sin and his revelation in the Lord Jesus Christ and his death for us on the cross...

...Christian parents ought to take every opportunity to speak about these all-important matters with their children and to express and impart to their children personal gratitude for what God has done to their children. While there may be Christian Sunday School teachers and other significant people in a child's life, parents must never go back on their God-given responsibility to be the primary source of religious instruction for their children."

—Andreas Köstenberger,
God, Marriage, and Family, 93-94

“What are we like to do ourselves to the reforming of a congregation, if all the work be cast on [pastors] alone; and masters of families neglect that necessary duty of their own, by which they are bound to help us? If any good be begun by the ministry in any soul, a careless, prayerless, worldly family is like [apt] to stifle it, or very much hinder it; whereas, if you could but get the rulers of families to do their duty, to take up the work where you left it, and help it on, what abundance of good might be done!

...I beseech you, therefore, if you desire the reformation and welfare of your people, do all you can to promote family religion."

—Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

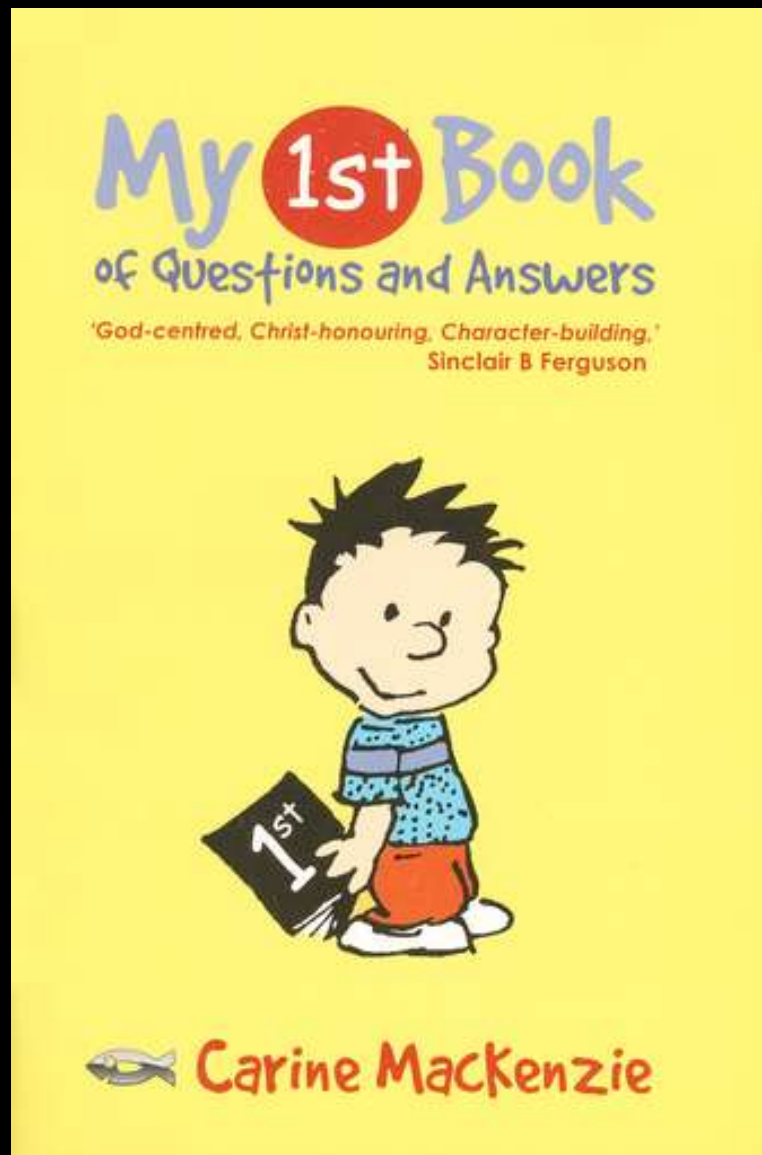
“What families regard as important is evidenced by the manner in which they spend their time. Therefore, regular family worship shows the children that their parents believe that Jesus Christ is central to all of life. This practice leaves a legacy that will benefit thousands in generations to come.”

—James Alexander (1804-1859)

“Nothing will spur a father toward godly, spiritual discipleship in his own walk with Christ more than leading his family in worship. In order to teach his wife and children, he will have to study the Scriptures on his own. A godly woman will be encouraged and inspired as she sees her husband take responsibility and lead in family worship. This practice sets a tone of harmony and love in the household and is a source of strength when they go through affliction together. As they pray for each other their mutual love will be strengthened.”

—James Alexander (1804-1859)

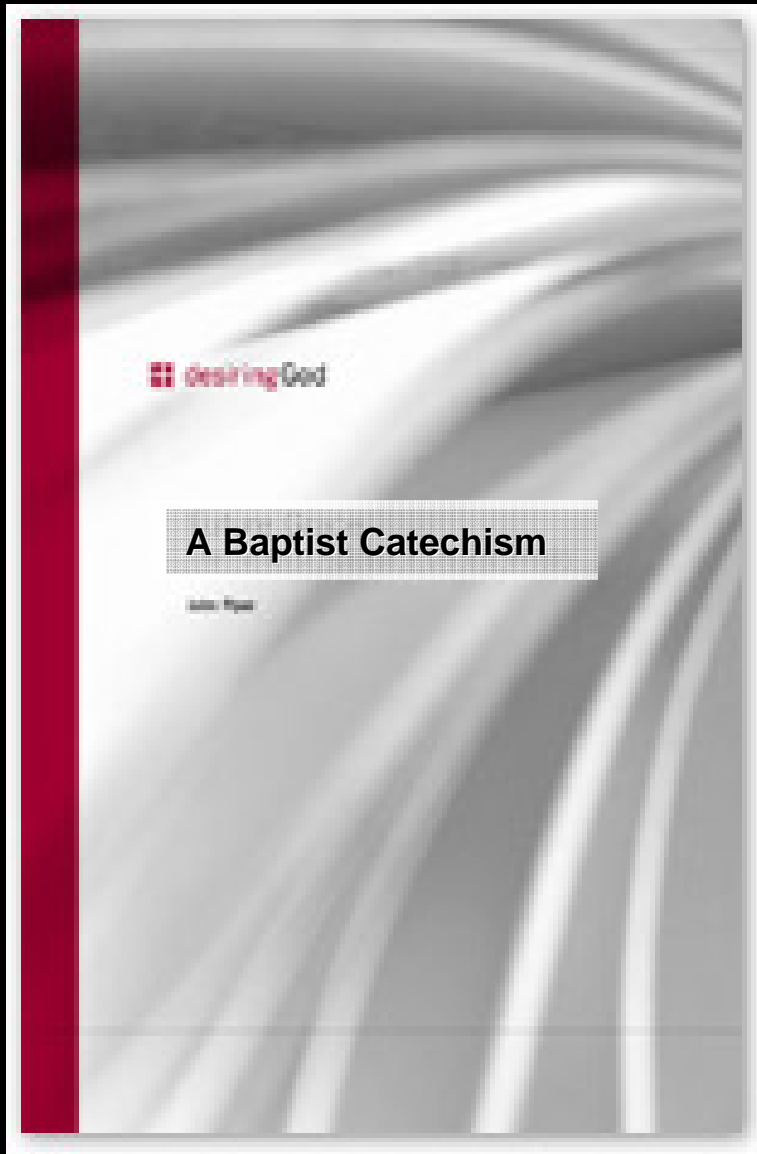
Recommended Resource



*My 1st Book of
Questions and
Answers* by Carine
Mackenzie

Great basic catechism
for young children.

Recommended Resource



A Baptist Catechism
adapted by John Piper

Great catechism for
older children and
adults. Available for
free at
www.DesiringGod.org

Recommended Resource



The
PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS

From This World to That Which Is to Come

Edited by C. J. Lovik

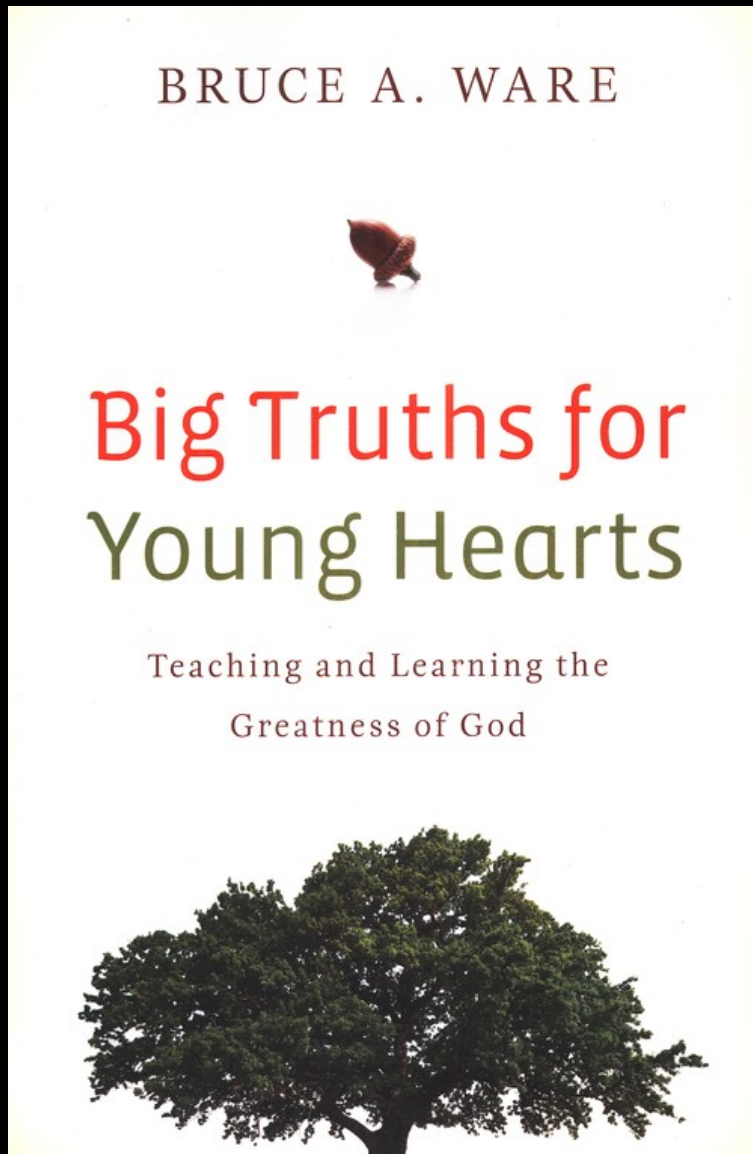
JOHN BUNYAN

Illustrations by Mike Wimmer

The Pilgrim's Progress
by John Bunyan

Available in modern
and older English and
many children's
editions.

Recommended Resource



Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God by Bruce Ware

Overview of Bible doctrine for children and adults.

“When my parents commemorated their fiftieth anniversary, all five of us children decided to express thanks to our father and mother for one thing without consulting each other. Remarkably, all five of us thanked our mother for her prayers and all five of us thanked our father for his leadership of our Sunday evening family worship...

...My brother said, 'Dad, the oldest memory I have is of tears streaming down your face as you taught us from Pilgrim's Progress on Sunday evenings how the Holy Spirit leads believers. At the age of three God used you in family worship to convict me that Christianity was real. No matter how far I went astray in later years, I could never seriously question the reality of Christianity, and I want to thank you for that.'

—Joel Beeke, *Family Worship*, 3