

#### FORMAT

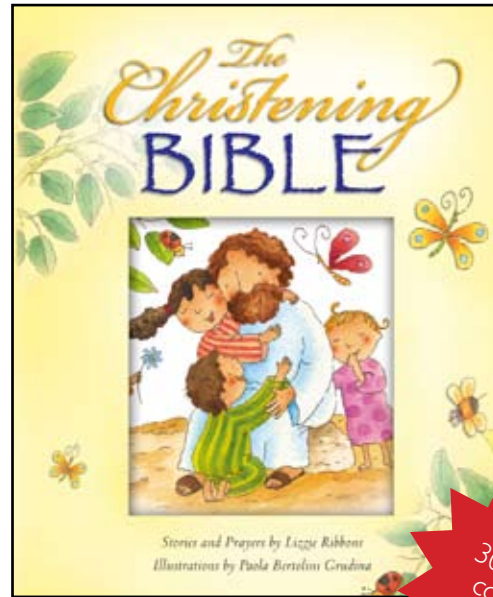
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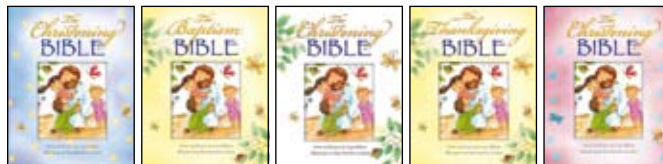


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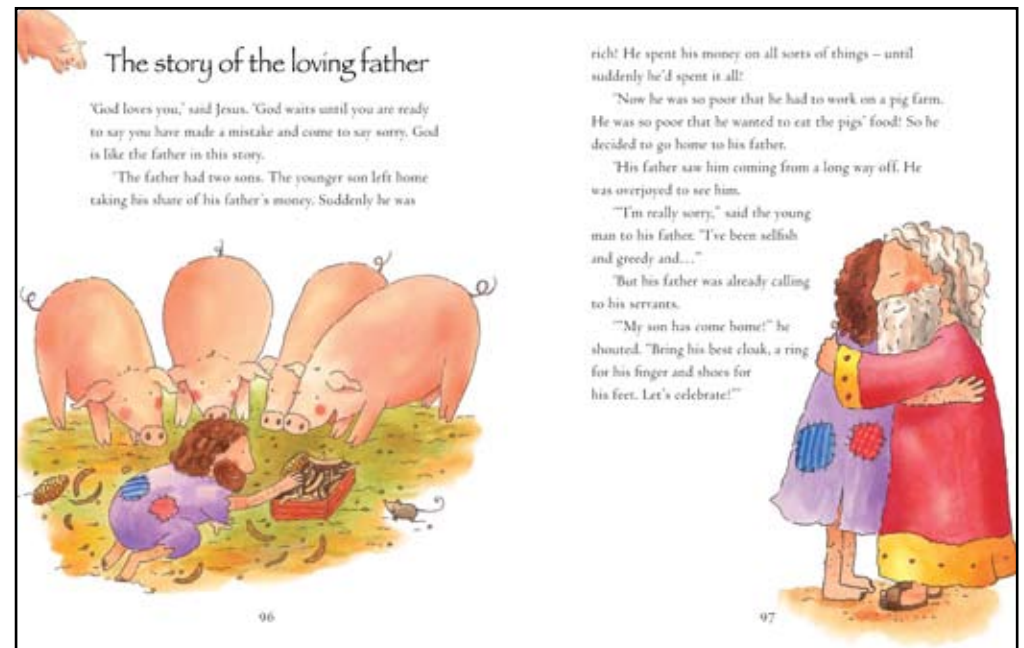
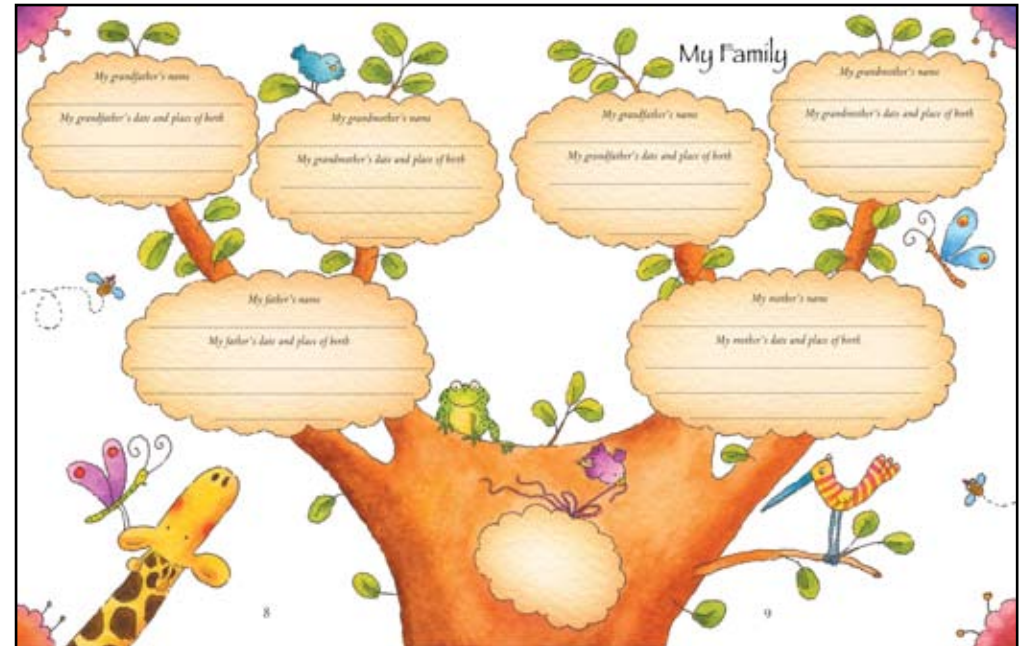
## The Christening Bible

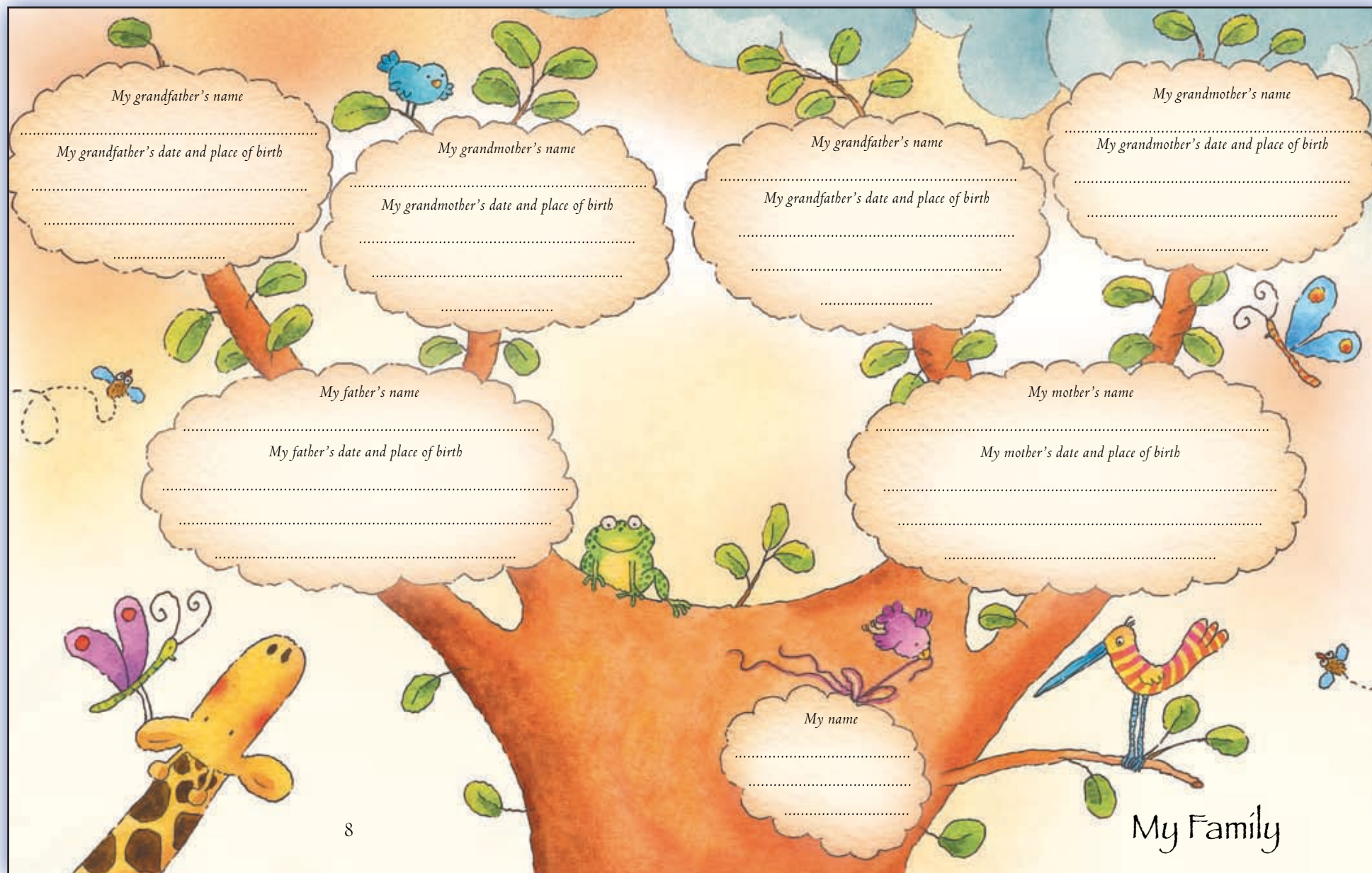
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*O God, your generous love surrounds us  
and everything we enjoy comes from you.*

\*

*Lord, bless us and protect us.  
Lord, smile on us and show us your love.  
Lord, help us and take care of us.  
Lord, guide us, keep us and grant us your peace.*

## My Progress



*I first smiled .....*

*I cut my first tooth .....*

*I first sat up .....*

*I first crawled .....*

*My first words .....*

*I first walked .....*

*My favourite things .....*

.....

.....



# Bible Stories and Prayers



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## The baby in the basket



Baby Moses was crying - loudly.

His mother was so afraid that the king's soldiers would hear him that she wove some reeds together and made a basket for him. She floated the basket on the River Nile with baby Moses inside.

Since Joseph had died long ago, there were thousands of God's people living in Egypt – and the new king was afraid that all the little baby boys would grow up into men who might fight him.

Big sister Miriam hid in the reeds and watched her baby brother bobbing about in the basket.

And who should come along but the king's own daughter!

'Oh!' said the princess. 'What a sweet baby. I'll look after you!'

'I know someone who can help you...', said Miriam, popping up. And she fetched her mother, the baby's mother!

Now everyone was happy. And God had kept baby Moses safe.





## Gideon's sign from God



Gideon was hiding from the Midianites. They swept down on their camels and took all the food that God's people were growing.

'Hello, you strong, brave man!' said an angel one day. 'God wants you to help his people.'

Gideon looked around him. Surely the angel wasn't talking to him?

'People have forgotten the rules God gave them,' said the angel. 'God wants you to help them remember them again.'

'But I am not big or clever or special and my family is not big or clever or special... Are you sure God wants me to help?'

So God showed Gideon that he did. One day God made Gideon's woollen fleece wet when the ground was dry; and another day he made Gideon's woollen fleece dry when the ground was wet with dew!

Then Gideon knew that God could do anything! And that God had chosen him to help his people. Gideon trusted God – and God helped them all to live in peace again.



## Jonah runs the other way



God told Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh.

But Jonah didn't want to go. The people there were cruel and wicked. So he ran away. He sailed away in the opposite direction.

A big storm blew, and the sailors were afraid they'd all be drowned.

'Throw me into the sea!' said Jonah. 'It's all my fault! I've disobeyed God.'

'If that's what you want...' said the sailors.

Jonah fell into the water but a seriously big fish

swallowed him up in one large swallow.

Jonah stayed inside the fish for three days and three nights. And Jonah prayed...

The seriously big fish spat Jonah out of its mouth on to the beach. This time Jonah went to the city of Nineveh. He told the people there to stop doing bad things – and the people said they were sorry! So God forgave the people.

'That's why I wanted you to come,' said God. 'Now these bad people have changed their ways. That's good!'



## Plots and plans and lions



Daniel was also a prisoner in Babylon. The king's men saw he was good and wise so they planned and plotted and then went to the king.

'Anyone who thinks you're not the most special person on earth, oh King, should be thrown to the lions,' they said, bowing low.

'OK!' said the king.

Daniel knew about the new law but he prayed to God every day at his open window, just as he had before.

'Daniel still prays to God,' they said.

'Daniel likes God best,' they said.

'Daniel has broken your law,' they said.

'Daniel –'

'Enough!' said the king.

The king knew that he had to throw Daniel to the lions.



'I hope your God will save you,' he said.

It was a long, lonely night for the king, but in the morning the king found Daniel... alive and well!

'I trusted God and he took care of me,' said Daniel.

'Daniel's God is the true and living God,' said the king.

'He is amazing!'



## Some very good news!

Shepherds were out on the hills that night, looking after their sheep. Suddenly there was a bright light all around them! They heard the voice of an angel!

'Don't be afraid,' said the angel. 'I have good news for you! Jesus, the Son of God, has been born in Bethlehem.'



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'You'll find him lying in a manger.'

Then many more angels appeared, singing songs of praise to God.

The shepherds knew what they must do – they must go to see for themselves if there was a baby in the manger.

They found the baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph and told them all about the message of the angels. Then they told everyone they saw what had happened that night.



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## The Lord's Prayer



Jesus loved God and loved to talk to him. So he told his friends how to talk to God too.

'Don't use long words that don't mean much,' Jesus

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said. 'Tell God what you really feel. He wants to hear about everything that worries you.'

'Say something like this:

'Our Father in heaven, your name is great and holy. Help us to do things that are good and right so that everyone will know who you are and your love will spread all over the world.'

'Please give us all we need to eat each day, and help us to be kind to each other always. Keep us safe from harm and from doing wrong things.'

'For you are the only true, wise and wonderful God and your kingdom will last for ever.'



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## A very worried father

Jairus' little girl wasn't very well. She lay in bed feeling hot and tired, aching and poorly. She felt so unwell that Jairus went to find Jesus.

That day, everybody wanted Jesus to help them. There were crowds of people pushing and jostling around Jesus. So it took some time for Jairus to reach Jesus and it took some time for Jesus to come with him.

'It's too late!' a voice came through the crowd. 'Your little girl has died!'

Jairus was very upset. But Jesus went into his house with Peter and James and John.

'Trust me,' Jesus said.



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Then Jairus and his wife watched as Jesus took her hand.

'Wake up, little girl,' he said.

Then Jairus' daughter opened her eyes and sat up.

'She's hungry,' said Jesus. 'Find her something to eat.'

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## Jesus rides a donkey

Jesus and his friends were on their way to the big city of Jerusalem.

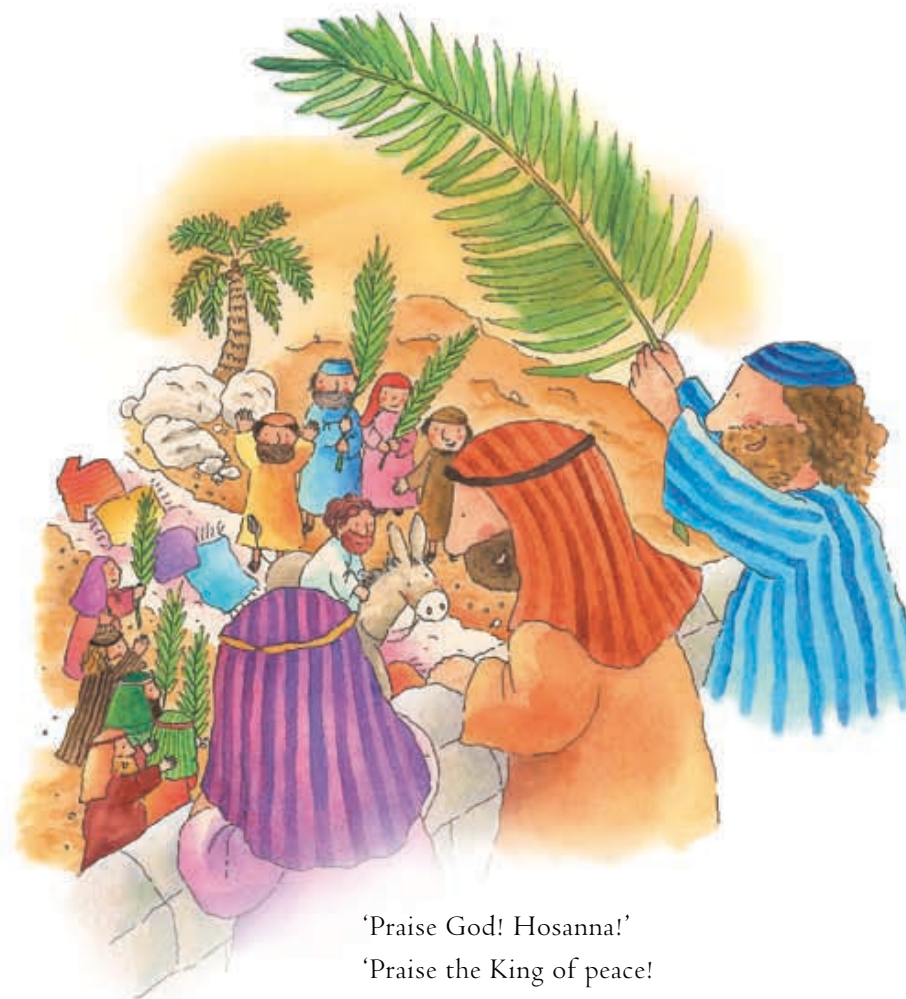
'There's a little donkey in that village,' Jesus said to his friends one day. 'No one has ever sat on his back. It's young and wild, but I want you to bring it to me.'

Carefully, Jesus' special friends fetched the donkey. They put their cloaks over the donkey's back and helped Jesus climb on. Then Jesus rode to Jerusalem.

It was all very noisy and exciting. Crowds of people welcomed him into the city. Lots of men, women and children followed too.

They threw their cloaks down on the road in front of Jesus. They threw palm branches in front of him. They cheered and waved and shouted.

'Hurrah!' everyone cried out.



'Praise God! Hosanna!'

'Praise the King of peace!'

'Praise King Jesus!'

## Bedtime Prayers

Now I lay me down to sleep  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep  
Bless and keep me safe this night  
And wake me with the morning light.

*Traditional*

Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me here,  
Every night be at my side,  
To light and guard,  
To rule and guide.

*Traditional*

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Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask you to stay  
Close by me for ever  
And love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
In your tender care  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

*Anon.*

Stay, dear Lord,  
with those who wake,  
or watch, or weep tonight.  
Let angels guard those who sleep.  
Take care of those who are ill,  
give rest to those who are weary,  
help the dying,  
and give hope to the suffering.

*Based on a prayer by St Augustine*

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## ALTERNATIVE TITLES AND COVERS

