

Point Your Kids to the Gospel with Great Stories

Breakout Session with Kathryn Butler

Articles (my own; lot of this content appeared in the talk):

- [Five Lesser-Known Children's Fantasy Series That Point to the Gospel | Christianity Today](#)
- [The Other Great Parenting Books: How the Best Stories Point Kids to Christ | Desiring God](#)
- [Narnia Is for Grown-Ups, Too \(thegospelcoalition.org\)](#)

Book Series (mentioned during the talk, plus a few others):

- *The Lord of the Rings* (and *The Hobbit*)
- *The Chronicles of Narnia*
- *The Wingfeather Saga*
- *The Wilderking Trilogy* (not mentioned but a fun fantasy trilogy inspired by the life of King David)
- *The Mistmantle Chronicles*
- *The Green Ember* series
- Classic illustrated story anthologies by [Usborne](#) (for younger kids)
- My own series is *The Dream Keeper Saga* (published by Crossway)

Websites:

- [Redeemed Reader](#)
 - Highly recommend, excellent source of book reviews for Christian parents
- [Good Book Mom](#)
 - Offers excellent reviews of kids' books, as well as podcast and article content for subscribers
- [Read-Aloud Revival](#)
 - Extensive book lists and tips for reading with your kids. Subscription required for access to some content
- [Story Warren](#)
 - Started by S.D. Smith, focuses on "holy imagination" and offers both book reviews and inspirational articles about pointing kids to the gospel through stories
- [Little Book, Big Story](#)
 - Blog of Christian editor and writer Thea Rosenberg, offers reviews on children's books with a preference for picture books
- [Westminster Kids | Discover Biblically Faithful Books for Children](#)
 - New companion site to Westminster Books that exclusively curates kids' literature

Books for Inspiration and Guidance:

- [*Wild Things and Castles in the Sky: A Guide to Choosing the Best Books for Children*](#)
 - Beautiful collection of essays on children's literature, with book recommendations and practical tips throughout
- [*The Enchanted Hour: The Miraculous Power of Reading Aloud in an Age of Distraction*](#)
 - Written by a children's book critic for the Wall Street Journal, an inspiring discussion of the merits of reading aloud. Not expressly from a Christian perspective, but a lovely and helpful guide.
- [*Steeped in Stories: Timeless Children's Novels to Refresh Our Tired Souls*](#)
 - By Mitali Perkins, who credits children's literature with opening her heart to Christ. Here she delves into the riches of a handful of classic books that helped shape her.
- [*On Fairy-Stories \(J.R.R. Tolkien\)*](#)
 - This is not a light read, but is worthwhile if you have some time to yourself (and a cup of coffee on-hand!). In this long essay, Tolkien expounds his thinking on the merits of stories, and unpacks how the best stories delight us because they echo the gospel.