



## The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden

*Kevin DeYoung, Don Clark (illustrator)*

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Once upon a time there lived a man and a woman. They were the happiest people on the planet.

True, they were the only people on the planet, but they were still terrifically happy.

Unfortunately, things didn't stay happy and wonderful for long . . .

The Bible is full of exciting stories that fill children with awe and wonder. But kids need to know how all those classic stories connect to Scripture's overarching message about God's glorious plan to redeem his rebellious people.

In *The Biggest Story*, Kevin DeYoung—a best-selling author and father of six—leads kids and parents alike on an exciting journey through the Bible, connecting the dots from the garden of Eden to Christ's death on the cross to the new heaven and new earth.

With powerful illustrations by award-winning artist Don Clark, this imaginative retelling of the Bible's core message—how the Snake Crusher brings us back to the garden—will draw children into the biblical story, teaching them that God's promises are even bigger and better than we think.

Ages 5-8 (read to me)

Ages 8-11 (read to myself)

## **The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden Details**

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Author : Kevin DeYoung , Don Clark (illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden for online ebook**

### **Ginger says**

The illustrations in The Biggest Story are absolutely stunning.

The text. Eh, it's alright. Obviously the story is good, but it just felt a little awkward and a lot rushed. It's hard to fit this much epic narrative in 125 pages.

Stick with The Jesus Story Book Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones instead for easy reading, gorgeous illustrations, and a powerful message.

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### **Kristin Kowalk says**

I loved the idea behind this book---to show children the "big picture" of the Bible instead of telling them about different events that may seem disconnected to them. And the illustrations were very intriguing, most of the time going beyond the book's text and requiring the reader to be knowledgeable of the Bible. But while I've enjoyed DeYoung's writing style in other books, the tone here, almost sounding flippant in some areas, just didn't always feel quite right for children.

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### **Becky Pliego says**

Wonderful! Beautifully told and always pointing to Jesus and the faithfulness of God the Father. The illustrations are fantastic, vivid and full of imagery that affirm the story in a powerful way.

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### **Noel Adams says**

Gush, gush, gush, gush, gush! DeYoung is one of my favorite authors and bloggers, and he does it again with this beautiful book! We have read The Big Picture Story Bible to the kids over and over. The Biggest Story takes the biggest story to the next level with engaging prose and whimsical artwork. I cannot recommend this highly enough.

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### **Natasha says**

I really wanted to like this book. Really. The artwork is gorgeous and the idea of telling the Story of God from the perspective of how Jesus gets us back to the garden is really intriguing -- especially since it's geared toward children.

Unfortunately, I didn't like this book. Yes, the art is still stunning, but the language used to tell the story just

doesn't go with it -- it isn't nearly as elegant or poetic. What's more offensive to me is how the story is told.

If you're going to condense God's story, you've got to choose your details well. As an example, the author chose to include that different people's names were changed (Abram to Abraham, etc). The offense is stating that they didn't know why their names were changed. Yes, you know why. Mentioning it and then glossing over it isn't helpful. If you aren't going to explain the significance of the name change, why bring it up at all? I just think it sets kids up for failure in terms of biblical understanding of God's story to say we don't know the why of something when we do.

I also don't think someone who isn't familiar with the Bible could follow this story. There are large chunks of narrative missing (understandable given it is just a summary) but larger theological ideas are brought up with no explanation, and again, if you didn't already know the story, you would be totally confused.

The author's note at the back said this was originally a sermon near advent and it probably should have stayed that way instead of trying to become a children's book. I don't recommend it except for the art. Again, totally beautiful but it belongs with something more thoughtfully told.

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### **Josh says**

I love Kevin DeYoung and have been looking forward to this book since I heard about it earlier in the year. It was what I expected. Though in some ways, I was surprised.

I was not surprised with the text. DeYoung has been a favorite write of mine for quite some time. I was expecting excellent, deep theology distilled in a manner that would allow me to share the great truths of Scripture with my boys of various ages and various spiritual and intellectual levels. This is what Pastor DeYoung has provided and it is great! I love teaching the big picture of Scripture to my kids. It was such an aha moment for me when I realized that the Bible tells one, unified story. I had to wait until I was in my late twenties and was exposed to the works of Graeme Goldsworthy, via Vaughn Roberts, to see that the Scriptures are a unified whole. I am more than thankful that publishers and writers are making resources available with this truth in mind. I loved James Hamilton's The Bible's Big Story, but DeYoung's work will replace it as my go to on this topic with my kids (in part because this book is really good and in large part because DeYoung's work is aimed at an older reader, of which my kids qualify).

So, I was expecting an excellent overview of the Bible's grand narrative and I received that. What I was not expecting was to be wowed, time and again, by the illustrations. I tire of kids book illustrations often and pay them little attention for the most part. Don Clark's illustrations made me audibly gasp on a couple of occasions. Beyond being beautiful (which should not be minimized), these illustrations complement the text beautifully. They aid in the telling of the story and improve the reading experience exponentially. I am interested to see these in printed form (I am working off of a pdf review copy from the publisher) when this book releases. I can only imagine that I will look even better.

DeYoung and Clark take the reader through The Biggest Story to show us How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden. It is a beautiful book telling the most beautiful story that there is; that what was corrupted will be made right, that what was broken will be fixed, that what was lost will be redeemed by the victorious One who reigns forever.

Go check out some pages here: <https://www.crossway.org/books/the-bi...>

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### **Andrew Pendleton says**

This book targets kids around the age of 3-12 but I think it is great for all ages. DeYoung summarizes the Bible's storyline and pulls out major themes of God's redemptive plan in 10 short chapters. The book is even a sort of simple intro to/example of biblical theology; showing how the whole Bible points to, revolves around, and climaxes in Jesus.

The illustrations are awesome. Vibrant and colorful enough to even hold the attention of a two-month old. I look forward to reading this many more times over the years. It's sweet to see the some of the over-arching themes of the Bible communicated in such a Christ-exalting, clear, and concise way. As DeYoung says at the end: "We need redemption. We need forgiveness. We need the Promised One to lead us to our promised home."

I read this with my 8 week old daughter. She didn't say much but I think she liked it.

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### **Jeremy says**

Very good, although we're not headed back to a/the garden; we're headed toward a garden-city, the New Jerusalem.

The note to parents at the end is excellent.

Here's the DVD.

Comments at *WORLD* : "As author Kevin DeYoung explains, *The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden* (Crossway, 2015) began as a Christmas sermon meant to showcase the Nativity in light of "the biggest story" of the Bible as a whole. Too long for a picture book, too condensed for a Bible storybook, it carves out a niche of its own. The narrative touches on all the great biblical themes while sketching a classic plot: setting, conflict, development of the conflict, solution presented, climax, and denouement. The stylized full-color illustrations complement this approach beautifully. DeYoung likes to present contrasts (such as, 'We run from God, so he comes to us'), and illustrator Don Clark pictures many side-by-side contrasts and symbolic images. The presentation is best for children who are capable of slightly abstract thinking. Some parents may find the style too informal in places (e.g., 'bad guys,' 'a whole bunch'), and basic concepts like sin could be more fully developed; but *The Biggest Story* makes a worthwhile addition to the family bookshelf."

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### **Ivan says**

I read everything DeYoung writes. He's always clear, witty, convictional, and simple in his writing, even when branching out to write an illustrated children's book. DeYoung delivered this first as a Christmas sermon for his church. He writes, "I wanted to tell the familiar advent story in a way that was fresh and faithful to the biblical text. I tried to deliver the message like I was reading a book—a book for children sitting by the fire on Christmas morning" (118). With creative and colorful illustrations by Don Clark, this

book beautifully presents the storyline of Scripture—the “Biggest Story” of them all. Consider it a crash course on biblical theology for young hearts. I think many parents and kids will treasure this book as they time and again read of our “snake-crushing King” and “destined-to-die Deliverer.”

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### **Penny says**

4\* overall

The illustrations deserve all the stars!

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### **Calvinist Batman says**

Personally, my favorite kids Bible book. Super artistic. Can't wait for the video series and the audiobook.

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### **Bill says**

Great book for children and adults alike. Mr. DeYoung does an excellent job in simplifying the covenantal story from beginning to end. We are using this as part of our family worship time. The artwork is fantastic. One of my sons enjoys the use of "snake crusher". If you have children, grandchildren or enjoy children's books, this book should be on your shelf.

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### **Mark Jr. says**

I probably would've given a little more weight to the creation mandate, but I do so like DeYoung—and the illustrations were simply fantastic.

More important than anything I might say: my children asked for more.

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### **Jonathan Roberts says**

Great Biblical book! Paints a clear picture of what the Bible is all about!!! Highly recommended!!

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### **Carla Dominguez says**

So beautiful ?

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