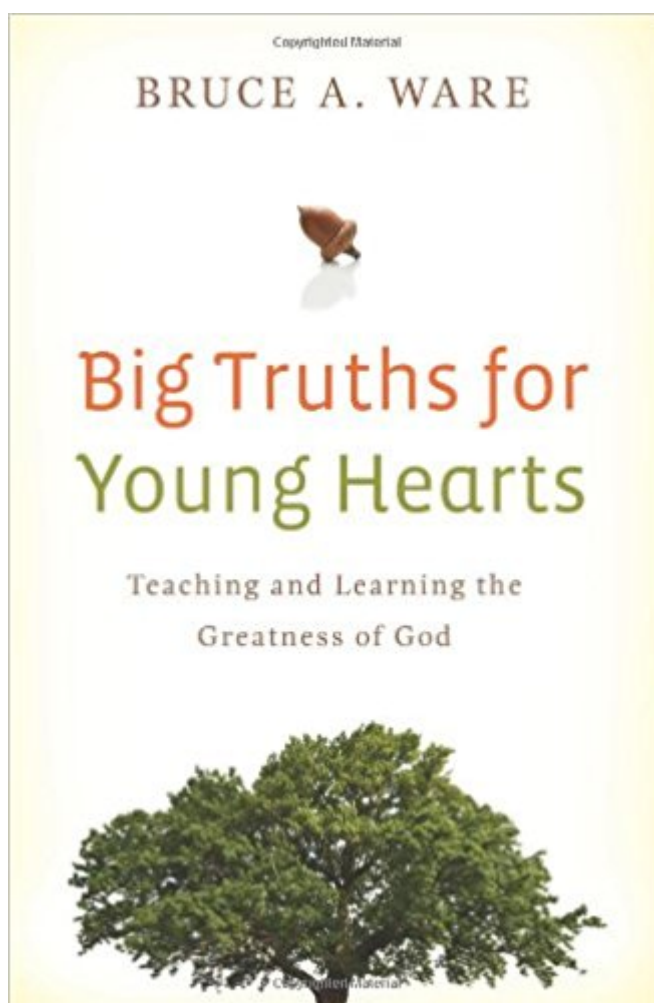




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Big Truths For Young Hearts: Teaching And Learning The Greatness Of God



Synopsis

Equips parents to guide their young children through all major doctrines in an understandable, chapter-a-day format. Sure, it's easy to teach your children the essentials of Christian theology when you're a theology professor. But what about the rest of us? With *Big Truths for Young Hearts*, Bruce Ware, (you guessed it!) a theology professor, encourages and enables parents of children 6-14 years of age to teach through the whole of systematic theology at a level their children can understand. Parents can teach their children the great truths of the faith and shape their worldviews early, based on these truths. The book covers ten topics of systematic theology, devoting several brief chapters to each subject, making it possible for parents to read one chapter per day with their children. With this non-intimidating format, parents will be emboldened to be their children's primary faith trainers-and perhaps learn a few things themselves along the way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is a great book for children and their parents on the classic doctrines of the faith. I heartily recommend it to every parent!"
—Dennis Rainey, president and CEO, FamilyLife; host, FamilyLife Today; author, *Stepping Up*
My conversion and discipleship as a young girl were significantly influenced by my parents reading to our family a book that taught biblical doctrine to children in a systematic way. The church today must be intentional in passing on to the next generation the core and precious beliefs on which our Christian faith rests. To neglect that responsibility is to leave those who come behind us vulnerable to every wind of (false) doctrine and to risk their rejecting our faith altogether. *Big Truths for Young Hearts* is a rich resource for parents, teachers, and others who

care about helping the next generation know and love God and his ways. In addition to being a theology course for children and young people, it is also a great refresher course for adults."â "Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, author; Bible teacher; host, Revive Our HeartsÂ "Imagine a respected theologian devoting himself to training a new generation of pastors and scholars in the seminary classroom. Now imagine him driving home at night to teach that profound theology in simple terms to his children at their bedsides. Now imagine this father compiling those bedside conversations into a book available to all pastors, parents, and children alike. Imagine no more. My friend Dr. Bruce Ware has done it."â "C. J. Mahaney, Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church, Louisville, Kentucky"I praise God that this book has been written and that a person of Bruce Ware's theological stature has taken seriously the potential of theological training in the first two decades of life. Although this tool can serve different instructional venues, I cannot help but see the gift this is to Christian parents and to dads in particular who are charged with the spiritual instruction of their children. The foreword alone is worth the price of this book and more than enough inspiration to follow Bruce's example in the faithful instruction of his two daughters. What Christian father would not want to be remembered by his adult children as a man who loved the gospel and who faithfully imparted the truth on which they now firmly stand. Dear brothers, imagine the impact on future generations if our children could grasp what has taken some of us decades to understand. Take this beautifully written, Bible-saturated, God-centered, theologically comprehensive summary of the truth and teach it diligently to your children, and until your children leave your home talk of it when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."â "David Michael, founder of Children Desiring God, Minneapolis, MN

Bruce A. Ware (PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary) is professor of Christian theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has written numerous journal articles, book chapters, book reviews, and has authored God's Lesser Glory, God's Greater Glory, and Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I was looking for an aid to teach my 7 and 11 year old kids. All the ones I had previously had were... Lets say on the very light side, very focused on behaviour i.e. "be nice and share". So I googled "systematic theology for kids" and this book came on top. I researched the authors stated beliefs, and happily we are on the same page. I have enjoyed teaching my kids about God with the framework this book provides, just be ready to receive complicated questions, I find it very rewarding when my 11 year old son asks such profound questions such as "then who made God?"

That opens up to a lengthy conversation about eternity that we never had when we were using other books. So this is a book you need to read and study in advance the chapter you are going to see with your kids!

Finally...the book I've been searching for! As the overseer of my church's children's ministry, I have been searching high and low for a book for parents to help them lead their families in discipleship. This book is it. One of our ministry's main goals is to teach parents to teach their kids the greatness, sovereignty and worth of God. This book teaches exactly that through small daily studies. My wife and I have been using this book in our family devotions with my six year-old son. He "gets it." As a suggestion, we have broken up the daily studies into two. One to introduce the topic and the second day to reinforce it. We also briefly review the previously taught topics to keep them in memory. I would disagree with the reviewer and commenter who said it was too deep. Our culture has come to assume that anything with any depth is too deep for kids. With my son, I read the book straight through and change only have to modify a few words here and there to make it a little more understandable. I won't go into too much detail as the book has been covered here. We have several family devotionals, many good, a few not so good. This one is my favorite. As the book suggests, it could be used in homeschool, in a Christian school or even in a church setting. This book could also be used as an adult theological primer, which would be very valuable for new believers. But for its designed purpose, this book is a great way to teach your kids how great our God is!

An Evangelical Theology for Kids 10 to 100! Book Review Details
Title: Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God
Author: Bruce A. Ware, Ph.D.
Publisher: Crossway (2009)
Category: Parenting, Theology, Discipleship
Reviewed By: Bob Kelleman, Ph.D., LCPC, Author of Soul Physicians, Spiritual Friends, Beyond the Suffering, and Sacred Friendships
Recommended: A highly recommended antidote to the dumb-downed, frills, and cotton-candy approach so prevalent in American Evangelicalism today.
Review: An Evangelical Catechism for Kids Ages 10 to 100! When someone like Bruce Ware, professor of Christian theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and 2009 President of the Evangelical Theological Society, writes a book on theology, I take notice. When he writes it for parents and children--my interest is truly sparked. Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God is a modern-day Evangelical catechism. Ware's purpose is to equip parents to raise their children to know and love God through raising them to know and love theology. How sad that such a goal

seems so foreign in so many Christian circles today. In many ways, as indicated by the precious foreword written by Ware's young-adult daughters, *Big Truths for Young Hearts* is the "Theology 101" he taught (and modeled and lived) for and in front of his daughters. He's just graciously sharing it with the rest of us. There is no grander testimony than their words, "Dad really believes the things that are in this book. His theology shapes the way he lives, as we have seen many times" (p. 11). There is no greater parental challenge than their challenge to us: "To parents: it may sound cliché, but we followed our father's teaching in part because he practiced what he preached. Like all children, we needed to look up and see our parents looking up at a great God who has great things in store for those who love him" (p. 12). Ware's own testimony about the origin of the book mirrors his daughter's memories. From the time they were toddlers, he tried creatively to teach them the same theology sequence he was teaching his seminary students. Ware has crafted his two-decade-long instruction of his girls into a theology book for parents and children. The book covers the classic core doctrines of systematic theology. (Shh. Just don't tell the children the "theological terms" in the parentheses below!)

- *Chapter One: God's Word (Bibliology) and God's Own Life (Theology Proper)
- *Chapter Two: God As Three in One (Trinitarian Theology)
- *Chapter Three: Creator and Ruler of All (Theology Proper, The Sovereignty and Glory of God)
- *Chapter Four: Our Human Nature (Anthropology) and Our Sin (Hamartiology)
- *Chapter Five: Who Jesus Is (Christology)
- *Chapter Six: The Work Jesus Has Done (Christology/Soteriology)
- *Chapter Seven: The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)
- *Chapter Eight: Our Great Salvation (Soteriology, Election, Sanctification)
- *Chapter Nine: The Church of Jesus Christ (Ecclesiology)
- *Chapter Ten: What Will Take Place in the End (Eschatology)

Big Truths for Young Hearts is meant to be read together--parents and children. Each chapter is like a series of brief "theology devotionals," each about three pages in length, and each concluding with Questions for Thought and with Memory Verses. Frankly, as I read each chapter I kept thinking, "Now this is how theology should be taught to adults and to seminary students!" And I'm a seminary professor who teaches a class on theology for biblical counseling. In other words, any adult, no matter how well schooled in Evangelical theology, could and would benefit from this book. The book is beautifully written, Bible-saturated, Christ-centered, creatively-illustrated (word-pictures), and theologically-comprehensive. As a parent of two young adult children, and as a parent who attempted to do similar training with our children, I repeatedly asked myself, "At what ages would this book 'work'?" The reading level is likely best suited for the late elementary to the young adult. I would imagine that most children--toddler through fourth grade--might have somewhat of a difficult time staying with the reading. I was a little surprised that there were no "Instructions for Parents." This excellent book could benefit from a "Parents'

Manual" which could give parents ideas for how to "teach" and not just "read" these truths. What creative methods might a parent use? How could a parent best engage a child in the material? What personal life applications could parents and children discuss? How could parents apply the Deuteronomy 6 principle of "throughout the day" inculcation of truth applied to life? Big Truths for Young Hearts is a "what to teach book" (and does it extremely well). It is not, per se, a "how to teach" book. Perhaps a companion training book is in the works. That said, Big Truths for Young Hearts is still a tremendous book for adults, young adults, middle schoolers, and high schoolers. It is an excellent book for parents to explore and apply with their pre-teens and teens. It would make a fine Sunday School book for teachers in grades 5th through Senior Saints! Youth groups, small groups, and homeschooling groups all will find Big Truths for Young Hearts very attractive, informative, and beneficial.

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