



God's Very Good Idea: A True Story of God's Delightfully Different Family

Trillia J. Newbell , Catalina Echeverri (Illustrations)

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God's very good idea is to have lots of different people enjoying loving him and loving each other. This stunningly illustrated journey from the garden of Eden to God's heavenly throne room shows how despite our sinfulness, everyone can be a part of God's very good idea through the saving work of Christ.

This book will help children see how people from all ethnic and social backgrounds are valuable to God and how Jesus came to rescue all kinds of people. It will also excite them about being part of church.

God's Very Good Idea: A True Story of God's Delightfully Different Family Details

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From Reader Review God's Very Good Idea: A True Story of God's Delightfully Different Family for online ebook

David Goetz says

Very good! A solid little theological introduction to difference and diversity in the world and among God's people

"God's idea was to make PEOPLE ... lots of people ... lots of different people ... who would all enjoy loving him and all enjoy loving each other." God welcomes all kinds of people--"people who like reading, and people who like riding bikes"; "people with darker skin, and people with lighter skin"; "people with curly hair, and people with straight hair." And he welcomes them into his family, which becomes "your wonderful and colorful church family. You can enjoy loving them and loving God with them."

In addition to being a general introduction to difference and diversity, it's also a little primer on biblical theology. Newbell frames the book with the verbs made, ruined, rescued, and finish. God MADE all different kinds of people, people RUINED God's very good idea, God RESCUED his very good idea through our Lord Jesus Christ, and one day God will FINISH his very good idea.

The illustrations are pretty well done and very accessible to kids. For example, one page shows a young girl with scribbling all over her heart but the same girl, on the other side of the cross, with a restored (scribble-free) heart. Kids will get that! The colors were well chosen; i.e., on the pages depicting the ruin introduced by our rejection of God's very good idea, Echeverri (the illustrator) always uses dark blue and green, which effectively evoke sorrow over sin. On the pages depicting the goodness of creation or the glory of redeemed life, the colors are vibrant and welcoming and unfailingly show different kinds of people doing different things *together*. E.g., on one page toward the end, we see a 12-ish boy crying at a gathering of the church and two of his friends mourning with him and comforting him. Beautiful!

Anyway, get it.

Jessica Evans says

Fantastic book! Excellent text, beautiful pictures. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

"God carried on creating people. All of them were made in his image. And all of them were different too. Some were men, and some were women. Some liked reading, and some liked riding bikes. Some had darker skin, and some had lighter skin. Some had curly hair, and some had straight hair."

"We all live in God's world. We are all different, but we are also all the same. Everyone you see is different than you, and the same as you. They might look different or speak different or play different. But they are all made in God's image, and so they are all valuable."

"This is God's very good idea: lots of different people enjoying loving him and loving each other."

Ruth says

I love this little book so much. It's become my default baby shower gift. A wonderful, child-level treatment of the gospel, the church, and Christian diversity.

Barnabas Piper says

This is a beautiful book showing kids (and adults too) God's perfect intent in creating people of different races, cultures, gifting, and preferences and God's perfect rescue plan to redeem those people after they screwed things up. It is a magnificent depiction of God's image being reflected in all people and the gospel being the salvation for all people too. The illustrations are bright, colorful, and fun. It's the kind of book any parent should get for their kids and that makes a perfect gift. Shoot, I think it is so good pastors should read it to their congregations from the pulpit on a Sunday.

Jeremy says

Video advertisement here. Won TGC's book award for children's literature. *WORLD* review here.

Calvinist Batman says

There's a reason that currently this book has a perfect 5 stars. It's beautifully drawn with a message you can find in no other Christian books for kids: that God's plan was to have a diverse looking family, in looks, race, and hobbies. It teaches the gospel well. Such a timely book!

Todd Hains says

A lovely simple book that intertwined God's magnificently diverse creation with the overarching story of the Bible: creation, fall, redemption, and new creation. A strong and non-intimidating way to talk about bigotry and racism with your family. This book properly distinguishes law and gospel. :)

Michael Abraham says

Just read this tonight with my nephews and niece. It's a great children's book with a timely message on how God created all people in his image. A great and simple book on a difficult subject; it's clear on the gospel. If you're a parent, I'd encourage you to pick up a copy and read it to your kids before bed tonight.

Brittnee says

LOVE this book so much! Beautiful truths for the kiddos (and adults). :)

Rebecca says

"God's idea was to make PEOPLE . . . lot of people. . . lot of different people . . . who would all enjoy loving him and all enjoy loving each other."

What a crazy, fun, whimsical, thoughtful journey through deep, theological truths in a way that every child, young or old, can easily understand! And appreciate.

Deon says

Excellent children's book! Good theology & beautiful illustrations!

Go buy yourself a copy <http://amzn.to/2yGP5B2>

#affiliatelink

Chris Wilson says

If there is one thing I have become more aware and convinced of since having our first child two years ago it is this, there are a lot of really good Christian books for kids that serve the entire family well! Trillia Newbell's work adds to the impressive list of works out there to be enjoyed.

We want to raise our daughter to be engaged in people's lives regardless of how they look, walk, and talk. This conversation and awareness in parenting has been pushed to the forefront in the last few years due to the necessary and long overdue discussion around race at large and also how racial dynamics have been mishandled in the church. Newbell offers a gentle onramp to having those discussions both with your kids and your spouse in her book "God's Very Good Idea." While the larger conversations are full of nuance and power dynamics that are beyond a child's grasp this book helps remind us all to start at the beginning by acknowledging, "We are all different, but we are also all the same."

We have already sent out multiple copies of the book to friends and their children as Christmas gifts this past year and we plan on keeping copies in our home to serve as an ongoing reference point for helping our daughter to see and accept people, regardless of differences, because they are made in the image of God and have been endowed with dignity, worth, and respect just the same as her. I cannot recommend this book enough, even if you don't have kids I would get a copy to have to serve as a reminder that the easiest way to begin to see others the way God wants us to is by remembering we are all here because of God and his very good idea.

Stephen Watkinson says

This is a lovely book which I read with my 7 year old daughter. It explains the gospel but with a focus on how God has made us all different but in his image. My daughter said she loved the pictures and how she could understand all the words!

Amy McDaniel says

Loved reading this book to my nieces & nephew! It so beautifully explains the gospel in such a simple way for children to understand and the illustrations are so colorful which makes it really fun to read to them!

Sharon says

Just read this today and can't wait to read it to my new first graders soon.
