Lovereading4kids.co.uk

Opening extract from

50 Favourite Bible Stories

Selected and narrated by

Cliff Richard

Published by

Lion Children's Books

All text is copyright of the author and illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Contents

The Old Testament

1 In the Beginning 8
Genesis 1–2

2 The Garden of Eden 12
Genesis 2–3

3 The Great Flood 15
Genesis 6–9

4 God's Promise 19
Genesis 12, 15, 18, 21

5 Jacob and Esau 22
Genesis 25, 27, 32–33

6 Joseph and His Coat 26
Genesis 37, 39–40

7 Joseph and the Famine 29
Genesis 41–46

8 Slaves in Egypt 33
Exodus 1–2

9 The Burning Bush 36
Exodus 2–4

10 Out of Egypt 39
Exodus 7–14

11 Ten Commandments 43
Exodus 16–17, 19–20, 22–26

12 The Walls of Jericho 46
Numbers 27; Joshua 1–2, 6

13 Achan's Crime 49
Joshua 7

14 The Story of Ruth 51
Ruth 1–4

15 The Boy Samuel 54
1 Samuel 1–3

16 David and Goliath 57
1 Samuel 17–18

17 Wise King Solomon 61
1 Kings 3

18 Fire from Heaven 63
1 Kings 18

19 Naaman the Proud 66
2 Kings 5

20 Jerusalem at War 68
2 Kings 18–19; 2 Chronicles 32

21 Good King Josiah 70
2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chronicles 34–35

22 Jonah and the Fish 72
Jonah 1–4

23 The Fiery Furnace 76
Daniel 1–3

24 Daniel and the Lions 79
Daniel 6

25 Rebuilding God's City 82
Nehemiah 1, 2, 4, 12 & 43

The New Testament

26 Elizabeth and Mary 86
Luke 1

27 Jesus is Born 89
Matthew 1; Luke 2

28 Wise Men from Afar 93
Matthew 2

29 The Boy Jesus 95
Matthew 2; Luke 2

30 Jesus is Baptized 97
Luke 1, 3–4; Matthew 3

31 Followers of Jesus 101
Luke 5; Matthew 9–10

32 Jesus the Teacher 105
Matthew 5–7

33 The Hole in the Roof 109
Luke 5

34 The Sower 111
Luke 8

35 The Storm on the Lake 114
Mark 4

36 The Little Girl 116
Luke 8

37 Loaves and Fishes 118
Luke 9

38 The Good Samaritan 120
Luke 10

39 The Great Feast 124
Luke 14

40 The Lost Son 126
Luke 15

41 God's Kingdom 129
Luke 18

42 Jesus and Zacchaeus 132
Luke 19

43 Riding to Jerusalem 134
Matthew 21; Luke 19

44 The Last Supper 137
Matthew 26; Luke 22

45 The Crucifixion 141
Matthew 27; Luke 22–23; John 19

46 The Empty Tomb 145
Matthew 27; Luke 23–24; Mark 15–16

47 The Road to Emmaus 148
Luke 24

48 God's Holy Spirit 151
Acts 1–2

49 Stephen's Faith 155
Acts 6–8

50 Telling the News 157
Acts 9; 1 John 4



The Old Testament



1 In the Beginning

Everything, everywhere, began with God. There was once a time – long before time itself even started – when there was nothing in our world except swirling waters and total darkness.

But God was there. A moment came when he said, 'Let there be light!' and, suddenly, light streamed through the darkness – and God began creating the world that we now know.

God started by making the light and darkness into day and night, and putting the sky in place. Then he pushed back the waters and heaped up the land in order to make sea and earth so that trees and plants could begin growing on the earth and start producing flowers, fruits and seeds.

With each new day, God took pleasure in seeing his creation take shape. He made all the stars and the planets of the universe, the fiery sun to give warmth to the earth during the day, and the cool, pale moon to give light at night.



Next, God made the seas swim and swarm with fish and all kinds of sea creatures, while the skies all over the earth were filled with birdsong and the sound of beating wings.

Then all kinds of animals began to appear on the earth – from big, slow, lumbering ones to small, quick, furry ones. There were animals that ran, crawled, slithered, hopped, jumped, leaped and galloped. There were animals that roared, trumpeted, bellowed, mooed, snorted, bleated, barked, meowed and squeaked.

And then, when everything else was complete, God decided to make human beings – a man and a woman. God made them to be like himself, and he blessed them and put them in charge of his whole creation so that they could care for this perfect world that he had made.

His work finished, God sat back, took a long look at everything and decided that it was good. Very good.

