

# Building Your Home Library for Children

## Recommended Reading

The following lists of good books are grouped by the four sources of Christian education. These include only a few of the good books available. All are not written by Christian authors, but we think they are all useful. The list of practical skills books is heavy on sewing because this has been my interest. The list could be much expanded to fit all vocations. Sewing is a wonderful hands-on application of math, along with agriculture, business, carpentry, crafts, cooking, and baking.

Beware of story books, even those books promoted as mission stories, that are read mostly for the thrilling story. The Bible and SOP are better. Mission stories should be true, not historical fiction, and uplift Christ and His power to save, more than the “missionary.”

Over-simplified books for children will not adequately challenge their minds to expand to their potential, so are usually best to avoid. Many “school books” are of this type. They purposely restrict the vocabulary, dramatize good books, like Pilgrim’s Progress, may assign rote questions rather than encouraging children to think and formulate their own questions. Too often they discourage independent thought. Be careful to find truth, useful information, and books that will advance you toward heaven, while developing skilled usefulness and valuable knowledge. They are not simply for entertainment. Any good book can be made interesting to a child.

Nature books should enable you appreciate the wonderful natural resources God has created for beauty, and adapted to revel His love, power, and wisdom. Nature is the resource for all, even the youngest children, on which health, happiness, and all useful trades depend. Agriculture is the basis of civilization and business. Identification guides are important so that we can teach our children to identify plants, insects, rocks, water creatures, mammals, birds, etc., and learn the required vocabulary to speak about them intelligently. Children will be greatly benefitted if you read these books to them and lead them out to find the natural things. When they learn to read, encourage them to research the guides for themselves.

History books should also lead us heavenward. It is important to not forget how God has led in the past, and the lessons He has taught His people. May He help us to avoid repeating their mistakes, imitate their virtues, and to develop the necessary, present truths for our time. It is safe to follow examples that honor God by harmony with Christ and in accordance with the law testimony. “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Prov. 14:34.

### 1. Useful Work, Practical Skills, Crafts

- **The Complete Soapmaker**, by Norma Coney, Sterling Publishing Co., NY
- **Build Your own Earth Oven**, by Kiko Denzer, Hand Print Press, OR
- **Of These Ye May Freely Eat**, Vegetarian Cookbook, by JoAnn Rachor, Family Health Publications, LLC
- **A Good Cook...Ten Talents**, by Rosalie and Frank Hurd, College Press, TN
- **The Bread Builders**, by Daniel Wing and Alan Scott, Chelsea Green Pub. Co., VT
- **Kids Can Sew**, by Carolyn Curtis (Ages 6-12) (Patterns tend to be oversized—measure the child and compare, adding a little ease. Very simple machine sewing.).

- **Reader's Digest New Fix-It-Yourself Manual**, The Reader's Digest Association, Pleasantville, NY
- **Steven Caney's Toy Book**, Workman Publishing Company, NYC
- **The Almanac of Rural Living**, by Harvey C. Neese, William Morrow and Co., Inc., NY
- **Reader's Digest Back to Basics**, The Reader's Digest Association, Pleasantville, NY
- **Sewing Made Easy**, by Mary Lynch, Garden City Books, Garden City, NY
- **Craft Manual of North American Indian Footwear**, by George M. White
- **Sew To Success**, by Kathleen Spike
- **Sewing as a Home Business**, by Mary Roehr
- **Nifty Fifty Quilts**, Craft Books, NY, NY
- **30-Minute Doll Clothes**, by Nancy Zieman with Joan Hinds
- **Twenty Easy Machine-Made Rugs**, by Jackie Dodson
- **Sew Smart**, by Judy Lawrence and Clotilde, IBC Publishing Co. Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- **Your Guide to Quilting**, by Joann Stores Inc.
- **Metric Pattern Cutting** by Winifred Aldrich, Great Britain, The Thetford Press Ltd.
- **Personal Patterns** by Jinni, by Virginia Nastiuk, Newman-Burrows, Seattle (Fitting & Design)
- **Beyond Backpacking**, Ray Jardine's Guide to Lightweight Hiking, Adventure Lore Press, AZ
- **The Indian Tipi, Its history, Construction, and Use**, by Reginald and Gladys Laubin, Ballantine Books, NY
- **Learning to Write Spencerian Script**, by Michael R. Sull and Debra E. Rapp. (Beautiful handwriting beyond the simple CRC cursive)
- **Wildwood Wisdom**, by Ellsworth Jaeger, Shelter Publications Inc., CA
- **The Ultimate Wood Block Book**, by Sam Bingham, Building castles, bridges, and other Engineering Marvels, Sterling Pub. Co., NY
- **Easy Carpentry Projects for Children**, by Jerome E. Leavitt, Dover Publications, NY
- **The Handknitter's Handbook**, by Montse Stanley, Sterling Publishing, NY
- **Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain**, by Betty Edwards, J. P. Tarcher, Inc., CA (This author is not a Christian, but there are many helpful principles and exercises for artistic drawing.)

## 2. Scriptures, Salvation, Jesus, Faith

- **The Holy Bible**, King James Version
- **Living Fountains or Broken Cisterns**, by E.A. Sutherland, A Thinking Generation
- **Our Authorized Version Vindicated**, by B. G. Wilkinson
- **Thou Hast Magnified Thy Name Above All Thy Word**, by Martin Klein, Savannah Pictures
- **The Story of Jesus**, by E. G. White, Southern Publishing Assoc.
- **The Hiding Place**, by Corrie Ten Boom with John and Elizabeth Sherrill, Bantam Books
- **50 Years in the Church of Rome**, by Charles Chiniquy, Chick Publications, CA
- **A Thousand Shall Fall**, by Susi Hasel Mundy, Review and Herald Pub., MD
- **That Book In the Attic**, by Helen K. Oswald, Pacific Press Pub.
- **Truth Triumphant**, by B. G. Wilkinson, Ph.D., The Church in the Wilderness,
- **Early Writings**, by E.G. White, Review and Herald Pub., MD
- **Education**, by E. G. White, Pacific Press Pub. Assoc.
- **The Pilgrim's Progress**, by John Bunyan, Complete and Unabridged Edition, Barbour Co., Inc., NJ

- **Fullness of Joy**, by Eric B. Hare, Pacific Press Pub. Assoc.
- **Stories of Providential Deliverance**, by William A. Spicer, Teach Services, Brushton, NY
- **A Brand From the Burning**, by Alcyon Ruth Fleck, Pacific Press Publishing Association
- **Bible Readings for the Home**, Harvestime Books, TN
- **The Hands That Intervenes**, by William Spicer, Harvestime Books, TN
- **Steps to Christ** by E.G. White
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- **Child Guidance**, by E.G. White
- **The Education that Educates**, by Marion Cady
- **Testimonies for the Church, Volumes 1-9**, by E. G. White
- **The Broken Blueprint**, by Vance Ferrell
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- **Spirit of Prophecy, Volumes 1-4**, by E. G. White (extra details in simple style)
- **The Ministry of Healing**, by E. G. White
- **Spiritual Gifts, Volumes 1-4 (in 2 books)**, by E. G. White (extra details in simple style)
- **The Testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10)**, by F. M. Wilcox
- **The Conflict of the Ages Series (Volumes 1-5)**, by E. G. White
- **The Adventist Home**, by E. G. White
- **Sons and Daughters of God**, by E. G. White
- **That I May Know Him**, by E. G. White
- **Valley of Decision**, by Leola Woodruff
- **Golden Treasury of Bible Stories**, by Arthur Spalding
- **Creeping Compromise**, by Joe Crews
- **Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students**, by E. G. White
- **Proverbs and James (philosophy)**, by Solomon and James (brother to Christ)

### 3. Nature, Science, Health, Gardening, Language

- Human Anatomy Coloring Book, by Margaret Matt and Joe Ziemian
- Human Anatomy in Full Color, by John Green, Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, NY
- The Secret Life of Compost by Malcolm Beck, Acres USA
- Successful Small-Scale Farming by Karl Schwenke, Storey Books
- Reader's Digest Illustrated Guide to Gardening, The Reader's Digest Association, Pleasantville, NY
- Animals, Birds, and Plants of the Bible, by Willard S. Smith, Abington Press, Nashville, TN
- A Field Guide to the Mammals, by Burt and Grossenheider, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston
- Handy Farm Devices and How to Make Them, by Rolfe Cobleigh, The Lyons Press, CT
- The Solar Greenhouse Book, James C. McCullagh, Rodale Press, PA
- First Lessons in Beekeeping, by Keiths Delaplane, Dadant & Sons, Hamilton, IL
- Rodale's Garden Problem Solver by Jeff Ball, Rodale Press, PA
- The Simon & Schuster Encyclopedia of Animals by Dr. Philip Whitfield, NY
- Back to Eden by Jethro Kloss
- The Sting of the Scorpion by Jonathan Gray, Swift Printing Services Pty Ltd. Australia
- Sunlight by Zane R. Kime, MD, MS World Health Publications, CA
- The Mental Arithmetic for the Home and School, by E. A. Sutherland, A Thinking Generation

- ∇ Golden Nature Guides (Birds. Flowers. Insects. Seashores. Trees. Reptiles and Amphibians. Weather. Mammals. Pond Life. Fishes. Rocks and Minerals. Zoology. Gamebirds. Sea Shells of the World. Fossils. Butterflies and Moths. Non-Flowering Plants.) Golden Press, NY
- ∇ National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American **Trees** (Various Regions) Random House, NY
- ∇ National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American **Wildflowers** (Various Regions) Random House, NY
- ∇ National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American **Birds** (Various Regions) Random House, NY
- ∇ Friends and Foes of Field and Forest, by Vesta L. Farnsworth, Review and Herald Pub. Assn. Field Guide to the Birds of North America, National Geographic Society
- ∇ Medicinal Plants and Herbs, by Steven Foster and James A. Duke, Petersen Field Guides, Houghton Mifflin Co., NY
- ∇ Feasting Free on Wild Edibles, by Bradford Angier, Pyramid Books, NY
- ∇ All That The Rain Promises, and More... by David Arora, A Hip Pocket Guide to Western Mushrooms, Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, CA
- ∇ School of Natural Healing, by Dr. John R. Christopher, Christopher Publications, Springville, UT Health Handbook, by Louise Tenny, M.H. Woodland Books, Provo, UT
- ∇ 130 Medicinal Plant Monographs of the Northwest, by Darcy J. Williamson, From the Forest, ID
- ∇ Edible Wild Plants of (Region) North America, by Peterson, Houghton Mifflin Co., NY
- ∇ Western Edible Wild Plants, by H. D. Harrington, The University of New Mexico Press, NM
- ∇ Where There Is No Doctor, A village Health care Handbook, by David Werner with Carol Thuman and Jane Maxwell, Hesperian Foundation, Palo Alto, CA
- ∇ The China Study, by T. Colin Campbell, PhD with Thomas M. Campbell II. Benbella Books, TX It's All In Your Head, by Hal Huggins
- ∇ Uninformed Consent, Hidden Dangers in Dental Care, by Hal A. Huggins, DDS, MS, and Thomas E. Levy, MD, JD.
- ∇ Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar, by Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, Zondervan, MI (Good book for beginner learning to read and understand Hebrew. Simple lessons.)

#### 4. Life Experiences, History

- **The Underground History of American Education**, by John Taylor Gatto, Oxford Village Press, NY
- **Dumbing Us Down**, by John Taylor Gatto, New Society Publishers
- **Weapons of Mass Instruction**, by John Taylor Gatto, New Society Publishers
- **The Story of Liberty by Charles Coffin**, Maranatha Publications, Inc., FL
- **Sweet Land of Liberty by Charles Coffin**, Maranatha Publications, Inc., FL
- **The Boys of '76 by Charles Coffin**, Maranatha Publications, Inc., FL
- **Missions and Miracles**, compilation by Harvestime Books, TN
- **Storytime Treasury**, compilation by Harvestime Books, TN
- **Adventure Stories from History**, compiled by Harvestime Books, TN
- **The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century**, by Merle J. D'Aubigne
- **Bible**: Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, The Book of Acts, by Luke, Daniel & Revelation.

- **The History of Protestantism, Volumes 1 and 2**, by J. A. Wylie (As a Sundaykeeper, Wylie omitted certain details which are brought out clearly by B. G. Wilkinson in Truth Triumphant. Wylie gives many graphic details of times, places, names and events.)  
Israel of the Alps, by Alexis Muston
- **The Man Who Couldn't Be Killed**, by Stanley Maxwell, Pacific Press Pub. Assn.
- **The Great Controversy**, by E. G. White
- **History of the Waldenses**, by J. A. Wylie, Cassell & Company, Ltd., NY

“Once you trust yourself to go mind-to-mind with great intellects, artists, scientists, warriors, and philosophers, you are finally free.”

“Close reading of tough-minded writing is still the best, cheapest, and quickest method known for learning to think for yourself.”

“Reading, and rigorous discussion of that reading in a way that obliges you to formulate a position and support it against objections, is an operational definition of education in its most fundamental civilized sense. No one can do this very well without learning ways of paying attention... Reading analysis, and discussion are the way we develop reliable judgment, the principle way we come to penetrate covert movements behind the facade of public appearances. Without the ability to read and argue we're just geese to be plucked.”

“Reading is the skeleton key for all who lack a personal tutor of quality.”

“Pictures have nothing to do with learning to love reading, except too many of them will pretty much guarantee that it never happens.”

“A sight vocabulary is faster to learn than letters and phonograms, but the gain is a Trojan horse; only after several years have passed does the sight reader's difficulty learning words from outside sources begin to become apparent. By that time, conditions made pressing,...make it hard to regain the ground lost.”

– The Underground History of Education, by John Taylor Gatto, pp. 56, 58, 68