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A Note to Parents

Welcome to *Kregel's Easter Treasury of Illustrated Bible Stories*! I'm excited to share these wonderful stories and illustrations with you.

Inside these pages you will find eighteen episodes that encompass the key events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. Each story in this family keepsake is attractively laid out and beautifully adorned with classic fine art. Additionally, there are "Easter Extras" included with each passage to help your family engage with the resurrection story in a deeper way. As a bonus, a Lenten Bible Reading Plan that you can follow leading up to Easter is available in the back of this book.

While many Bible storybooks retell stories, I have compiled text from actual Scripture! I have used a variety of respected modern translations to render each episode in a way that is easy to read and understand. The verses printed in this book are referenced at the end of each Scripture passage, along with the designated translation abbreviation as noted on the copyright page.

Since nothing can replace the value of reading from your own Bible, I encourage you to explore these stories further in the Word and in full context by reading for yourself the chapters from which the episodes are taken. Encourage your children or grandchildren to read the Bible independently as well. Starting this practice at a young age helps kids know God and establish the important habit of regular Bible reading.

Matt

About the Artwork

The wonderful illustrations featured throughout this volume come from one of the largest privately held collections of vintage Bible art. The art was originally commissioned by Standard Publishing, in pursuit of providing high-quality illustrations to complement their Sunday school materials. Some of the works featured in this book date back to more than one hundred years ago, as the collection came together over a period of about fifty years, with the latest pieces dating to the late 1950s.

Within the overall collection, there is artwork attributed to more than fifty different artists. Of the illustrations featured in this book, several were done by two American artists, Cleveland Woodward and Otto Stemler.

Cleveland Woodward (1900–1985): Born in Glendale, Ohio, and a graduate of the Art Academy of Cincinnati, Cleveland continued his training in Europe, studying at the British Academy of Arts in Rome. He also spent time in the Holy Land and was known for his Bible illustrations.

Otto Stemler (1872–1953): Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Otto studied at the Art Academy of Cincinnati and was Standard's primary in-house artist. He made artistic contributions to the collection over the span of a forty-year career. His works often feature bold colors.



Matt Lockhart has spent over three decades in ministry and Christian publishing and enjoys creating books that help children and adults get into the Bible.

Jesus Anointed

Six days before the Passover Feast, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus lived. (Lazarus is the man Jesus raised from death.) There they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food. Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus. Mary brought in a pint of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus' feet, and then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.

John 12:1-3 (ICB)

In the forty days leading
up to Easter, consider using
the Lenten Bible Reading Plan
on page 45.



