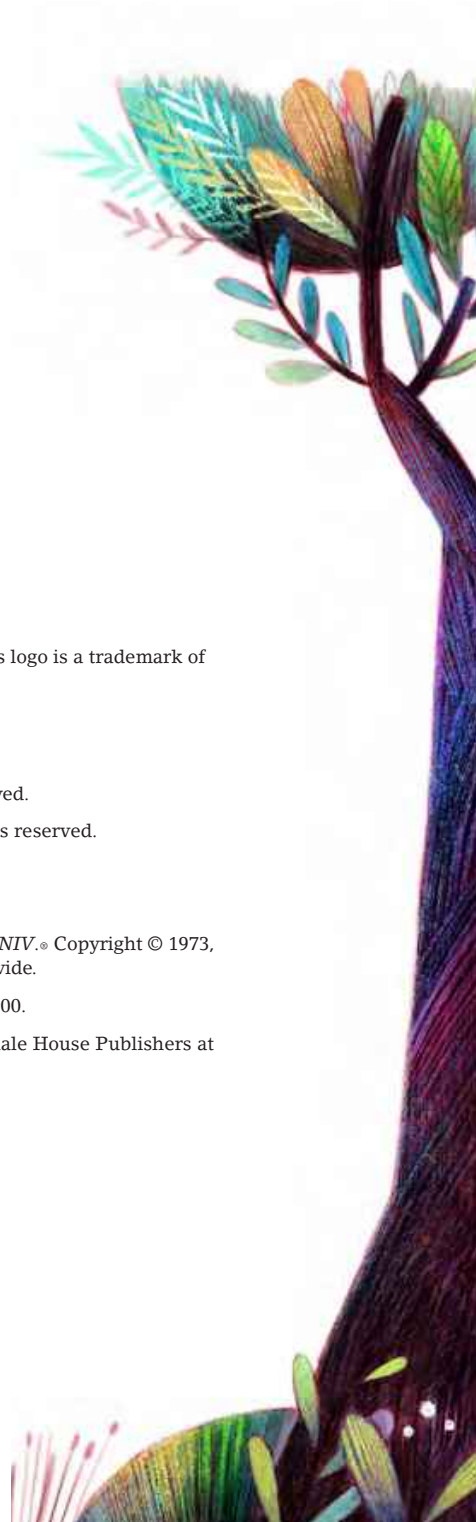


God's  
**COLORFUL**  
Kingdom  
Storybook Bible

The story of God's big diverse family

written by **Esau McCaulley** | illustrated by **Rogério Coelho**



Visit Tyndale’s website for kids at [tyndale.com/kids](http://tyndale.com/kids).

Visit the author’s website at [esaumccauley.com](http://esaumccauley.com).

*Tyndale* is a registered trademark of Tyndale House Ministries. The Tyndale Kids logo is a trademark of Tyndale House Ministries.

*God’s Colorful Kingdom Storybook Bible: The Story of God’s Big Diverse Family*

Copyright © 2025 by Esau McCauley. All rights reserved.

Author photo by Robb Davis of Axiom Media, copyright © 2024. All rights reserved.

Illustrations by Rogério Coelho. Copyright © Tyndale House Ministries. All rights reserved.

Spot illustrations colorized by Olivia Jensen

Designed by Jacqueline L. Nuñez

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, *New International Version*,<sup>®</sup> *NIV*.<sup>®</sup> Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.<sup>®</sup> Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

For manufacturing information regarding this product, please call 1-855-277-9400.

For information about special discounts for bulk purchases, please contact Tyndale House Publishers at [csresponse@tyndale.com](mailto:csresponse@tyndale.com), or call 1-855-277-9400.

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN 978-1-4964-5988-6

Printed in China

31	30	29	28	27	26	25
7	6	5	4	3	2	1



*This book is dedicated to my four children  
(especially our two youngest, Peter and Miriam).  
May you always find hope and joy in God's Word.  
It is a gift to us for our good.*



# Contents



**A Note to Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers x**

---

**Creation 1**

**The Fall: Things Go Wrong 9**

**The Water and the List 17**

**Babel: Coming Together for the Wrong Things 25**

**God, Abraham, and the Very Big Promise 33**

**Joseph and His Two Sons: Ephraim and Manasseh 41**

**Jochebed, Puah, and Shiphrah: Some Very Brave Women 49**

**The Exodus: A God of Freedom 57**

**God's Laws and God's Justice 65**

**Judges: The People Lose Their Way, but God Doesn't 73**

**A Faithful God and a Faithful Friend: The Story of Ruth 81**

**David and the God Who Sees Us 89**

**The Kings of Israel: Failure and Hope 97**

**The Prophet Isaiah and God's Important Mission 105**

**Daniel and His Friends: God Is with Us No Matter Where We Go 113**

**Sing to the God Who Made Us! 121**

---

**A Pause . . . 132**

---

Mary and the God Who Turns Things Upside Down 135

The Savior Is Here: The Birth of the Messiah 143

Simeon and Anna Meet the Messiah 151

John the Baptist Gets People Ready for Jesus 159

Jesus' First Sermon at Nazareth 167

A Strange Kingdom 175

Jesus, the Good Shepherd 183

The Cross That Brings the Nations 191

He Is Not Here; He Is Risen! 199

Pentecost: The Spirit Is for Everyone 207

The Ethiopian Eunuch: The Gospel Goes Out to the World 215

Paul, Apostle to the Nations 223

Paul's Letter to the Galatians 231

James's Letter 239

How the Story Ends 245

---

Acknowledgments 251

About the Author 253

About the Illustrator 255



## A Note to Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers

I would like to tell you a story—but not the whole of it. Who could tell the complete story of God? Not even the Bible can contain the entire narrative of what God does in the world. That’s because the story of the world from beginning to end is God’s story. He’s in every nook and cranny—whatever nooks and crannies are—of every tale. This book, dear reader, is an attempt to tell thirty-one stories from Scripture that highlight two central themes that occur over and over in the Bible itself.

First, I want to tell about God’s love for the many nations—or ethnic groups—of the world. God makes it clear on just about every page of Scripture that his desire is to form a very diverse family. The unity in diversity of the church is a testimony to the universal power of the gospel to draw people to the living God.

Why tell this story now? We live in a world that likes to divide people up based on how much money they make, the color of their skin, or where they are from. The stories in this book will show children that God’s family is not like that.

We also live in a world where many people are sick, poor, needy, and hurting. Does the Bible say anything about how we as Christians should think about these people? Indeed, the Bible has plenty to say, and stories about justice for the marginalized will be highlighted in this book as well.



I am attempting to emphasize these stories while staying focused on God as the Hero of the whole story and on the great salvation that Jesus brings us. I'm drawing attention to these two themes in the Bible while hopefully never getting off track from the grand narrative that the Scriptures declare about God and his gracious love for us.

If you and your children read these stories the way they are intended, you will not leave these retellings with more things to do, but with a greater appreciation of what God has done and a greater desire to join in the work that he has never stopped doing.

This book is the beginning of an adventure with the Scriptures themselves, and I hope it leads children to a lifelong love of God's Word.

As the narrator, I will be jumping in and out of the story explaining bits and trying to bring key ideas home to children. My intention, even when I paraphrase passages of Scripture, is to tell the story as faithfully as I know how. Consider this book an invitation to a much bigger story that still fills me with wonder.

*Esau+*





GENESIS 1:1-2:3

# Creation

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Genesis 1:1*

**T**he story of the Bible does not begin with you and me. It starts with God. If we can imagine it, God existed before there was a before. He has always been here.

One writer says it this way: “Before the mountains were born or you made the earth, from everlasting to everlasting you are God” (Psalm 90:2). Just thinking about that gives me a headache. It also makes me want to sing songs of praise to God.

God is the superhero. He is the star of everything that happens. We are here, the world is here, the stars, the animals, and the plants are here because “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” He wanted it to be, and so it is.

This is good news. No one is a mistake. God created us for a reason. He likes what he has made. We know because he told us.

God looked at the stars he made as they lit up the sky,  
and he called them GOOD.

God looked at the fish he made as they swam in the blue sea,  
and he called them GOOD.

God looked at the animals he made as they roamed the earth  
with their hooves, horns, snouts, and claws,  
and he called them GOOD.





God looked at the sun he made as it gave light to the day and the moon he made as it welcomed the night,  
and he called them GOOD.

God enjoys when created things do what he made them to do.

The plants he created to grow on the earth glorify God by GROWING.

The animals he created to wander the land glorify God by WANDERING.

The birds he created to fly in the sky glorify God by FLYING.

And you, dear READER, by being the boy or girl God created you to be, glorify him by just being. Much of this is very simple. You glorify God by eating, growing, and attending school and church. You glorify God by being kind to your brothers and sisters and listening to your parents.

If God gave you a love of singing, you can glorify God using your voice.

If God gave you a love of sports, you can glorify God through athletics.

If God made you a dancer, you can glorify God by dancing. You can write, sing, play, or draw to the glory of God. One day you might even glorify God by being a doctor, chef, firefighter, pastor, or teacher.



When God made the world, he didn't make it all green or all blue. He didn't make all the snowflakes the same shape. He didn't make only dogs or only rabbits. No. God made a diverse world containing every imaginable shape and color. He did this because he loves diversity.

God saved his best, most creative work for last: Adam and Eve.

He made the first humans in his own image. Humans are unique because we can say thank you to God for all the good things he made.

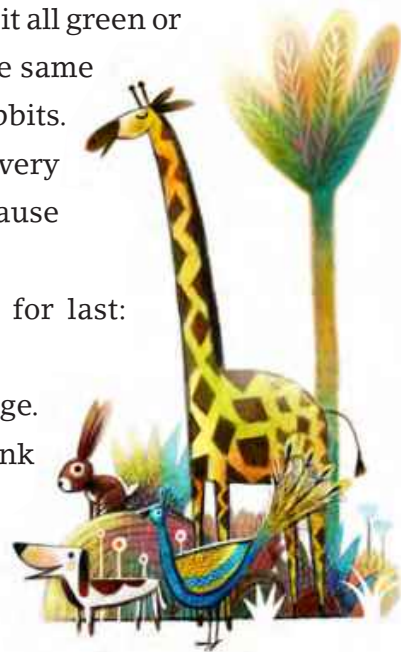
God gave Adam and Eve the command to be fruitful and multiply, which means he wanted them to have children!

This command led to the creation of new families. God loves to fill the world with people made in his image. Men and women come together as husband and wife to make more image bearers. This has happened over and over since the beginning of time. It is the reason why you and I exist.

All of us are made in the image of God. It doesn't matter if you were born into a rich family or a poor one—you bear God's image. You are valuable to God.

We all look different from each other. Our skin may be dark or light. Our hair may be curly or straight. We come in many shapes and sizes. It doesn't matter. God still looks at us and calls us good.

The belief that God made us all in his image gives strength to





people whom society treats unfairly. It encourages Christ followers to fight for fair treatment and a chance to live and work without being harmed. It inspired African American Christians to fight against laws that denied their rights for many years. They knew that God had looked upon them and called them good.

The most wonderful thing that the world has ever seen is God's own Son, Jesus. He existed with God the Father before there was a star in the sky or a fish in the sea. He is the true image of God. He showed us through his life what God is like. He set the story right when things went wrong. But we are getting ahead of ourselves. More on him later.



## A Pause . . .

**W**e have met many people from the Bible, but the story is not done. The most important person we've met is God. He is the hero of this story. He made the world for us to live in. He made it good, and diversity is part of that goodness. But sin entered the world. Now pain and joy are mixed together.

God has always had a vision to bring together a family of people from every nation in the world. He wants all of us—black, brown, or white—to be with him and to know him. He wants people from Africa, Australia, Asia, and everywhere in between. He doesn't love one group of people more than any other.

Remember God's promise to Abraham? He promised Abraham a place, a land to call his home. He promised to make him the father of many nations. All the people of the world would be blessed through Abraham and his family.

God kept his promise. He added different people from different nations to Abraham's family. Israel became diverse along the way.

Then God gave his people the laws. These laws were good. They taught the people how to worship God and how to live for him. These laws showed that God cared how his people treated others. He loves justice. The poor and needy have a friend in God.

But things didn't go so well for the Israelites. Often, the people of Israel did not keep God's laws. They did not remain faithful to him. They mistreated each other. The rich took advantage of the

poor. People lied and cheated. These bad things happened because sin was in them and in the world causing problems. It was not just Israel that sinned. Everyone did. Everyone was in need of a Savior. They needed Jesus, and so do we.

Even Israel's kings failed to follow God. They were sinners too.

God sent the prophets to warn Israel, but the people did not listen.

God judged his people by sending them into exile. But God also promised to bring them back to their home. God's grace and forgiveness was good news for the Israelites back then, and it is still good news for us today!

God did bring the Israelites back to their land, but they still were not free because foreign nations ruled them in their own country. The story was unfinished.

Running through this whole story is a vision of a King and a Kingdom. The Savior King who would come from David's family would rule in the right way. He would lead the people to keep God's laws. All the nations of the world would be blessed by this King. His Kingdom would cover the whole earth one day. He would be a friend to those who were hurting, a champion of those who were weak.

This King has been in the shadows. Now it is time for him to come into the light.



LUKE 1:26-79

# Mary and the God Who Turns Things Upside Down

*[The Lord] has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.*

*Luke 1:52-53*

**T**he story of God and his plan for the world is the biggest and grandest story. In truth, it is the only story, and we are all living in it. This very big story has turning points. There are moments when the big story gets very small. Remember when God appeared to Abraham and told him that his family would bless the whole world? The story got small then.

Now we're going to read about another turning point where God called someone to a very important job. This person was a young woman named Mary.

Mary lived in a small town in Israel called Nazareth. She was a normal girl with normal dreams. She wanted to worship God and make a life with her future husband, Joseph. Sometimes God calls normal people to do big things.

One day, God sent the angel Gabriel to visit Mary. (The name Gabriel means "God is a warrior." What a cool name for an angel.)

"Rejoice, you who are highly favored by God!" Gabriel said. "The Lord is with you!"

Mary was troubled by what Gabriel said and wondered what his words meant. What would make her favored by God? She was a poor girl in a small town in the middle of nowhere.

Gabriel knew that he had worried Mary, so he told her, “Do not be afraid!” (That was easy for Gabriel to say—he was the angel, not the one meeting the angel!)

Gabriel explained, “Mary, you have found favor with God. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You will name him Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High. God will give him the kingdom of his father David. He will reign forever, and his Kingdom will never end.”

This is the Kingdom and family God has been working toward since the beginning! It is a Kingdom that invites everyone to join. Whether you’re rich or poor, young or old—no matter where you were born or the color of your skin—God’s Kingdom welcomes you.



Gabriel had just given Mary the biggest news in human history. The promised King who would bless and rule the nations would be her son.

She was blessed and favored indeed!

But Mary had an important question: “How can this happen if I’m not married?”

Gabriel answered, “Your child will be a miracle created within your womb when the Spirit of God overshadows you.”

Jesus, born of the Spirit and Mary, would be fully human and fully God. He is a walking mystery: God in human flesh.

While Mary pondered this miracle, Gabriel told her about another marvel. “Your relative Elizabeth is also pregnant, despite her old age. Nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary’s life was changing, and she needed someone to talk to. She decided to go to the only person who would understand: Elizabeth, who was about to have her own miracle baby.

When Mary’s feet crossed the entry to Elizabeth’s home, the baby in Elizabeth’s belly leaped for joy. His was the first of many hearts that Jesus filled with happiness.

Elizabeth, filled with the Spirit, said, “You are a very blessed woman, and your child is blessed too. You are blessed because you believed what God told you.”

All of a sudden, we are in a musical. Mary sang the following hymn to mark the occasion:







*My soul boasts in the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
because he cares about me even though I am ordinary and poor.  
From now on all generations will remember me as blessed  
because God has done great things for me,  
and his name is holy.  
He shows mercy toward people who fear him in every generation.  
With his powerful arm, he has done great things;  
He has defeated those with arrogant plans that they made up  
themselves.  
God has taken down the powerful;  
God has lifted up the people without power who trust in him.  
He has given food to the hungry;  
He has sent the rich away with nothing.  
He has remembered all the promises he made to Abraham and his  
family forever.*

When God does great things in our lives, it is okay to sing. We can sing at church and at home and in the car. Songs are a way of remembering and praising.

Mary knew it was important that God chose *her*. God didn't choose someone rich or powerful to raise his Son. God doesn't need powerful people to get things done—he has more than enough strength. Mary's song reminds us that God does the opposite of what we expect all the time. He lifts up the poor, and he takes down those who believe they are stronger or wiser than God. Mary worshiped God because he keeps promises and loves justice. We worship him for those exact same reasons today.





# About the Author



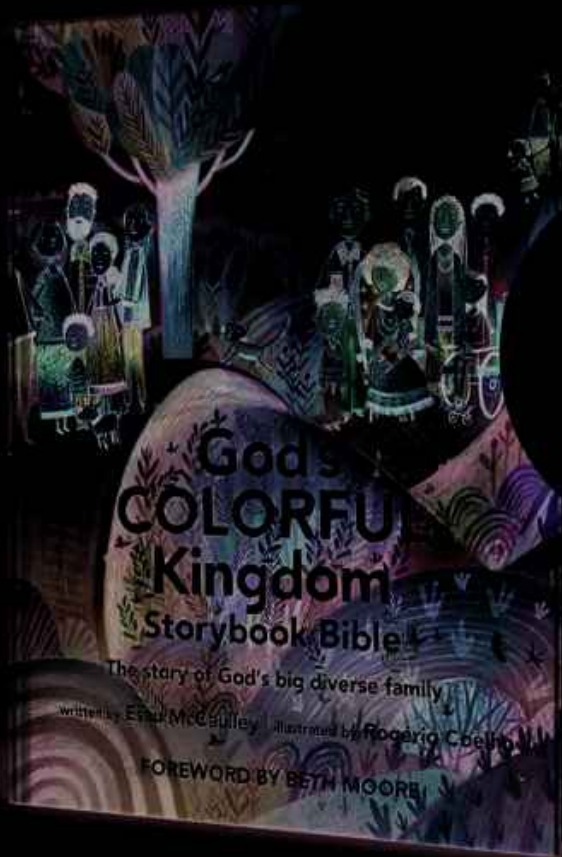
**R**ev. Esau McCaulley, PhD, is associate professor of New Testament and the Jonathan Blanchard Chair of New Testament and Public Theology at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. Rev. McCaulley also serves as the rector (senior pastor) of All Saints Anglican Church in Naperville, Illinois. He is the author of the children's books *Andy Johnson and the March for Justice* and *Josey Johnson's Hair and the Holy Spirit*. For adults he has written many other works including *How Far to the Promised Land: One Black Family's Story of Hope and Survival in the American South* and *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*. Dr. McCaulley is also a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*. His writings have appeared in *The Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, and *Christianity Today*. He is a senior editor for Holy Post Media and hosts his own podcast there, creatively titled *The Esau McCaulley Podcast*. He is married to Mandy, a pediatrician and Navy reservist. Together, they have four wonderful children.



## About the Illustrator

**R**ogério Coelho lives in Curitiba, a city in the south of Brazil. He has worked as a professional illustrator for twenty-five years, illustrating more than one hundred books for Brazilian publishers, and has twice received the Jabuti Award (2012 and 2016), Brazil's most important literary award. In 2015, Rogério began illustrating for publishers in England (*Storytime Magazine*, a magazine aimed at children) and in the United States. His wordless picture book *Boat of Dreams* received starred reviews from *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*, was named a Best Book for Kids by the New York Public Library in 2017, and received the Independent Publisher Book Awards' gold medal for children's picture books. Rogério also illustrated *You Be You* (written by Richard Brehm), which received the same gold medal for children's picture books in 2021.





God's  
**COLORFUL**  
Kingdom  
Storybook Bible

The story of God's big diverse family

written by Ernie McCullley illustrated by Rogério Coelho

FOREWORD BY BETH MOORE

**SAMPLER for PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

## **The Story of God's Big DIVERSE FAMILY**

*"God is at work creating this beautifully diverse family, just as he said he would."*

God has always planned for his people to form a great big colorful Kingdom. Award-winning author Esau McCaulley has written a one-of-a-kind storybook Bible celebrating God's overarching story of grace and his intentional design for an ethnically diverse church that cares for the vulnerable.

The story of God's colorful Kingdom is for people the world over. Take a look and you will fall in love with this stunningly beautiful and heartwarming book.

ISBN: 978-1-4964-5988-6  
Binding: Hardcover  
Trim Size: 7.5" x 9"  
Release Date: 09/09/2025  
Page Count: 272  
Retail Price: \$24.99