

•**GREEN.** Do you like spring? Many people look forward to the start of baseball season, to picnics, and to warmer weather. When we see the first blades of green grass, we know that spring and summer will soon follow. Spring is a time of new life and growth.

The green strip reminds me that because of Christ's cross, I can grow, too—at any and every time of year. God has planted the seed of his Word in my heart, and he will water it and fertilize it. The Bible urges us to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

•**YELLOW.** This last strip, the yellow one, reminds me that life on this earth is not all there is. Someday, all believers will live with Jesus forever in heaven. Jesus has promised us, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2–3). Because of Jesus, we belong to God's family forever! Not even death can stop God's love and care for us!

This promise makes me very happy—and yellow reminds me of that happiness! We've heard many promises from God today, but this just may be the best promise of all!

## Taking It Home

I am going to give each of you a Gospel Story by Colors gift just like mine. You can use the colors to remind you what God has done for you in our Savior, Jesus! You can also use this gift to help you share this good news with other people. Whom will *you* tell?

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Scripture quotations are from the King James or Authorized Version of the Bible.

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Expanding the Impact of Your  
Gifts of Encouragement

# The Gospel Story by COLORS King James Version

## Introduction

*Show the children a Gospel Story by Colors gift item. Ask them, “What’s different about this?” (For most children, the colors on their Gospel gift will be new.)*

These colors remind me of everything God has done for me—and for you. I am going to tell you about the colors. Then I am going to give each of you a gift just like this one. You can use the colors to tell other people what God has done for us in our Savior, Jesus.

## Getting to the Heart

The story of Jesus is a story of very, very good news. Still, that story always starts out with some very bad news.

•**SWIRLED.** Let's pretend! Let's pretend that this morning you put on your favorite shirt or your best dress to wear for church. After breakfast, you notice no one else is quite ready yet. So, you decide to finish the picture you started painting last night. You reach over to pick up the paint pot, and . . . Oh, no! Oh, no! The paint somehow splashes all over your clothes! Oh, no! This is the kind of paint that won't come out of clothing! What a mess! Your shirt or dress is ruined! Has something like that ever happened to you?

The Bible tells us that sin ruins human beings, just like paint stains ruin clothing. We sin any time we do something God has forbidden. We also sin when we see something kind or helpful we know God would want us to do, but we decide not to do it. Sometimes sin seems really terrible, like stealing or killing. But sometimes sin doesn't seem so bad, like selfishly taking the front seat when we know our sister wants it. *Let the children suggest specific examples of sin.*

Anytime we act or speak or think in a way different than our Lord Jesus would act, speak, or think, we sin. All of us sin. The Bible says, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We hurt ourselves when we sin, and by our sin we earn God's punishment. The swirled paint pot reminds me of the stain of my sin.

•**RED.** Have any of you ever visited a cave, deep in the earth? Sometimes when you tour a cave like that, the tour guide shuts off the lights. The darkness in an underground cave can be very frightening, almost suffocating! Suppose you visited a cave like that, and the tour guide sneaked away, leaving you alone and lost in the dark?

That's almost too scary to imagine! I know something even scarier! God could have left us alone in the darkness of our sin! But the next color on the cross reminds us that he did not do that. He loves us

too much. The Bible says the Father "hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13). You may know another verse that tells about that—John 3:16. *If the children have memorized this verse, have them recite it in unison with you; otherwise, read it to them:* "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jesus bled and then died on the cross so we can live forever in heaven with God. The red strip reminds me of what Jesus did.

•**BLUE.** Even though we are sinners, God loves us! This is a mystery no one can fully understand. He loves us so much he had Jesus die on a cross and take the punishment for our sin. This, too, is a mystery no one can fully understand. And faith is another mystery. God gives us faith to believe that he saved us through Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection.

The Bible tells us "A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 2:16). The blue strip reminds me of God's gift to me—faith in Jesus.

•**WHITE.** *Ask, "Have you ever gotten really, really dirty? How dirty were you?" (Let one or two volunteers tell about making mud pies, sliding into third base after a thunderstorm, and so on.)* You probably needed a lot of soap to get clean again. I'm glad we have soap that cleans us and kills the bacteria that could make us sick.

But no soap on earth can wash away our sins. King David knew this. In Psalm 51 he prays this to God: "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). The white strip on this (*fill in the name of the gift*) reminds me that because of Jesus and his cross, my sins are washed away and I am clean before God.