

Handbook







People God Cared For Series



Written by Carole Leah
Illustrated by Diana Shimon

Set
D

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Introduction

Set D of Diamond Books comprises 6 books to help 5–6 year olds to read on their own. They are colour coded yellow to show at a glance the intended age group. Reading the books to children first and discussing the illustrations is recommended initially and playing games with the word cards (see pp. 11, 12-25). This will familiarise children with the vocabulary of each book, especially the difficult Names.

Based on stories from the book of Genesis and Job, these books major on various characters who God used for His purposes in history. We have aimed to make each story biblically accurate but condensed so as to keep the vocabulary simple enough for young children to read themselves. Again, we would advocate that if a child stumbles on reading more than five words incorrectly in a given book that more work needs to be given to help a child learn the vocabulary of it first. Fun word games can help a child learn the needed words (see pp. 11).

All four contemporary characters (Todd, Anna, Joy and Dan) appear in this series, sometimes with their parents, at the beginning and end of each of the books.

The books build on the vocabulary of Sets B and C and on frequently-used words that are found in other reading books for 5–6 year olds. Emphasis is placed on two or three-letter blends at the beginning of words and simple endings which are shown visually on the yellow boxes posters (which can also be downloaded from this website). The vocabulary is cumulative so the books are best read in the order of 1–6.



Overview of Diamond Books

Key Stage	Set	Subject Of Set	Age Group	No. Of Books
1	A	Creation	3-4s (for reading to)	8
1	B	Jesus	4-5s (independent/paired)	16
1	C	God and Me	4-5s (independent)	8
1	D	People God Cared For	5-6s (independent)	6
1	E	A Nation God Cared For	5-6s (independent)	6
1	F	Special People	6-7s (independent)	16
1 and 2	G	Jesus the Hero	7+ struggling readers	16
2	H	The Miracle Worker	7-8s (independent)	8
2	I	Christians in Action	7-8s (independent)	6
2	J	Winners	8-9s (independent)	9
2	K	The King	8-9s (independent)	2

Each age group is identified by a different rainbow colour on the Diamond Books logos, on the book covers, on the box and on the additional resources (including the downloadable ones on the website).

Purchase available titles at
diamondbooks.org.uk

More About Diamond Books

This series of books majors on key people that God used for His purposes near the beginning of time. Choices, like today, had to be made as God intervened in human history. These books show the dilemmas that people had in trying to obey God and receive his good plans for them. Although the characters were quite different, it seems that each one had that deep desire to please God as they journeyed through life. They had to learn from their mistakes, persevere through their various circumstances and also face the consequences of their actions.

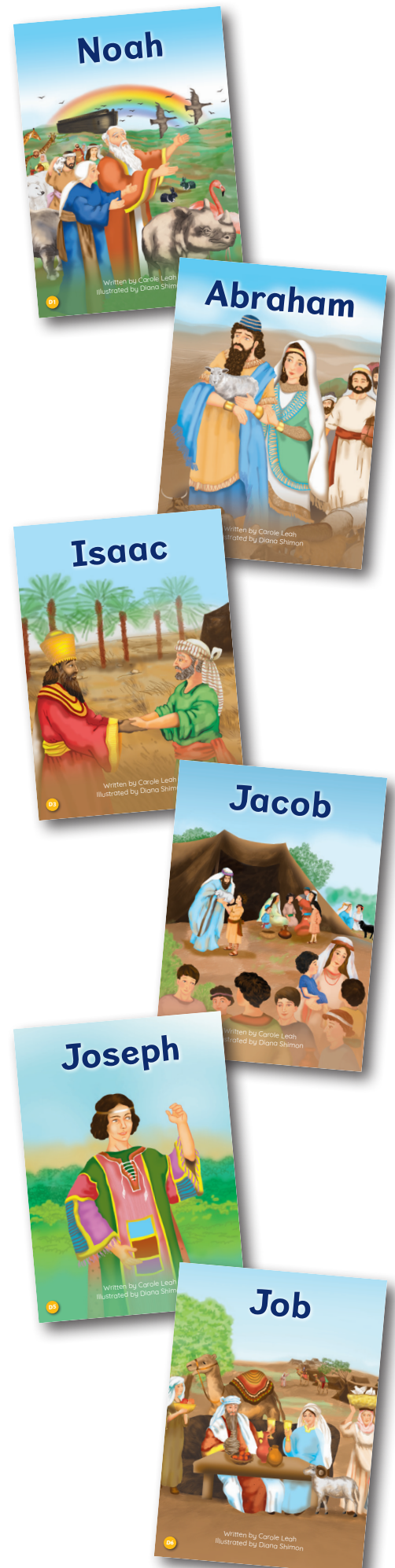
These books were a challenge to write, keeping the vocabulary simple enough for 5-6 year olds being the main concern. Having trialled them in several schools with the help of Elizabeth McAsey and Janet Evans, who were also involved with the honing processes of writing, we felt that an average reader could master them, while those who were slower at developing reading skills could enjoy learning the vocabulary of each book with games and relating to the stories through the illustrations. Giving children a taster of a story, through it being read to them first, we found helped to motivate them to read the book for themselves. The stories have been briefly told so as to keep simplicity while endeavouring to keep the stories biblically accurate and authentic.

We hope that young children may be able to identify with the different characters. The contemporary characters help today's children to respond to, identify with and discuss the stories.

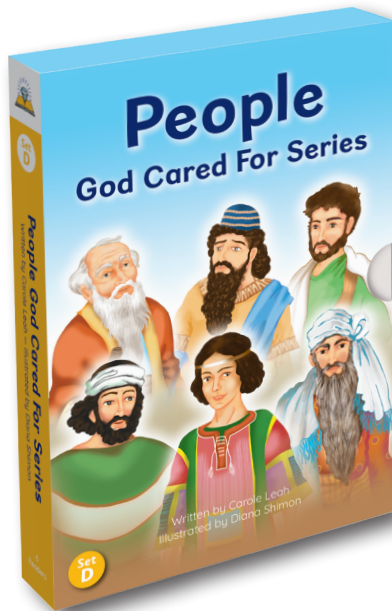
Diana Shimon, an experienced artist from Israel, did these lovely illustrations with a sensitive, loving eye for detail. Our linking up was quite remarkable, as I was given her name from Tony Lawn (of Pingles Press). At that exact time, Diana was seeking new work and prioritised doing the artwork for this Set D (and also for Set E) for which we are most grateful.

May many 5-6 year olds and older ones who read these books be thoroughly blessed by learning about the early patriarchs of the Christian faith and gain a hunger to eventually read the Bible for themselves to find out more about these characters.

Carole Leah



Special Features



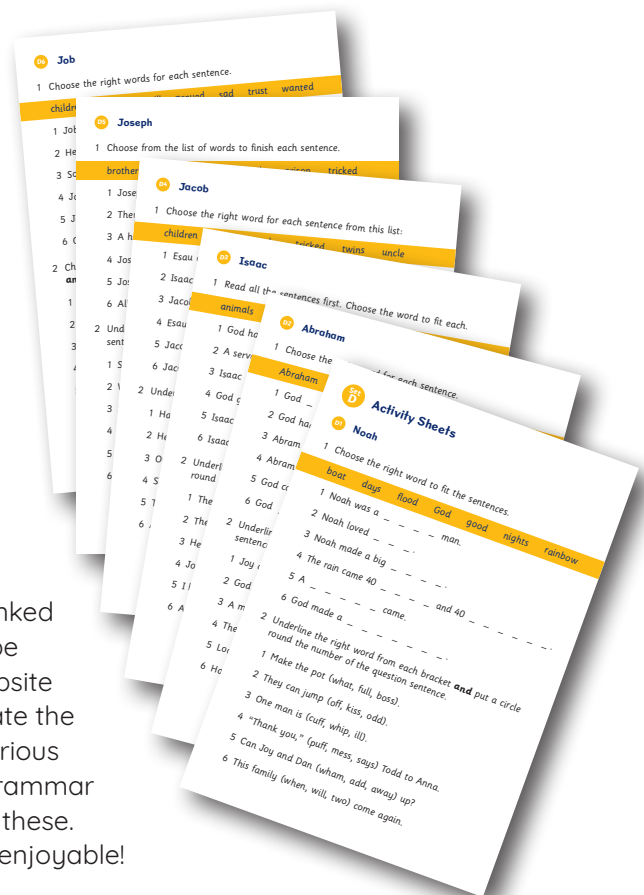
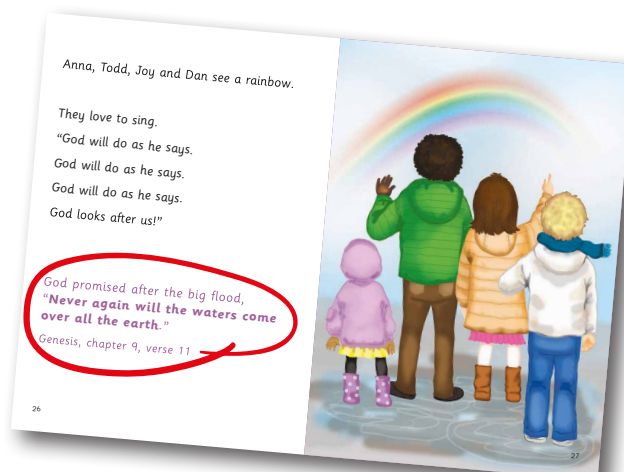
This set of books focuses on some Old Testament characters, some of whom being well known, e.g. Noah and others less so, i.e. Job. Care has been taken to not only write an accurate story about their lives but also to show in the illustrations the areas where they lived and the clothes that they would have worn. Biblical accuracy has been prioritised, e.g. the design of Noah's boat.

There is repetition of phrases and words to help children learn the sometimes challenging words, especially the names of people and places. Many of the names in these stories have vowels in them that are pronounced as the name of the letter, e.g. 'a' in Jacob, Canaan and Israel; 'A' in Abram and Abraham; 'E' in Esau and Egypt; 'I' in Isaac and Isaiah; and 'o' in Noah, Joseph and Job. Making children aware of this may help them to read the names more easily.



There is a tongue twister phrase to read and say quickly for some fun on p2 in every book. This is underneath pictorial clues with words to help learn the various beginning blends and endings emphasised in each of the books.

A memory verse relating to each of the stories is found in a bright colour at the end of the story part of each book, together with its reference which a child needs to learn (for future recall). This develops a child's interest and knowledge of the Bible which can be considered as the best book in the world!

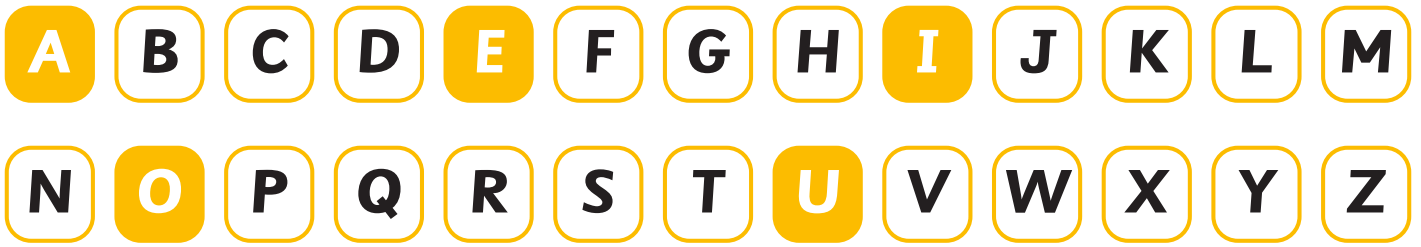


Activity practice sheets, linked with the books, can also be downloaded from the website to facilitate and consolidate the learning of the stories. Various phonics emphases and grammar exercises are included on these. We intend all these to be enjoyable!

Fonts

Care has been taken to use the reader friendly font of **Sassoon Primary Std.** that can benefit young children with its slight slope, except in the sounds and words shown with the pictures (with yellow boxes round them) on p2 where the **Sassoon Primary Infant** font has been used which helps with the writing process that 5-6 year olds are mastering.

Reading, Grammar and Spelling Tips



Grammar Tips

When a sentence is a question, put a question mark (?) at the end of the sentence instead of a full stop.

A noun is a word for a person, place, thing or idea.

When a noun is a name, start the word with a capital letter. The noun is then called a proper noun.

To make most words more than one, add 's' to the end of the word (e.g. dog, dogs). These 'more than one' words are called plurals.

A Spelling Tip

Look - Cover - Write - Check

Encourage children to learn to spell the new vocabulary words of each book (see pp. 10 of this handbook). They can take a word (from the boxed words of pp. 12-25) look at it carefully, then cover it up and write it down from memory and then check it. A word can be remembered well using this method and it will certainly aid their reading ability.

Bible Memory Verses

Training a child in the right ways to live is vital. Speaking aloud and memorising key verses from the Bible are very important as children develop faith. As the writer of Proverbs wrote, **Train a child in the way he should go. When he is old he will not turn away from it** (Proverbs 22:6). King David said to God, **“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”** (Psalm 119:11). Encouraging children to memorise Scripture can benefit them throughout their lives.

On various pages, near the end of each book, there is a Bible memory verse connected with the book’s theme, to learn along with its reference. Each has been

specially chosen to minister to a child’s heart and bring them closer to God, as they read, e.g. **God always keeps his promises.** (Psalm 146:6) and **Love should always make us tell the truth.** (Ephesians chapter 4:15) this coloured Bible verse and reference are highlighted for a child to learn. Other Bible quotes in the stories are shown in bold.

Memorising can be done in a creative and enjoyable way, e.g.:

- Use a fun musical jingle.
- Read aloud the verse and reference to a child. Then read them aloud together. Then take short phrases to learn a bit at a time, until the whole verse and its reference can be remembered. Make it fun!

- The verse and reference can be written out in large letters, then cut up between the words to form a jigsaw that can be put together and the words learned.
- Each word in the verse and its reference can be written in large letters on separate pieces of paper or card and used with a group of children. The children have to decide how to put the words in the right order on the floor (e.g. at Sunday School or a Holiday Club). Then they can each hold one of the words as they stand in a line to show the whole verse and reference.

Bible Facts

(These are to share with children, to be used alongside the Bible verses shown in bright colours near the end of each book to develop a greater knowledge of the Bible. Each of the 6 Facts corresponds with each of the 6 books in this series.)

- 1 The Bible has 66 books inside it. Genesis is the first book of the Bible.
- 2 The Bible has two parts, called the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was written before Jesus came to Earth. The New Testament was written after Jesus came to Earth. The Psalms are songs in the Old Testament part of the Bible. (‘Psalms’ is pronounced ‘Sarms’).
- 3 Isaiah was a prophet — a man who heard from God and shared what he heard with others — who wrote down many things that God told him about.
- 4 The book of Ephesians is the tenth book in the New Testament of the Bible.
- 5 The book of Genesis is in the Old Testament. It is about beginnings and people who served God.
- 6 The book of Proverbs is in the Old Testament. This book has lots of wise words in it.

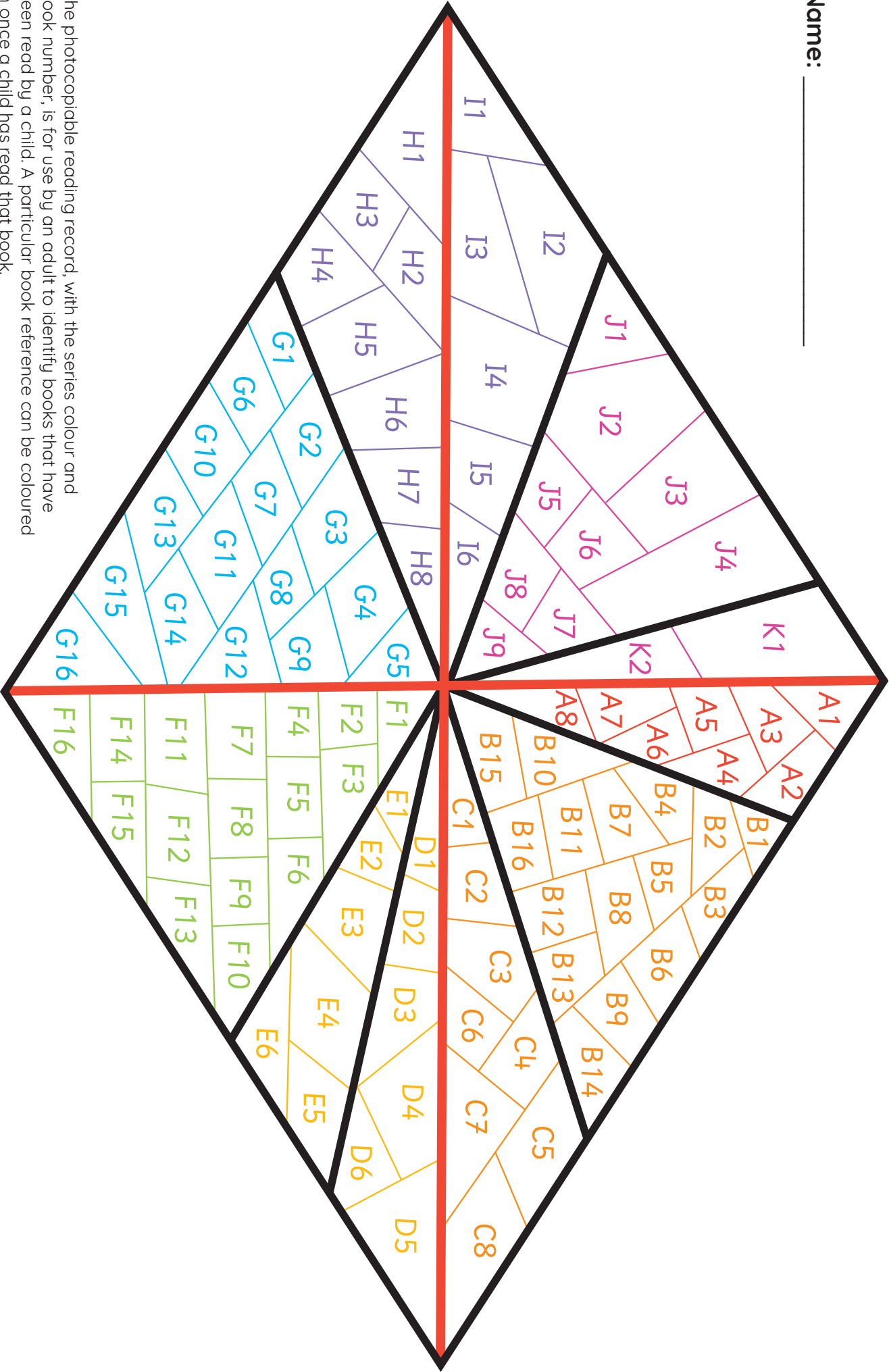
Phonic Initial Blends and Endings Posters

There are two versions of a poster that you can download from the website.



A Diamond to Colour – a reading record

Name: _____



The photocopyable reading record, with the series colour and book number, is for use by an adult to identify books that have been read by a child. A particular book reference can be coloured in once a child has read that book.

Vocabulary List of Key New Words not used in previous Diamond Books series

(including words from the Bible memorisation verses, p2 and back cover phrases).

The bold red words are some of the new frequently-used words in this series that young children read.

- Book 1 **D1** again, animals, back, bird, birds, boat, cared, **come**, chapter, **day**, days, dove, **down**, earth, family, flood, Genesis, Go, leaf, lots, Lots, Make, Never, night, nights, Noah, **off**, **one**, One, **out**, **over**, promise, promised, rain, rainbow, See, **send**, shut, show, stopped, story, Thank, They, **this**, This, **two**, verse, wait, waters, **would**
- Book 2 **D2** Abraham, Abram, afraid, always, **be**, bless, **but**, **called**, Canaan, can't, **children**, coming, Do, each, flags, give, **glad**, hers, Isaac, land, Look, **make**, making, many, men, new, **no**, **old**, plan, promises, Psalm, Sarah, Sarai, Sarai's, sleep, Some, son, stars, talked, **them**, things, told, **too**, took, waited, wife, written, **your**, Your
- Book 3 **D3** also, Abraham's, dads, died, Esau, far, **from**, **got**, **her**, **here**, Here, Isaac's, Isaiah, Jacob, king, later, Later, laugh, Live, **looked**, married, met, mums, part, plants, prayed, prophet, ram, Rebekah, rich, saves, servant, servants, stop, tents, **their**, There, trusted, twins, walk, walked, wanted, wells, who, wrote
- Book 4 **D4** animal, asks, blessed, blessings, born, bring, **could**, **don't**, dream, eat, Ephesians, Esau's, first, **go**, hairy, heard, Israel, It's, Jacob's, keep, kept, Love, more, **on**, On, problem, **put**, She, should, skin, skins, **some**, soup, spoke, tell, Their, **then**, **there**, trick, tricked, uncle
- Book 5 **D5** ask, bad, **been**, blood, bowed, bowing, bright, brothers, coat, didn't, dreams, Egypt, felt, funny, goat, husband, job, Joseph, Joseph's, left, liked, Lord, man's, milk, most, prison, ran, seven, Seven, shelf, shepherds, shocked, showed, sold, something, Sometimes, sons, taken, told, true, **very**, We, **work**, worked, years
- Book 6 **D6** became, father, feel, friend, great, happen, happened, hard, heart, hurt, Job, Job's, knew, makes, pray, Proverbs, questions, robbers, stop, strong, ten, things, times, Trust, unhappy, Uz, want, wanted, You

Use of Flashcards and Games

As a child needs to know most of the words of a given book before they read it for themselves, we advocate playing word games with the vocabulary of each book first so that words can be learnt and confidence gained. The nouns of a book, including proper nouns, are listed separately from the other new words. The two groups of words can be used separately in games to help familiarity more easily. In addition, a child can learn extra words (see pp. 24-25) found in the Bible memorisation verses and references, in the sentences found on p2 and on the back covers.

When an attempt is made to read each book, if a child cannot easily read five or more words, delay the reading of the book and read it to them instead, pointing to each word. Then enjoy playing more word games with them.

The flashcards shown on pp. 12-25 show all the new words of the books, that have **not** been used in Sets B and C. These new words can be enlarged and used for games or to simply show to children on a daily basis to help remember them. In addition, a tiny reference has been inserted at the bottom right-hand corner of each word box, e.g. D3, the D referring to the set of the book and the number 3 referring to the number of the book in the series, to easily identify which words belong to a particular book.

To help with learning the words of each book, a **'Pairs'** game can be used with the noun words initially. Then the other words can be used in a separate game of **'Pairs'**. The flashcards will need to be duplicated for this purpose. The cards are put face down on the floor/table and a child with an adult or another child takes it in turns to find two words the same, read them and then keep the cards. The child with the most words at the end is the winner. A timer can be used for this game, to limit the time so that a child's concentration or interest doesn't wane. We recommend that this game be played often so that the children can learn most of the words (if not all!) so that they have the confidence to embark on reading a particular book of the series, which of course they can read over and over again.

Another simple game is **'Spot the Word'** which uses all the words face up and all muddled up. A word is called out by an adult, and the first to find it keeps the card. Then another word is called out until the game finishes. The player with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner!

'Sorting' all the words according to the letter the words begin with is another helpful activity (see the alphabet list below, which can be enlarged and photocopied and placed in a long line). Each word can then be put under the right group of letters.

A a	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g
H h	I i	J j	K k	L l	M m	N n
O o	P p	Q q	R r	S s	T t	U u
V v	W w	X x	Y y	Z z		

'Kim's Game' Use a tray to place the most difficult words a child finds hard to remember face up (no more than 7 words at a time). A child reads each one and then an adult puts a cloth over the tray and secretly takes out one of the words without showing it to a child. Then the cover is removed and a child tries to remember which word is missing and can then hold the flashcard. This can be done until just one word remains.

Nouns (with proper nouns) in D1

(Ask a child to find 4 plurals.)



animals	bird	birds	boat	day
days	dove	family	flood	leaf
night	nights	Noah	one	One
promise	rain	rainbow	Story	two

Other words in D1

(Ask a child to spot 2 words that can also be used as nouns.)



again	back	cared	come	down
D1	D1	D1	D1	D1
Go	lots	Lots	Make	off
D1	D1	D1	D1	D1
out	over	See	send	shut
D1	D1	D1	D1	D1
show	stopped	Thank	They	this
D1	D1	D1	D1	D1
This	wait	would		
D1	D1	D1	D1	D1

Nouns (with proper nouns) in D2

(Ask a child to find 7 proper nouns amongst these words.)

Abraham	Abram	Canaan	children
Isaac	land	men	plan
Sarah	Sarai	Sarai's	sleep
son	stars	wife	

Other words in D2

(Count the number of words that start with a capital letter.)



afraid	be	bless	but	called
can't	coming	Do	each	give
glad	Look	many	new	no
old	Some	talked	them	told
too	took	waited	your	Your

Names (with proper nouns) in D3

(Ask a child to spot 7 plurals.)



Abraham's	dads	Esau	Isaac's
Jacob	king	mums	plants
ram	Rebekah	servant	servants
tents	twins	wells	

Other words in D3

(Count the number of words that start with a capital letter.)



also	died	far	from
got	her	here	Here
later	Later	Live	looked
married	met	part	prayed
rich	stop	their	There
trusted	walk	walked	wanted

Nouns (with proper nouns) in D4

(Ask a child to spot 2 plurals and 3 proper nouns.)

animal	blessings	dream	Esau's
D4	D4	D4	D4
Israel	Jacob's	skin	skins
D4	D4	D4	D4
soup	trick	uncle	
D4	D4	D4	D4

Other Words in D4

(Find 5 words that start with a capital letter.)



asks

D4

blessed

D4

born

D4

bring

D4

could

D4

don't

D4

eat

D4

first

D4

go

D4

hairy

D4

heard

D4

It's

D4

keep

D4

kept

D4

Love

D4

more

D4

on

D4

On

D4

put

D4

She

D4

some

D4

spoke

D4

tell

D4

Their

D4

then

D4

there

D4

tricked

D4

tricked

D4

tricked

D4

Nouns (with proper nouns) in D5
(Ask a child to spot 5 plurals.)



blood	brothers	coat	dreams
D5	D5	D5	D5
Egypt	goat	husband	Joseph
D5	D5	D5	D5
Joseph's	man's	milk	prison
D5	D5	D5	D5
seven	Seven	shelf	shepherds
D5	D5	D5	D5
sons	years		
D5	D5	D5	D5

Other words in D5

(Find 2 words that start with a capital letter.)

ask	bad	been	bowed	bowing
didn't	felt	funny	job	left
liked	most	ran	shocked	showed
sold	something	Sometimes	taken	told
true	very	We	work	worked

Nouns (with proper nouns) in D6

(Ask a child to find 4 plurals and 3 proper nouns.)

father	friend	Job	Job's
questions	robbers	ten	things
times	Uz		

Other words in D6

(Find the shortest and longest.)

became	feel	great	happen	happened
D6	D6	D6	D6	D6
hard	hurt	knew	makes	pray
D6	D6	D6	D6	D6
stop	strong	unhappy	want	wanted
D6	D6	D6	D6	D6
You				
D6	D6	D6	D6	D6

Extra Words of all 6 books (of coloured bible memory verses, p2 sentences and back cover sentences)
 (Find 4 plurals and 2 proper nouns.)

chapter	earth	Genesis	Never	over
D1	D1	D1	D1	D1
promised	verse	waters	always	flags
D1	D1	D1	D1	D5
hers	keeps	make	making	promises
D2	D2	D2	D2	D2
Psalms	them	things	written	
D2	D2	D2	D2	D2

Extra Words of all 6 books

(Find 3 proper nouns.)



Isaiah D3	laugh D3	prophet D3	saves D3
story D3	who D3	wrote D3	
Ephesians D4	problem D4	should D4	
bright D5	Lord D5	needed D5	
heart D6	Proverbs D6	Trust D6	

Acknowledgements

Thanks are greatly given to Diana Shimon, the artist of this series, who has been a delight to work with! Designer, Scott Joyce has laboured with love and great ability to put Set D into shape.

Again, the most credit goes to Father God, who has been the Father Manager of this project and whose Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Yeshua, Messiah) has been my constant companion on this journey of life and His Holy Spirit who has provided the strength, help and guidance in producing this set of books.

Dedication

This set of books is dedicated to my wonderful children, Rebecca and James

Scripture References

Most Scripture references in this Handbook are from the Good News Translation®
(Today's English Version, Second Edition)

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p7 Proverbs 22:6 Scripture from the New International Reader's Version, published
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and Psalm 119:11 Scripture from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)

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