

## book of the month *Good News for Little Hearts Series* by New Growth Press

This month's recommended resource is a series of counseling books for children published by New Growth Press. These beautifully illustrated books provide an excellent opportunity for parents to address counseling-related issues with young children. I will briefly address some of the strengths and weaknesses of each of the following books to give parents a head start on understanding and discerning their contents. Since we are called to scrutinize everything (Pro. 16:21; 1 Thess. 5:21), children's books are no exception!

Lastly, two things to consider generally: these books unfortunately (1) use inclusive language when referring to God's promises. I've found that this is easily amended and discussed on the fly while reading to my kids. And (2) they quote from the New Living Translation which is easier to read, but is not ideal for memorization. Parents may want to consider quoting passages in whatever translation the family commonly uses.

— Omri Miles

### ***Jax's Tail Twitches: When You Are Angry*** Strengths

- Shows how both children and adults are prone to sinful anger.
- Plot clearly illustrates James 4:1-2.

### Weakness

- Jax, a child, leads the family in repentance rather than the dad of the family and is willing to humbly admit his fault before his parents. Jax seems to have more wisdom than his father and mother, an obvious reversal of roles (Pro. 1:8). Though this may occur in real life at times, it is not ideal in a book teaching children foundational biblical principles.

### ***Zoe's Hiding Place: When You Are Anxious*** Strengths

- Captures the all-consuming, joy-stealing nature of fear and anxiety very well.
- Teaches that believing God's attributes is the solution to anxiety.
- The mother teaches Zoe that listening carefully to authority is an aid in avoiding a situation where anxiety will be a temptation.

### Weaknesses

- At points, makes anxiety seem to be a reasonable, understandable human quality that existed from the beginning of creation.
- Although solutions are given for anxiety, the book avoids expressly calling it wrong or sinful. Therefore, readers are led to believe that anxiety may be unhelpful but not sinful.

### ***Buster's Ears Trip Him Up: When You Fail*** Strengths

- Illustrates the "pride before a fall" principle literally (Pro. 16:18).
- Ivy, Buster's older sister, lovingly counsels him with biblical truth, an excellent example of the opportunity that God gives siblings to comfort and instruct one another (Gal. 6:1-2).

### Weakness

- Unclear which biblical principle the authors intend to illustrate in Buster's all-consuming desire to win first place in the race. Paul compared his relentless pursuit of remaining qualified for ministry to a race (1 Cor. 9:25-27). The Christian life is also compared to a race (Heb. 12:1). But Buster's seemingly vain pursuit of first place goes unaddressed.

