

# WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY

## New Believer Coloring Book Strengthens New Faith

Story by Margot Bass

To create a free resource for children's ministries worldwide, Calvary Chapel Aurora, CO, has combined cartoon illustrations and Scripture in a coloring book to help children understand their new faith after accepting Jesus. *Welcome to the Family of God: New Believer Coloring Book* begins with little shepherd boy David exclaiming, "In the Old Testament God chose me to be the king of Israel. Through my future family, God said ALL peoples would be blessed by the KING of KINGS! Here, let me show you ..." In the next 22 pages, he guides children and their parents through the process of discipleship: baptism, Bible reading, prayer, church fellowship, communion, and sharing their faith.

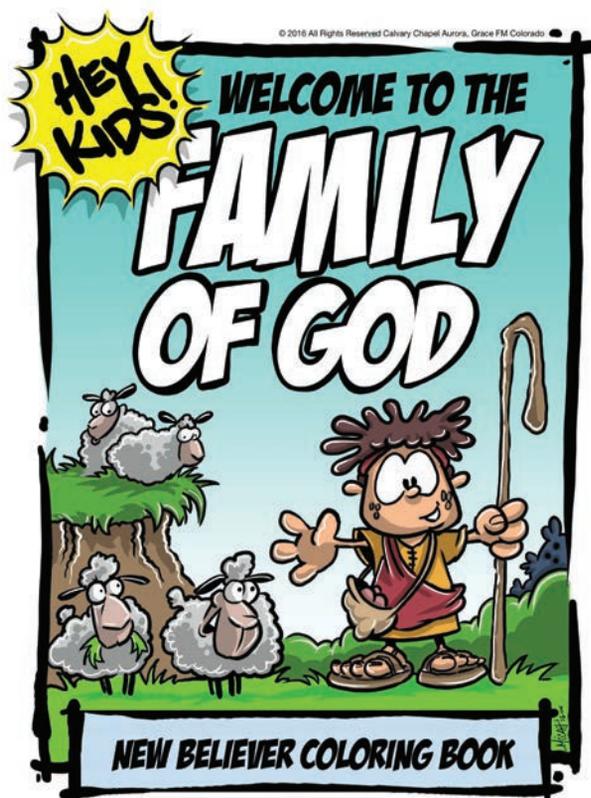
"The goal was not just to do a coloring book for fun, but to do it with a purpose: to help kids grow in their faith or bring kids into a relationship with the Lord, and then to allow parents to be involved in that as well," stated illustrator Micah Claycamp, graphics and media director at CC Aurora. Released in 2017, the coloring book is available for free download on the church website. No editing is allowed, but churches can attach their own adhesive information labels once books are printed on paper.

Aurora Senior Pastor Ed Taylor had the vision for a coloring book describing "what it means to follow Jesus at a kid's level," he recalled. "God can speak to them while they're coloring and looking at the Scriptures. Coloring keeps them engaged, and cartoons are something kids can really relate to." He also wanted to help equip parents. "Some are new believers themselves or don't know where to start to disciple their children. We give them the tools in their hands. All they have to do is follow it." The "Parent's Toolbox" pages instruct parents about how to disciple and have devotions with their children. For example: "Like water baptism, taking communion is also an excellent expression of your child's belief and obedience to Christ. The symbolism of Jesus'

broken body and His shed blood reminds your child of Christ's forgiveness."

***"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."*** DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7.

Coloring book author Michael Grosbach, CC Aurora's children's ministry pastor, wrote



*Welcome to the Family of God* to visually introduce children to key aspects of their new life in Christ. Intended for reading-age children, it includes games, puzzles, and a response page to be mailed back to Calvary Chapel Aurora. That page gives children a chance to describe their lives and interests and explain why they chose to become Christians.

The coloring book is useful for children's ministries, Sunday School, and VBS. Calvary

Chapel Santa Fe Springs, CA, gave away 75 coloring books last summer to children who had accepted Christ during VBS. One little girl returned the response page to them, saying she accepted Christ "because it was my choice," shared Dan Valdez, the church's children's ministry pastor. "Obviously you want to see a return on your investment spiritually, but to see something like that made it more personal," he said.

Alyssa Loo, a Santa Fe Springs VBS coordinator, enjoyed the book's presentation of the Gospel. "We love the fun illustrations and interactive sections that allow the kids to grow deeper in their walk and learn how to share their faith with others. I know I am not a little kid anymore, but I still enjoyed piecing together the different puzzles, unscrambling words, and seeing things through a child's perspective," she admitted.

***But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*** JOHN 1:12

To reach children of other languages and countries, CC Aurora has also produced a separate coloring page describing the Romans Road—a tool used by many churches to share the Gospel through a series of Bible verses. This page, also free on the church website, has been translated into 17 different languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, Polish, Korean, Italian, German, French, Hungarian, Hebrew, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Khmer, and Filipino. "I'm excited to see the potential opportunities

that the Lord has, especially for the Romans Road to be translated into that many languages for the kingdom of God," Micah enthused. "It's exciting to get it into the hands of missionaries and mission teams who need a tool in another language." ↩

[calvaryaurora.org/resources/kids](http://calvaryaurora.org/resources/kids)

[calvaryaurora.org/resources/kids/romans-road-4-kids](http://calvaryaurora.org/resources/kids/romans-road-4-kids)