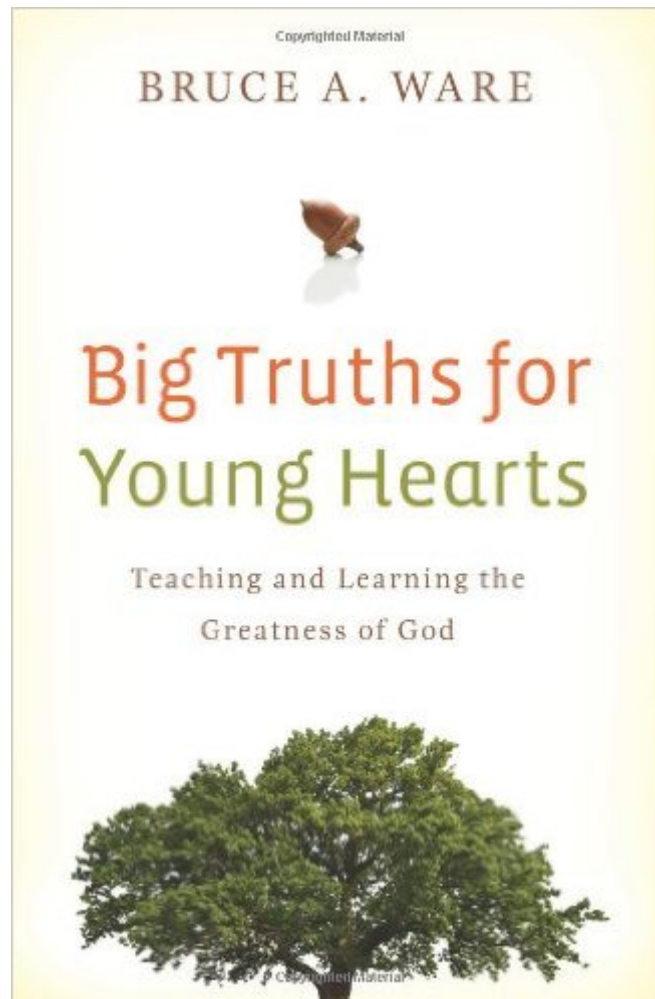


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# Big Truths For Young Hearts: Teaching And Learning The Greatness Of God



## Synopsis

Equips parents to guide their young children through all major doctrines in an understandable, chapter-a-day format. Sure, it's easy to teach your children the essentials of Christian theology when you're a theology professor. But what about the rest of us? With *Big Truths for Young Hearts*, Bruce Ware, (you guessed it!) a theology professor, encourages and enables parents of children 6-14 years of age to teach through the whole of systematic theology at a level their children can understand. Parents can teach their children the great truths of the faith and shape their worldviews early, based on these truths. The book covers ten topics of systematic theology, devoting several brief chapters to each subject, making it possible for parents to read one chapter per day with their children. With this non-intimidating format, parents will be emboldened to be their children's primary faith trainers-and perhaps learn a few things themselves along the way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An Evangelical Theology for Kids 10 to 100!  
**Book Review Details**  
Title: *Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God*  
Author: Bruce A. Ware, Ph.D.  
Publisher: Crossway (2009)  
Category: Parenting, Theology, Discipleship  
Reviewed By: Bob Kellemen, Ph.D., LCPC, Author of *Soul Physicians*, *Spiritual Friends*, *Beyond the Suffering*, and *Sacred Friendships*  
Recommended: A highly recommended antidote to the dumb-downed, frills, and cotton-candy approach so prevalent in American Evangelicalism today.  
Review: An Evangelical Catechism for Kids Ages 10 to 100!  
When someone like Bruce Ware, professor of Christian theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and 2009 President of the Evangelical Theological

Society, writes a book on theology, I take notice. When he writes it for parents and children--my interest is truly sparked. *Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God* is a modern-day Evangelical catechism. Ware's purpose is to equip parents to raise their children to know and love God through raising them to know and love theology. How sad that such a goal seems so foreign in so many Christian circles today. In many ways, as indicated by the precious foreword written by Ware's young-adult daughters, *Big Truths for Young Hearts* is the "Theology 101" he taught (and modeled and lived) for and in front of his daughters. He's just graciously sharing it with the rest of us. There is no grander testimony than their words, "Dad really believes the things that are in this book. His theology shapes the way he lives, as we have seen many times" (p. 11). There is no greater parental challenge than their challenge to us: "To parents: it may sound cliché, but we followed our father's teaching in part because he practiced what he preached. Like all children, we needed to look up and see our parents looking up at a great God who has great things in store for those who love him" (p. 12). Ware's own testimony about the origin of the book mirrors his daughter's memories. From the time they were toddlers, he tried creatively to teach them the same theology sequence he was teaching his seminary students. Ware has crafted his two-decade-long instruction of his girls into a theology book for parents and children. The book covers the classic core doctrines of systematic theology. (Shh. Just don't tell the children the "theological terms" in the parentheses below!)\*Chapter One: God's Word (Bibliology) and God's Own Life (Theology Proper)\*Chapter Two: God As Three in One (Trinitarian Theology)\*Chapter Three: Creator and Ruler of All (Theology Proper, The Sovereignty and Glory of God)\*Chapter Four: Our Human Nature (Anthropology) and Our Sin (Hamartiology)\*Chapter Five: Who Jesus Is (Christology)\*Chapter Six: The Work Jesus Has Done (Christology/Soteriology)\*Chapter Seven: The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)\*Chapter Eight: Our Great Salvation (Soteriology, Election, Sanctification)\*Chapter Nine: The Church of Jesus Christ (Ecclesiology)\*Chapter Ten: What Will Take Place in the End (Eschatology)*Big Truths for Young Hearts* is meant to be read together--parents and children. Each chapter is like a series of brief "theology devotionals," each about three pages in length, and each concluding with Questions for Thought and with Memory Verses. Frankly, as I read each chapter I kept thinking, "Now this is how theology should be taught to adults and to seminary students!" And I'm a seminary professor who teaches a class on theology for biblical counseling. In other words, any adult, no matter how well schooled in Evangelical theology, could and would benefit from this book. The book is beautifully written, Bible-saturated, Christ-centered, creatively-illustrated (word-pictures), and theologically-comprehensive. As a parent of two young adult children, and as a parent who attempted to do similar training with our children, I

repeatedly asked myself, "At what ages would this book 'work'?" The reading level is likely best suited for the late elementary to the young adult. I would imagine that most children--toddler through fourth grade--might have somewhat of a difficult time staying with the reading. I was a little surprised that there were no "Instructions for Parents." This excellent book could benefit from a "Parents' Manual" which could give parents ideas for how to "teach" and not just "read" these truths. What creative methods might a parent use? How could a parent best engage a child in the material? What personal life applications could parents and children discuss? How could parents apply the Deuteronomy 6 principle of "throughout the day" inculcation of truth applied to life? Big Truths for Young Hearts is a "what to teach book" (and does it extremely well). It is not, per se, a "how to teach" book. Perhaps a companion training book is in the works. That said, Big Truths for Young Hearts is still a tremendous book for adults, young adults, middle schoolers, and high schoolers. It is an excellent book for parents to explore and apply with their pre-teens and teens. It would make a fine Sunday School book for teachers in grades 5th through Senior Saints! Youth groups, small groups, and homeschooling groups all will find Big Truths for Young Hearts very attractive, informative, and beneficial.

Several years ago my husband attended a worship conference, where he heard a handful of speakers over several days. I don't recall all whom (or is it who?) he heard that weekend, but I do remember one man: Bruce Ware. His name lingers with me because of the impression he left on my husband that evening. This man, incredibly knowledgeable about theology, wowed him with a tapestry of truth. Eventually my husband put his pencil down and surrendered. This man knew more than he could write. When I recently read a friend's blog post about a theology book by Bruce Ware, I was immediately curious, particularly because it is written for young people. This book, Big Truths for Young Hearts, is one we cannot exhaust with one reading. "It is a rich collection of truths that come straight from Scripture and answer questions about who God is, his work in the world, and the hope we can have through a relationship with Christ" (from the Foreword). Its content is accessible to children but not in any way dumbed down for them. It provides a launching point for rewarding reflection, discussion, and application. Consider chapter one, part six: Ware talks about God being all wise, all powerful, and all good all the time. He then invites us to imagine what God would be like if he were all wise but not all powerful or all powerful but not all good. With a god like that, we could have no confidence. But that is not our God. "We have every reason to trust him, then. God plans only what is best (he is perfectly wise), and God cannot be hindered in bringing it about (he's all-powerful), and we know that his plans will work out for our best (he is completely good)"

(36). Good, I mean \*good,\* devotional books for young people are hard to find. This one is \*good\* and will serve our family for a very long time.

Bruce A. Ware is able to present Biblical truth in an understandable way without watering-down the Word of God. He does not shy away from discussing topics such as penal substitutionary atonement, propitiation, or the heresy of modalism. Due to Ware's faithful teaching, this book should serve adults as much as it does children. If you know anyone reading *The Shack* (Paperback), get this book in their hands! I really enjoyed Ware's *Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God*. I would encourage all adults to purchase this book and use it to teach the children in your life about the greatness of our God.

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