

The Story Bridge

Connecting Your Family's Faith to the Books and Shows You Love

A Collection of Parent Guides for Families

"Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

- Deuteronomy 6:7

Dear First Pres Families,

In our homes, we are surrounded by stories. They are in the books our children read, the shows they watch, and the games they play. These stories are exciting, captivating, and powerful. They shape our children's understanding of the world—what it means to be brave, what it looks like to be a good friend, and how to find hope when things seem dark.

As parents, it can sometimes feel like our faith lives in one world, and the stories our kids love live in another. The goal of this collection of guides is to build a bridge between those two worlds. We call it "The Story Bridge."

Inside, you will find simple, practical guides for some of the books and shows your family may already be enjoying. These aren't meant to be quizzes or tests. They are invitations—starting points for conversation. They are designed to help you connect with your children, to listen to their questions, and to wonder together about how the big themes in their favorite stories connect to the even bigger story of God's love for us.

We hope these resources bless your family, spark meaningful discussions, and help you find God in the wonderful, everyday moments of reading a book or watching a show together.



Sincerely,

Eric Robinson



A Parent's Guide to Faith-Filled Reading

An Annotated Bibliography for Families

"Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old they will not depart from it."

- Proverbs 22:6

Growing Faith at Home

Welcome! This guide is designed to help you find wonderful books that can spark meaningful conversations about God, the Bible, and a life of faith. The goal isn't just to read, but to wonder, question, and explore together.

*Please note: We have created separate, in-depth guides for **The Wingfeather Saga** and the two books by Rachel Held Evans, which are available to supplement this bibliography.*

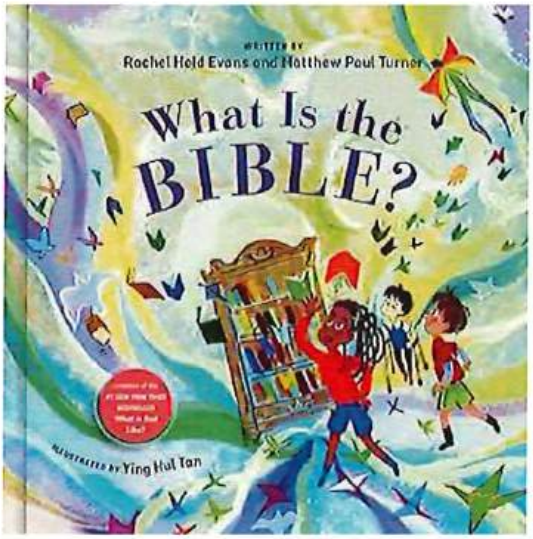
What Is the Bible? & What is God Like?

by Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner

Age Level: 4 to 8

Summary: These beautiful picture books tackle two of the biggest questions a child can ask. *What Is the Bible?* presents it not as a rulebook, but as a diverse, complex, and sacred library pointing to God's love. *What Is God Like?* uses rich, scriptural metaphors (a shepherd, a baker, a father, a mother) to create an expansive, inclusive, and awe-inspiring picture of God.

Faith Connection: Perfect for progressive families, these books celebrate curiosity, welcome questions, and honor the mystery of faith, building a foundation that is both strong and flexible.



God's Colorful Kingdom Storybook Bible

by Esau McCaulley

Age Level: 6 to 10

Summary: This fantastic storybook Bible intentionally celebrates God's love for diversity. Through breathtaking artwork by Rogério Coelho and thoughtfully selected stories, it paints a beautiful picture of God's multi-ethnic family, emphasizing themes of justice, compassion, and care for the vulnerable.

Faith Connection: It helps children see from a young age that the Church is, by God's design, a diverse tapestry of people, and that caring for the poor and marginalized is central to our faith.

Where to find it: Available at major booksellers like Christianbook.com.

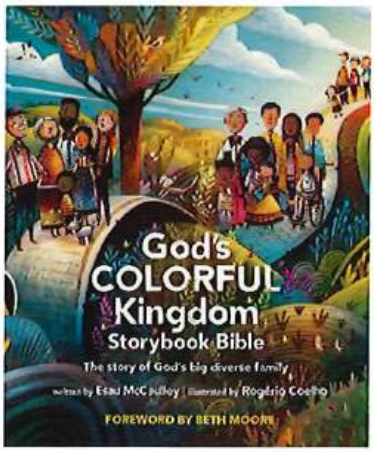
The Wingfeather Saga (series)

by Andrew Peterson

Age Level: 8 to 12 (and adults!)

Summary: This masterfully told fantasy saga follows the three Igiby siblings who, after a life in hiding, discover they are the lost heirs to a fallen kingdom. It's an epic adventure filled with quirky creatures, genuine peril, deep sorrow, and incredible hope.

Faith Connection: Similar to Narnia, the faith elements are allegorical. The series is a powerful exploration of courage in the face of fear, sacrificial love, family loyalty, and fighting for a world that is broken but not without hope.





The Chronicles of Narnia (series)

by C.S. Lewis

Age Level: 8 to 12

Summary: This classic fantasy series invites children through a wardrobe and into the magical land of Narnia. Following the Pevensie siblings and other memorable characters, the stories are timeless adventures of good versus evil, centered around the noble and powerful lion, Aslan.

Faith Connection: A foundational work of Christian allegory, Narnia provides a rich and imaginative landscape to discuss profound themes like sin, sacrifice, resurrection, and the divine. Aslan's character offers a powerful, story-based introduction to the nature of Christ.

God's Big Picture Bible Storybook

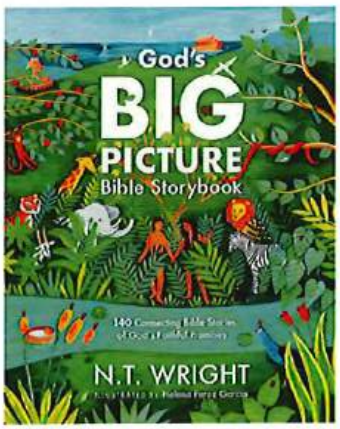
by N. T. Wright and Helena Perez Garcia

Age Level: 4 to 8

Summary: From renowned scholar N. T. Wright, this storybook beautifully illustrates how all the individual stories in the Bible connect to tell one "very good and very big story." It masterfully weaves together 140 narratives, showing how God's promises unfold from Genesis to Revelation.

Faith Connection: This book is an incredible tool for helping children understand the Bible's meta-narrative. It moves beyond isolated moral lessons to reveal the overarching story of God's faithful, redemptive love for all of creation.

Where to find it: Available at booksellers like ChurchSource.com.





A Guide for a Different Kind of Story

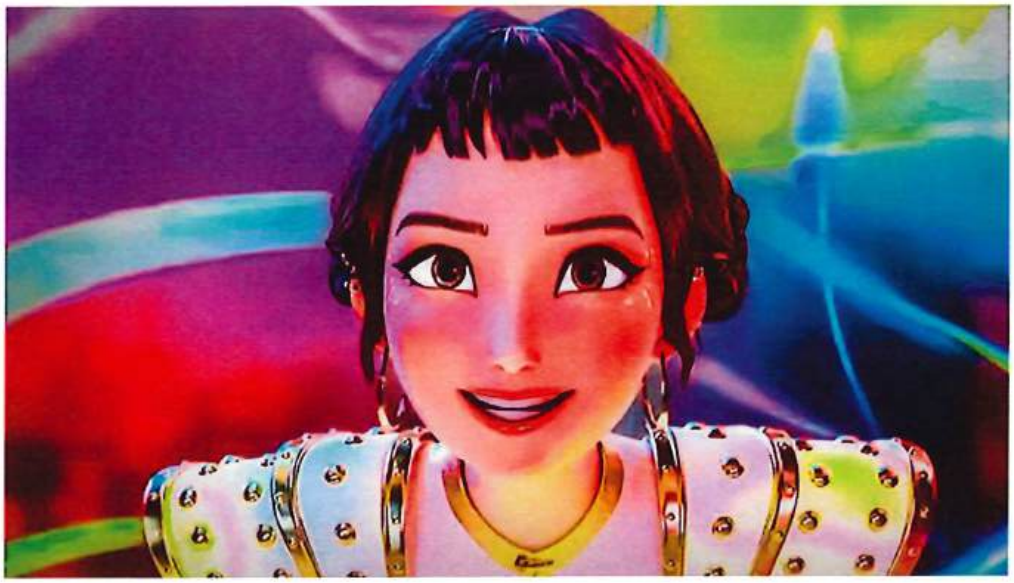
KPop Demon Hunters (Parent Discussion Guide for the Show)

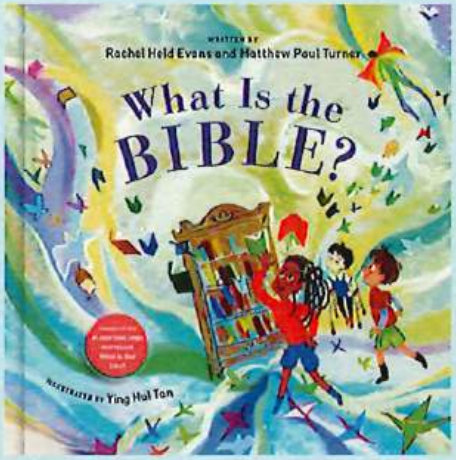
Age Level: For parents of teens/pre-teens already watching the show.

What It Is: The popular animated show *KPop Demon Hunters* is visually stunning and exciting, but also contains intense fantasy violence. This guide is a tool for parents to connect with their kids over a story they already love, bridging the gap between their world and conversations about faith.

Faith Connection: Use the guide's questions to explore surprisingly deep themes. The show's concept of "demons" (tragic figures who were once human) can be a powerful entry point to discuss the nature of sin and evil. The story provides rich ground for conversations about:

- Radical empathy and compassion, even for enemies.
- The incredible power of sacrificial love.
- Finding hope and purpose in the midst of deep grief.
- The vital importance of community and "found family."



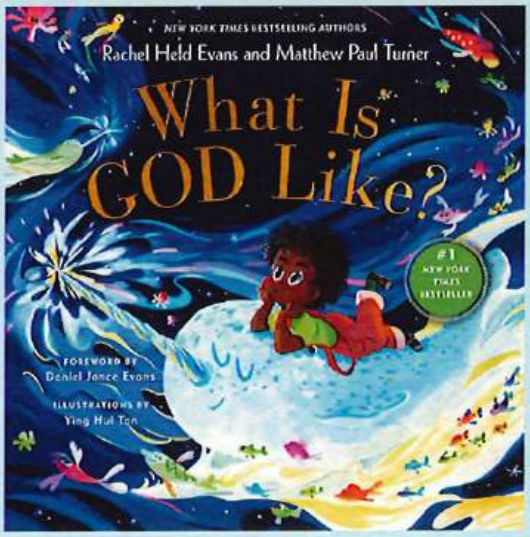


A Family Guide to Big Faith Questions

Exploring Together with Your Children

Based on the books by Rachel Held Evans & Matthew Paul Turner:
What Is the Bible? & What Is God Like?

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
- Matthew 19:14



Parent Guide for *What Is the Bible?*

This guide is designed to turn reading into a rich, interactive experience. Feel free to adapt the questions and activities for your child's age and attention span.

📖 1. Before You Read: Setting the Stage

Gather your family in a comfortable spot. Hold up your own Bible (or a few different ones if you have them). Ask your child:

- "What do you think this book is? Have you seen it before?"
- "What do you think is inside? Does it look like other books you have?"

Explain: "We're going to read a book that helps us understand what this big, special book is all about. It's a book full of wonder and questions, and it's okay to have lots of questions!"

🛋️ 2. Guiding the Conversation: Discussion Questions

Read through the book, pausing at a few key pages.

Pages 1-4 (The Bible is a Library):

- The book says the Bible is like a "library." What are some of the different kinds of books in a library? (Fiction, history, poetry).
- I wonder why God would give us a library instead of just one single book?

Parent Guide for *What Is the Bible?* (continued)

Pages 5-10 (The People and the Story):

- The book shows all sorts of people who wrote the Bible—kings, poets, and prophets. Why do you think God chose so many different people to write it?
- The illustration shows people who are happy, sad, and scared. Have you ever felt those things? It's powerful that the Bible has room for all our feelings.

Pages 11-18 (A Long and Winding Story):

- The book calls the Bible a "long and winding story." Have you ever been on a winding road? Sometimes it's hard to see where you're going. Maybe the Bible is like that sometimes.
- It mentions "sad, strange, and scary" stories. Does it surprise you that stories like that are in the Bible? Why is it important to remember those stories too?

Pages 19-26 (The Big Story of Love):

- The main point of the book is that the Bible tells one big story about God's love. Where do you see God's love in our world today? In our family?
- The last page says, "The Bible is a story that is still going...and you are a part of it." What do you think that means? How can we be part of God's story of love this week?

3. A Guide to the Imagery

- **The Diverse Faces:** Point out the illustrations by Khoa Le. Notice how people of all skin tones, ages, and abilities are represented. This shows that the Bible's story is for everyone.

Parent Guide for *What Is the Bible?* (continued)

- **The Winding Path:** The image of the winding path or river throughout the book is a powerful metaphor. It visually represents that faith isn't a straight, easy line. It has twists and turns, and that's okay.
- **The Library:** The image of the Bible as a collection of scrolls and books on shelves is central. You can say, "Just like you might pick a funny book or a serious book from the library depending on your mood, the Bible has different parts we can turn to when we feel different things."

4. Actionable Activities

- **Create a "Bible Library":** Get a small box or basket. Have your child help you write down different kinds of "books" from the Bible on slips of paper (e.g., Psalms = Poems/Songs, Genesis = Origin Stories, Luke = Biography of Jesus, Proverbs = Wise Sayings). Put them in the basket to show the Bible's variety.
- **Make a Story Scroll:** Use a long piece of paper (like from a paper towel roll or receipt paper) and have your child draw their own story or your family's story. Roll it up like an ancient scroll. Talk about how we are all part of a story that God is telling.
- **"I Wonder" Jar:** Decorate a jar. For the next week, whenever a family member has a question about God, faith, or the Bible, write it down and put it in the jar. At the end of the week, pull them out and discuss them together. The goal isn't to have all the answers, but to honor the questions.

Parent Guide for *What Is the Bible?* (continued)

♡ 5. Closing Devotional & Prayer

Hold hands and say: "The Bible shows us that God's love is big enough for all people and all questions."

Prayer: *Loving God, thank you for the Bible. Thank you for its poems, its history, and its stories that teach us about your giant love. Help us to be curious and kind as we read it. And help us be a part of your love story in the world. Amen.*



Parent Guide for *What Is God Like?*

This guide helps explore the beautiful, expansive metaphors in the book, encouraging children to develop a rich and personal understanding of God.

1. Before You Read: Setting the Stage

Find a cozy place to read. Ask your child:

- "If you had to draw a picture of God, what would it look like?"
- "What words would you use to describe God?"

Explain: "God is so big and wonderful that we can't see God all at once. It's like trying to describe the whole sky! This book uses lots of different ideas from the Bible to help us imagine what God is like. Let's see what they are."

2. Guiding the Conversation: Discussion Questions

Read through the book, pausing to wonder together.

Pages 1-4 (The Question):

- The book starts by saying it's one of the oldest questions. Why do you think people have always wondered what God is like?
- It says God is a mystery. What does the word "mystery" mean to you?

Parent Guide for *What Is God Like?* (continued)

Pages 5-12 (God is Like a Shepherd / A Parent):

- What does a shepherd do? How is God like a shepherd for us?
- The book says God is like a father *and* a mother. What are some of the best things about moms? What are some of the best things about dads? God is like all of those good things combined!

Pages 13-20 (God is Like an Artist / A Rainbow):

- Look at the beautiful colors in the illustration. If God is an artist, where do you see God's "art" when you go outside?
- A rainbow is a sign of a promise. I wonder what promises God makes to us? (e.g., to always love us).

Pages 21-28 (God is Like the Wind / The Light):

- We can't see the wind, but we can feel it and see what it does (like moving leaves). How is that like God?
- When do you need a light? (When it's dark, when you're scared). How is God a light for us?

Pages 29-32 (God is Love):

- The book ends by saying God is love. Of all the ideas in this book, which one helps you understand God's love the most?
- How can we show God's love to other people today or this week?

Parent Guide for *What Is God Like?* (continued)

3. A Guide to the Imagery (Metaphors)

This book is built on metaphors. Help your child connect with them:

- **Shepherd:** Protector, Guide, Gentle
- **Father & Mother:** Loving, Provider, Comforter, Strong
- **Gardener:** Patient, Nurturing, Helps things grow
- **Artist:** Creative, Sees beauty, Colorful
- **Rainbow:** Promise, Hope, Beauty after a storm
- **Light:** Safety, Guidance, Hope in darkness

You can say: "None of these things *is* God, but they all show us a little piece of *what God is like*. It's like looking at one piece of a giant, beautiful puzzle."



Parent Guide for *What Is God Like?* (continued)

4. Actionable Activities

- **"God Is Like..." Art Project:** Get a big piece of paper. In the middle, write "God is like..." and have your child draw or paint all the things from the book (or new ideas!) around it. They could draw a rainbow, a tree, a heart, a shining sun, etc.
- **Metaphor Scavenger Hunt:** Go for a walk in your neighborhood or a park. Try to find things that remind you of what God is like. "Look, the wind is blowing the palm trees—that reminds me God is like the wind!" "That bird is feeding its babies—that reminds me God is like a parent who provides for us."
- **Make a God Box:** Decorate a special box. Inside, place objects that remind you of God. You could put in a feather (like a protective wing), a smooth stone (like a rock), a piece of cotton (gentleness), or a small flashlight (light). Use it as a focal point for prayer.

5. Closing Devotional & Prayer

Gather around your art project or God Box. Say: "God is so much bigger than we can imagine, but it's wonderful to know God is like a loving parent, a guiding light, and a creative artist all at once."

Prayer: *Wonderful God, you are like a rainbow after the rain and a light in the dark. Thank you for being so big and mysterious, but also so close to us. Help us to see you everywhere we look this week—in the faces of our friends, in the beauty of the world, and in the love we share. Amen.*



A Family Guide to The Wingfeather Saga

On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness

A Discussion Guide for Families

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
- Joshua 1:9

Introduction for Parents

Welcome to the world of Aerwiar! This story is a thrilling adventure, but it's also rich with deeper meaning. The most important goal is to enjoy the story together. Use these questions not as a quiz, but as a starting point for conversation. Encourage your kids to ask their own questions, too!

Key Themes to Listen For:

- **Identity:** Who are the Igiby children, and why is their family history a secret?
- **Courage:** What does it mean to be brave when you're scared?
- **Family:** How does the family's love and loyalty protect them?
- **Good vs. Evil:** What makes Gnag the Nameless and the Fangs so frightening?
- **Hope:** Where do the characters find strength when things seem hopeless?



Part 1: Life in Glipwood (Chapters 1-14)

This section introduces us to the Igiby family—Janner, Tink, and Leeli—and the quiet, tense town of Glipwood, where Fangs of Dang are a constant threat.

- Janner is the "Throne Warden." What does that job mean? Does it seem fair that he has so much responsibility for his younger siblings?
- Leeli can't walk without her crutch, but she has a special gift for music. Why do you think the author gave her this gift? What does it say about her character?
- The Black Carriage is terrifying! Why are the children so afraid of it? What do you think happens to the children who are taken?
- Podo and Nia have secret conversations and seem worried. What clues do we get that the Igiby family is not who they seem to be?

Part 2: The Dragon Day Festival & The Escape (Chapters 15-30)

The Dragon Day Festival turns from fun to fearful, forcing the Igibys to flee their home forever. We see real danger and the family's first test of courage.

- During the festival, Janner has to choose between watching the dragons and watching his siblings. Have you ever had to choose between what you *want* to do and what you *ought* to do?
- Peet the Sock Man is seen as strange and even scary by many, but he helps the Igibys. What does this teach us about judging people by how they look or act?
- The family has to leave their home in a hurry. Imagine leaving your home and only being able to take a few things. What would you take and why?
- How does each family member show bravery during the escape from Glipwood?

Part 3: The Journey Begins (Chapters 31-45)

Now on the run, the family journeys through the wild, facing new dangers and learning more about the world outside their small town.

- We learn Podo's sad story about being a pirate and losing his wife and leg. How does knowing his past help you understand him better?
- Janner, Tink, and Leeli discover the "jewels of Anniera." Why is this secret so important? What do you think the jewels are?
- When Janner is protecting his siblings from the Squeebly Varmint, he feels both fear and courage. Is it possible to be scared and brave at the same time? How?
- The family has a rule: "Stay together." Why is this rule so important for their survival?

Part 4: Dugtown and the Sea (Chapters 46-59)

The family finds temporary shelter in the seedy town of Dugtown before facing the dangers of the Dark Sea of Darkness.

- Dugtown is a pretty rough place. How is it different from Glipwood? Do the Igibys seem to belong there?
- The sea dragons are huge and dangerous, but they are also described as beautiful. Can something be both scary and wonderful? Can you think of anything else like that?
- Tink gets into a fight to defend Leeli's honor. Was this the right thing to do? When is it right to stand up for someone else?
- Nia tells the children that "some truths are too dangerous to know." Do you think she was right to keep the secret from them for so long? Why or why not?

Part 5: The Big Reveal (Chapters 60-67)

After a long and dangerous journey, the secret is finally revealed: Janner, Tink, and Leeli are the lost Jewels of Anniera, the children of the High King.

- How did you feel when you found out who the children really were? Were you surprised?
- Now that Janner knows he is a prince, how do you think that changes his job as "Throne Warden"? Does it make it more important?
- The book ends on a cliffhanger! What do you think will happen to the family now that Gnag the Nameless knows where they are?
- Of all the characters in the book, who is your favorite and why? Who do you think is the bravest?

🕮 A Guide to the World of Aerwiar

A few key terms to remember as you read:

- **Fangs of Dang:** Lizard-like soldiers who serve Gnag the Nameless. They are cruel and occupy Skree.
- **Gnag the Nameless:** The evil, shadowy ruler who has conquered the lands of Aerwiar.
- **Toothy Cows:** Vicious, carnivorous cows that roam the land. Not your friendly farm animal!
- **The Maker:** The loving and powerful creator of Aerwiar and all the good in it.

Actionable Activities

- **Draw a Map:** Based on the descriptions in the book, try to draw your own map of the Igibys' journey. Where is Glipwood? Dugtown? The Dark Sea of Darkness?
- **Create a Family Motto:** The Igiby family's rule is "Stay together." What is your family's motto or most important rule? Design a crest or a poster with your family motto on it.
- **"What Would You Pack?":** Have everyone in the family answer the question from Part 2. What one or two special items would you pack if you had to leave home in a hurry? Share why those items are important to you.

Closing Devotional & Prayer

Hold hands and say: "The Igiby family shows us that even when we are scared, we can be brave, and that the love of a family is one of the most powerful things in the world."

Prayer: *Great Maker, thank you for stories that show us what it means to be courageous and to love our family. Help us to be brave when things are hard, to stand up for others, and to always remember that we are a part of Your good and beautiful story. Protect us on our journey, just like you protected the Igiby family. Amen.*

K-Pop Demon Hunters

A Discussion Guide for Families

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

- Romans 12:21



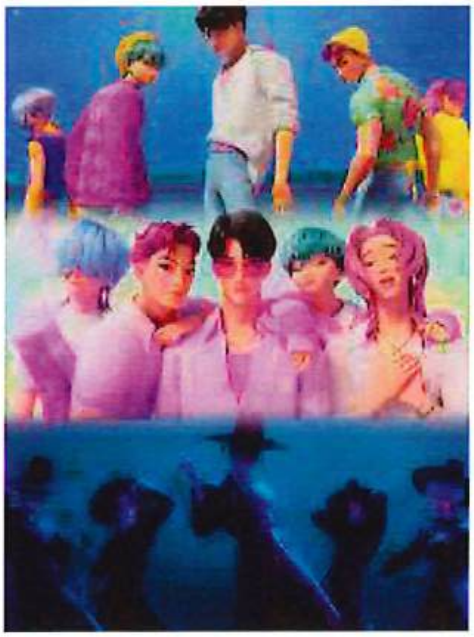
A Bridge for Conversation

Hello Parents,

Your child is captivated by *K-Pop Demon Hunters*, and it's easy to see why! It's a visually stunning show with exciting action and characters who have immense heart. It can also be intense, with significant violence and a focus on "demons." This guide is designed to help you engage with the powerful themes of empathy, sacrifice, and hope that run through the series, using them as a bridge for conversation about our faith and values.

A Crucial Distinction

The "demons" in *K-Pop Demon Hunters* are not biblical demons. They were once humans who, in a moment of deep pain or despair, were transformed by evil. This makes them figures of tragedy, not just monsters, which is the key to the show's profound message of compassion.



Discussion Questions for Families

Radical Compassion (Loving Your Enemy)

> **Question:** Tanjiro often feels sad for the demons he fights, even when they are trying to hurt him. Why do you think he recognizes their pain?

> **Connecting to Faith:** Jesus taught us to "love your enemies." How is what Tanjiro does a little bit like that? How can we try to understand people who have hurt us?

What Makes a Monster? (The Nature of Sin)

> **Question:** Think about a demon's backstory. Does knowing the sad things that happened to them when they were human change how you feel about them?

> **Connecting to Faith:** We believe that people aren't born evil, but we all make wrong choices (sin). How is the main villain, Muzan, like the idea of temptation, offering a way out of pain that ends up being a terrible trap?



Discussion Questions for Families

The Power of Sacrifice

> **Question:** The Flame Hashira, Rengoku, says, "It's the duty of the strong to protect the weak." What do you think he means by that?

> **Connecting to Faith:** The central story of our faith is Jesus's sacrifice. How does a hero's choice to protect others, no matter the cost, remind you of that ultimate act of love?

Finding Hope in Deep Grief

> **Question:** Tanjiro has every reason to give up after his family is lost, but he doesn't. Where do you think he finds the strength to keep going when things seem so dark?

> **Connecting to Faith:** Our faith teaches us that hope isn't just a happy feeling; it's a choice to believe that light and love are stronger than darkness. How does Tanjiro's journey show us what that kind of hope looks like?



Discussion Questions for Families

Community and Found Family

> **Question:** Tanjiro, Zenitsu, and Inosuke are all very different. How do their friendships make them stronger and better?

> **Connecting to Faith:** Being part of a community (like a church or family) is important. How does the friendship in *K-Pop Demon Hunters* show us why we need other people in our lives to support us and help us be our best selves?

