***Better Together Conference***

Text

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*Making Theological Connections with Secular Picture Books*

[**www.picturebooktheology.com**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com) **(PBT)**

**Hanna Schock**

1. **What is PBT & How Best to Navigate It**

* **theme (justice)**

***I Have a Dream* by King & Nelson**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/01/a-speech-for-today.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/01/a-speech-for-today.html)

***The Day the Crayons Quit* by Daywalt & Jeffers**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/03/favorite-pbt-posts-1st-crayon-book.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/03/favorite-pbt-posts-1st-crayon-book.html)

* **author name (Evans)**

***What is God Like?* by Evans & Turner**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2021/09/from-late-rachel-held-evans.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2021/09/from-late-rachel-held-evans.html)

* **biblical name (Dorcas)**

***Extra Yarn* by Barnett & Klassen**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2019/06/pbt-grab-go-17-extra-yarn.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2019/06/pbt-grab-go-17-extra-yarn.html)

* **plot’s key word (umbrella)**

***The Big Umbrella* by Bates & Bates**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/08/how-big-is-your-umbrella.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/08/how-big-is-your-umbrella.html)

* **Biblical event (ascension)**

***Life Without Nico* by Maturana & Olea**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2016/08/absence-comfort-and-connection.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2016/08/absence-comfort-and-connection.html)

* **Biblical book name (Isaiah)**

***I Am Enough* by Byers & Bobo**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/09/enough-already.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/09/enough-already.html)

* **liturgical season (Epiphany)**

***Owl Moon* by Yolen & Schohenherr**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/01/pbt-redux-18-perfect-book-for-epiphany.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/01/pbt-redux-18-perfect-book-for-epiphany.html)

***Home by Another Way* by Taylor & Cataldo**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/12/epiphany.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2018/12/epiphany.html)

* **spiritual practice (Intercessory)**

***How Do I Pray for Grandpa?* by Alary & Kimber**

[**http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2016/06/a-lesson-in-intercessory-prayer.html**](http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2016/06/a-lesson-in-intercessory-prayer.html)

1. **PBT & *The Revised Common Lectionary***
2. **To Find the Best PBT Series: Search Key Words**

**God Books - search: God Book**

**12 Theological Statements for Young Children - search: theological**

**Grab & Go - search: Grab & go**

**PBT Techniques - search: techniques**

**PBT Questions - search: PBT Question**

1. **5 PBT Questions to Ask about Potential Secular Books (applied to classics)**

**For Toddlers/Preschoolers – *The Very Lonely Firefly* by Carle**

**IS THERE A SACRED THEME TO THE STORY?**

**Yes! Community vs. Isolation OR The Body of Christ**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2015/04/pbt-question-2-to-ask-about-any-secular.html>

**1st of the 12 Theological Statements for Young Children**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2016/03/pbt-blog-series-theological-statements.html>

**Statement #4: God loves it when we do great things together.**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2016/03/pbt-blog-series-theological-statements_22.html>

**For Elementary-Ages – *The Little Engine that Could* by Piper**

**DOES THE STORY REMIND YOU OF SCRIPTURE?**

**Yes! The Good Samaritan OR Matthew 18:1-4 The Humility of a Child**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2015/05/pbt-question-3-to-ask-about-any-secular.html>

**For Teens/Young Adults – *The Giving Tree* by Silverstein OR *The Amida Tree* by Ferrante**

**WHERE IS GOD IN THE STORY?**

**Yes! God/Jesus as the tree**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2015/04/pbt-question-1-to-ask-about-any-secular.html>

**For Adults – *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Viorst & Cruz**

**DOES THE STORY CONTAIN OR ENCOURAGE A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE?**

**Yes! Lamentations**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2015/05/pbt-question-4-to-ask-about-any-secular.html>

**Middle-Aged & Elderly Adults – *The Country Mouse and the City Mouse* (an Aesop fable)**

**HOW MIGHT HEARING THE STORY POSITIVELY AFFECT BEHAVIOR OR FUTURE?**

**Non-judgementalism/Inclusion/Hospitality**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2015/05/pbt-question-5-to-ask-about-any-secular.html>

1. **A Quick Go-To PBT Lesson Format**

**Requires: Bible Story, Secular Picture Book, Plans for an Activity**

**Objective: Connecting 2 for stories for rich meaningful learning**

**Components: 1. Present scripture**

**2. Read picture book**

**3. Questions inviting connections**

**4. Movement activity with reminders of stories (necessary for adults?)**

**Flow: Depends on logistics and what’s most meaningful to audience**

1. P**icture Books & Spiritual Direction: 4 Book Recommendations**

* As a suggestion from a Spiritual Director to read and discuss at next conversation
* To read as individuals as a lectio divina practice

***Our Tree Named Steve* by Zweibel & Catrow**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2019/06/pbt-stories-7-spiritual-direction.html>

***Jessica’s Box* by Carnavas**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2016/02/the-symbolism-of-box.html>

***Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Barnett & Klassen**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2015/01/a-picture-book-day-for-year-day-277.html>

***My Heart* by Luyken**

<http://www.picturebooktheology.com/2019/02/its-love-little-late.html>