



# The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross

*Carl Laferton , Catalina Echeverri (Illustrations)*

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**The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross** Carl Laferton , Catalina Echeverri (Illustrations)

This beautifully illustrated hardback book takes children on a journey from the garden of Eden to God's perfect new creation.

Retelling the Easter story through a Bible overview, children will discover that 'because of our sin, we can't go in' but because of Jesus' victory on the cross, an even better garden awaits us...

## The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2016 by Good Book Company


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Author : Carl Laferton , Catalina Echeverri (Illustrations)

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# **From Reader Review The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross for online ebook**

## **Sarah says**

The gospel all wrapped up in a little storybook with memorable rhymes and fun illustrations. I have something against the word bubbles though- they don't fit with the overall feel of the book. Told in a fun folktale style. And from a perspective that I am guessing a lot of kids don't know about yet (the torn veil.)

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## **Megan says**

Loved this beautiful book which gives an awesome portrayal of the gospel for children!

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## **Becky B says**

This book gives an overview of basic points of the Bible to point out to kids how sin entered the world, how it separates people from God, and how Jesus' death and resurrection provides a way for that separation from God to be fixed.

A very succinct but kid-friendly way to explain how Bible stories relate, what sin is, and why Jesus died on the cross for sins. I was quite impressed with how good a job the book did in accomplishing these goals in just a few pages and in ways kids can grasp. The illustrations are great too, very fun and attractive and incorporates a historical feel accurate for the time periods. A great pick for Easter or Bible story time in general.

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## **Ashley Boyne says**

One of the best depictions of the gospel for kiddos that I've ever read. Beautiful illustrations. There are not enough words to describe how much I love this book.

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## **Tim Baumgartner says**

A very short, simple, yet creative children's book that includes the Garden [Genesis 2-3], the Curtain [the Old Testament], and the Cross [Mark 15-16, etc.] in very easy-to-understand ways. Created primarily for helping children understand their need for God and the reasoning behind Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, but is also useful for reminding or informing adults about the Gospel as well.

Highly recommended!

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## **Danette says**

What a great book to simply share the Gospel message with children. I'll be getting my own copy!

6/20/18 Read with Naomi, Julia, & Simon

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## **Sharolyn says**

Beautiful. Great links between the garden, curtain and the cross. Connections I'd never picked up on before. Lots of beautiful imagery (both pictured and to be imagined). I've always loved the image of the temple tearing in two and what that represents.

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## **Josh says**

Excellent

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## **Kevin Thompson says**

I have never actually reviewed a children's book before, but since adopting two children, suddenly the genre has become all the more important to me. Thus far I have read several Christian books to my kids. Some of them have been bad, and some very bad. Watered-down theology and dreadful moralism seem to characterize much of what is out there. Happily I can report there still several good resources out there for you, Christian parents. A great example would be *The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross* by Carl Laferton and illustrated by Catalina Echeverri.

*The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross* is basic, short Biblical theology geared toward young children but captivating enough for older children as well. I loved the way my four year was fascinated with the illustrations and even keep pace with the story itself. My eight year old was engaged with the details of the Temple and the curtain. It was a great learning tool, especially helpful right before Easter.

As I stated, it is basic, short Biblical theology. The book perfectly brings down the concept of creation, fall redemption to a level children can understand. Laferton begins in the Garden with a perfect creation where, "There was nothing bad, ever. There was no one sad, ever." Yet, sin came in and destroyed all of this. Now things were bad and people were sad. From that scene we are taken into the Temple where God Himself dwelt, but separated from man by a large curtain. Yet, God would become a man and die for our sins. The curtain separating man and God would be torn in two thus beginning God's redemption of this world leading us to an eternal kingdom where "There was nothing bad, ever. There was no one sad, ever." God's creation will be restored and our relationship with Him forever settled.

The book is a great read and a great conversation starter with your children. It is the gospel clear and simple. My kids loved and so will yours.

Disclaimer: This book was provided by the publisher for review. I was under no obligation to offer a favorable review.

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## Jeremy says

Great illustrations. Love the torn curtain. *WORLD* review here (scroll down).

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## Dan says

Children's books of late have been less and less concerned with the truths of scripture, even books which claim to tell the story of God's redemptive historical plan of salvation. Yet out of this mire rises a book which is a shining light in the darkness proclaiming that God's love triumphs over our sin. This book is called *The Garden, The Curtin, and The Cross* by Carl Laferton and illustrated by Catalina Echeverri. Produced by the Good Book Company this work takes a creative look at the Bible as a whole, retelling the creation account and the subsequent fall, how this placed a separation between man and God, leading to God sending Jesus breaking the curtain of separation with His victory on the cross.

*The Garden, The Curtin, and The Cross* has two major strengths the articulate teaching of God's Word and the illustration. With regard to the teaching of God's Word, *The Garden, The Curtin, and The Cross* is doctrinally sound while being fast paced, sharp, and witty. With regard to communicating the truths of God's Word, Laferton goes to great lengths to communicate to young children, the Gospel starting with original sin, the need of a savior, and the provision of the savior in this unique approach to evangelism.

With regard to the illustration *The Garden, The Curtin, and The Cross*, has vivid colors and is masterfully drawn so that it not only captures a child's attention but their imagination as well. Furthermore the illustrations start out bright then get darker as the story progress until Jesus is risen from the dead, these illustrations advance the story in a way words cannot do.

If you are looking to purchase, *The Garden, The Curtin, and The Cross*, it is a delightfully articulated and beautifully illustrated, the audience is for ages 3 to 7, yet when I read it to my daughter (age under 2) she was captivated the entire time.

This book was provided to me free of charge from The Good Book Company in exchange for an unbiased, honest review.

*The Garden, The Curtin, and The Cross*

© 2016 by Carl Laferton

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## James says

I am a father of four kids eight and under. So I read to them a lot. As far as religious kids' books, I like books that tell the old, old story well in a way that is both age appropriate and compelling. *The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross* is a great book. It gives kids age five to eight (my test group) a big picture sense of why Jesus died and rose again. Author Carl Laberton tells a story which is accessible for my kids and true to scripture. His story is beautifully illustrated by Catalina Echeverri's stunning illustrations. On the first day I got this book, I already read it several times with my kids. It opened up a great conversation with my eight year old about what the Bible tells about sin and we loved talking about what was happening in the pictures.

Here is a brief synopsis of the book [spoiler alert]: It begins in the garden where *there was nothing bad, ever and there was no one sad. . . ever. And best of all God was there.* Unfortunately *the people did a terrible thing* and decided they wanted a world without God in charge. Because of their sin, God sent them out of the garden and put warrior angels in front of it like a big *KEEP OUT* sign. *People still kept sinning because they didn't want God in charge.* God wanted to remind people how wonderful it was to live with him, so he had his people build a temple. In the center of the temple was the wonderful place where God was. But around that wonderful place was a curtain with pictures of warrior angels—God's big keep out sign telling them that *because of their sin, they couldn't come in.* After hundreds of years God sent his son as a person (Jesus) to open the way to God's wonderful place. The people put Jesus on a cross. Jesus took all our sin—*the bad things we do and the sad things they cause*—and the curtain in the temple tore in two signalling God's wonderful place was open again. Jesus rose three days later and welcomed all who trust in him back to God's wonderful place.

I like this book a lot and my kids all liked it. It is a perfect book to explore the meaning of Easter with kids. Another plus for the book is that Jesus isn't depicted as another blond haired messiah. He has dark hair and some color. The final pages depict the post-resurrection Jesus with bright face with a glowing white hair and beard and a golden sash (see Revelation 1:13-16). I give this book high points for biblical and theological accuracy but it was the art work that initially grabbed me. There is a Youtube video of illustrator Catalina Echeverri reading the story alongside her illustrations of the book (this is worth watching). I give this book five stars. ★★★★★

Note: I received this book from the Good Book Company via Cross Focused Reviews in exchange for my honest review.

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## Scott James says

My kids loved this book, as did I. It led to a very good conversation about the Gospel. I'm thankful for such an engaging and theologically rich resource.

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## **Deon says**

My Kids Reviews of this book:

3 yr old: I like the animals. My favorite picture is the garden. I want to read it again.

4 yr old: I liked the book. My favorite picture is when God makes Adam and Eve. He made the animals and everything! I want to read this book all the time!

7 yr old:

This book is about Jesus saving us from our sin. I learned because of sin you can't go to heaven. But Jesus died on the cross so we can. The most amazing part was when the curtain tore (because God tore it) The pictures in this book are colorful and I like that the people at the end glow.

11 yr old:

In the Garden, The Curtain, and the Cross, this is the story of God's wonderful world- until sin barged in. I liked how when everything is great in the garden, the illustrator made everything bright and blue and makes everything look happy. However, when Adam and Eve sinned, the illustrator draws the scenery brown and yucky and sad. I would like to re-read this book; it is so amazing! I learned why Jesus died and rose again. I would like to read more books by this author & illustrator. Once a kid picks up this book, they won't be able to put it down!

I received this book from the publisher through Cross Focused Reviews. No review, positive or otherwise, was required—all opinions are my own.

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## **Rebecca says**

"It is wonderful to live with Him, but because of your sin, you can't come in."

A spiritually intuitive look at how mankind compromised the personal relationship that God originally intended for His creation, and at how God wonderfully repaired that broken relationship at great cost to Himself; the sacrifice of His only Son.

"God's wonderful place is open again!"

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