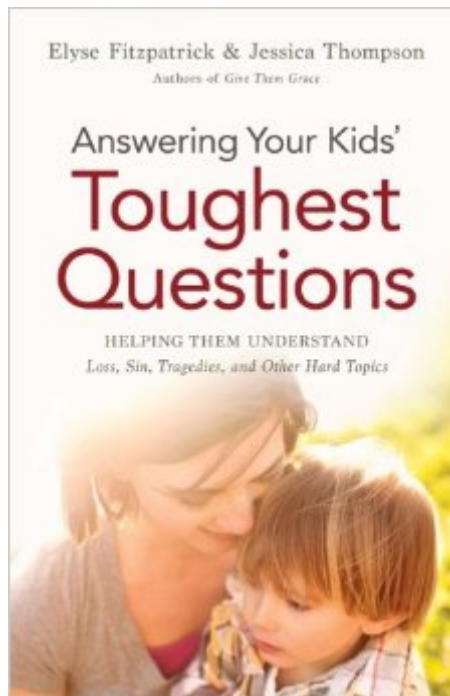


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# Answering Your Kids' Toughest Questions: Helping Them Understand Loss, Sin, Tragedies, And Other Hard Topics



## Synopsis

A bestselling author team shares helpful hints and age-appropriate guidelines for answering kids' toughest questions on difficult topics, including death, violence, the devil, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Prior to reading *Answering Your Kids' Toughest Questions* by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson, I had heard about another book previously written by them, *Give Them Grace*. As most of you know, I am not at the point in my life to be answering Mason's tough questions since he is only 8.5 months old. However, from seeing friends raise children, I have seen and learned that the time passes quickly and it will not be long before our little fella will be asking tough questions and Matt and I will need to try to answer them. I really love *Answering Your Kids' Toughest Questions* and think that it is well written. The first thing that I discovered and loved about the book is that Jessica, the main author, tells upfront that she does not have all of the answers. She is honest about how hard it can be to answer your kids' tough questions about life, death and all in between. In each section of *Answering Your Kids' Toughest Questions*, a difficult question is presented such as: What is Sin? Who is Satan? What is Hell? Why do People get Divorced? and many more questions. The authors give scripture to support answers to the questions. There is a section of each chapter where answers are provided for Preschool age children, age 5-10 and 11 and beyond. I LOVE that component of the book because it will help me as a parent to be aware of what my child may be able to understand. Lastly, I love that the book points to the parent and explains the importance of being aware of these situations before the questions may be asked especially related to death.

Don't wait until a death occurs in the family to talk about it with your children. Talk about it when you are able. Also, don't take the book word for word.

Recently I finished the book, *Answering Your Kids' Toughest Questions: Helping Them Understand Loss, Sin, Tragedies, and Other Hard Topics*, by Elyse Fitzpatrick and daughter Jessica Thompson. I chose this book because of the authors. I have read two other books by Elyse Fitzpatrick (*Because He Loves Me* and *Give Them Grace*) and one of the same by Jessica Thompson (*Give Them Grace*), and I appreciate the gospel/grace message they use throughout their writing. This particular book addresses 8 tough questions/topics parents most likely will face with their children: "What is Sin?", "Why Do People Die?", "Who is Satan? What is Hell?", "Why Do People Get Divorced?", "Why Does the Bible Say That? Difficult Bible Stories," "Why and How Do Some People Sin Sexually?", "Why Does God Let Natural Disasters Happen?," and "Why Do People Fight and Kill?" After an explanation of each topic, the authors give three different answer summaries, based on age, to help the parent explain on the right level. The first summary is for the preschool age, the second is for ages 5-10, and the last is for ages 11 and up. After finishing the book, I found it a quick read, easy to understand, and a good refresher on each topic. For me, I'd already thought through the majority of these questions and found answers myself, however, this is a helpful book for many parents who may still have questions regarding the above-mentioned topics, or for those parents who are not sure how to explain deep thoughts to different ages.

I am a Christian. I am GREATLY blessed with children and grandchildren. I have served as a PK-12 educator for the past 34 years. Kids can ask some pretty tough questions. Kids in strong Bible-believing churches and homes want to make sense of their faith when difficult situations come their way. As adults, we MUST allow them to sometimes doubt their faith and question the seemingly irreconcilable difficulties in our world. On certain indisputable matters of faith, we adults must be rock-solid in our certainty about the truth of God's Word. But there are certainly mysteries of Christianity which we do not fully understand, nor are able to completely explain to children. And we must allow them to see us wrestling with these issues right alongside them. If we are too certain, dogmatic, or Pharisaical with our answers, our children may not embrace the faith we know should be central to their way of living. How, then -- as a parent, grandparent, and school administrator -- should I answer their questions about sin, death, Satan, judgment, hell, divorce, adultery, marriage to an unbeliever, doubt, homosexuality, sexual abuse, pornography, natural disasters, violence in the home, war, terrorism, and the Gospel? I am pleased to report that two authors -- Elyse

Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson -- have GREAT responses to ALL of these matters in their new book -- Answering Your Kids' Toughest Questions: Helping Them Understand Loss, Sin, Tragedies, and Other Hard Topics (Bethany House, 2014). I was inspired by the wisdom of this mother-daughter writing team!

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