

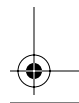
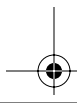
## FOREWORD

This book is long overdue. It was detoured by fears about the Harry Potter books, and parents and Christian publishers needed to deal with the initial controversy and frightening predictions that the Harry Potter books would lead kids “directly into the occult.” I was privileged to be able to help address those issues in my books. However, now that the controversy has subsided, we can focus on the positive aspects of these stories that kids and adults love so much. Truth be told, this is a book I would like to have written, but I am delighted to see that Gina Burkart has teamed up with InterVarsity Press to fill this need.

Gina has delivered a book that will help you delve into valuable themes within the stories so that you can have a wonderful shared learning experience as a family. I find Gina to be genuine in her faith in Jesus Christ, intelligent, articulate, well versed in both the Bible and Harry Potter, and—most memorably—passionate about passing on good values to her own children. I find in her a kindred spirit.

What she shares in this volume can be a springboard into a rich ongoing conversation with your children in which you can instill biblical values in ways that are enjoyable, extremely relevant to their daily challenges and interesting. She identifies a wealth of issues to discuss with your children in a thrilling and delightful shared literary experience. And she makes the conversation so easy.

Among the notable issues for families to discuss are friendship, family, self-sacrifice, temptations and the dangers of giving in, cour-





age, the power of love, facing fears, the deepest desires of our hearts, growing up, bullying, protecting the innocent, dealing with injustice, helping those who are enslaved, racial bigotry, class snobbery, international cooperation, life and death, hatred, torture, tyranny, and terrorism—all relevant issues in today's world. By taking these issues on with our kids in a fantasy story, we help them face the challenges of our real world with confidence and parental guidance—which is necessary as children read the Harry Potter books. I commend you for taking this on with your children and on your children's behalf.

Now that the time for this excellent book has finally come, don't wait another minute before getting into it with your children. God bless you as you grow together through the shared literary and spiritual experience.

Connie Neal

Author of *What's a Christian to Do with Harry Potter?* and *The Gospel According to Harry Potter*

