

INTRODUCTION

The idea for this book came to me while I was reading *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* with my children. I was intrigued and delighted with the Christian parallels that ran through the book, as well as the variety of pertinent issues they explored. My children often picked up on them as we engaged in some powerful discussions. These discussions challenged us to grow in faith and think critically about the world around us.

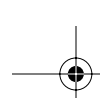
I also discovered that the books provided a special opportunity for my children and me to bond. These weren't the usual "How was your day?" discussions—not that those are bad. We had found a common and entertaining meeting ground. While I facilitated and led the discussions, we all partook enthusiastically and equally. I shared with and learned from them just as much as they shared with and learned from me. Our relationship deepened to a new level—and it continues to grow, in Harry Potter discussions and elsewhere.

As I enjoyed the richness and fun of our discussions while sharing the Harry Potter books, it occurred to me that perhaps other parents and educators could use the Harry Potter books in similar ways.

This book is broken into two parts. In part one the Harry Potter chronicles are compared to the fairy tale genre. Suggestions are given for using the Harry Potter books to foster moral growth and build relationships in which children can talk about the difficult issues and situations they face each day.

Part two unpacks and explores some of the themes that run





through the books. Practical questions and examples are provided to get you started talking about the many kid-relevant issues present in the books.

Children need to know that they can talk to caring and loving adults who will guide them and support them. Adults sometimes need to see life in new ways through the eyes of a child. The Harry Potter books provide opportunities for both. The goal of this book is to bring adults and children together as they grow in their Christian faith.

