



# Rubinstein

Golden Bible Stories





# GOLDEN BIBLE STORIES

A new series of twelve picture books

Great stories inspire, spark curiosity and raise questions. In this unique series, twelve inspiring tales from the Bible featuring surprisingly contemporary themes, are retold for young children.

With themes such as courage, trust and good and evil, these stories are relatable and close to home, even for a modern audience.

Freshly retold and illustrated by some of the very best children's authors, including winners of the Dutch Golden Pencil (Gouden Griffel) awards Sjoerd Kuyper, Bette Westera and Jan-Paul Schutten, and prizewinning illustrators such as Ingrid and Dieter Schubert, Emanuel Wiemans, Karst-Janneke Rogaar and Philip Hopman. Each of them bringing their own distinctive voice and style.

- *Timeless stories and universal themes for today's children*
- *Created by the Low Countries' most acclaimed children's authors and illustrators*
- *Dedicated website: [GoudenBijbelverhalen.nl](http://GoudenBijbelverhalen.nl) to copy for your territory*



## A meaningful conversation often starts with a good story!

At the back of each book, additional explanations and discussion questions – written by Dutch presenter, musical actor, author and bible expert Bas Ragas – are provided to help parents, teachers and church volunteers talk to children about the contemporary themes.

*'I am incredibly happy to be the ambassador for this wonderful project. As the father of four children, I know how difficult it can be to give them something truly meaningful in our busy society. Let yourself be swept away by the Bible, together with a child or grandchild. Enjoy!'*

– Bas Ragas Ambassador for Golden Bible Stories





INGRID SCHUBERT (1953) and  
DIETER SCHUBERT (1947) met while  
studying in Münster, Germany.

After graduating in 1977, they decided to  
spend a year in Amsterdam to develop their  
knowledge of graphic art techniques.

At the Gerrit Rietveld Academy,  
they specialised in illustration. In 1980,  
they achieved immediate international  
success with *There's a Crocodile Under  
My Bed*. They have been creating picture  
books together ever since. Amsterdam has  
become their home.

© photo: Milad Pallesh



*“The idea of infinity used  
to keep me awake at  
night. No beginning, no  
end — and then, out of  
this vast NOTHINGNESS,  
matter comes into being,  
eventually giving rise to  
organic life.”*

– Ingrid Schubert

*“Adam, created as a human  
being rather than as a man.*

*His counterpart created  
from him, and yet different:  
the woman. Equal in every  
way, beyond gender and  
immortal, until they reach  
for knowledge and are  
forced to leave Paradise  
[...]. What a beautiful  
metaphor it truly is.”*

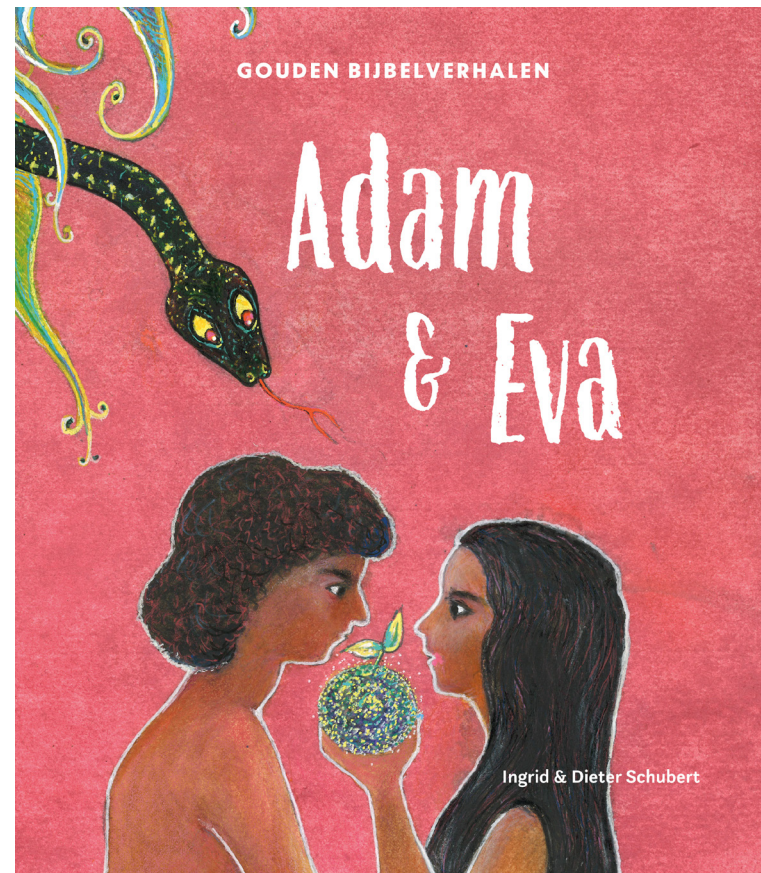
– Dieter Schubert



**Adam and Eve**  
Ingrid en Dieter Schubert  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+

## How do you tell the difference between good and evil?

Adam and Eve



It is dark and silent. There is no beginning and no end, no up or down. Nothing is alive. Until God sets everything in motion and creates life. The chaos disappears. The water gets filled with fish and crocodiles. Birds, bees and butterflies fly through the air. When two people, Adam and Eve, also appear in this paradise, everything seems perfect. Or... is it?

*Adam and Eve* is the first book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: how do you make choices that are good for you and for others?

Travel back to paradise and discover what the world could have looked like.

good vs evil • making choices

## How do you keep going when things go wrong?

Noah's Ark



At first, God was delighted with the world he had created. But most of the people he had placed on Earth did not take good care of it. Perhaps, God thought, I should flood everything with water and start again. I will ask Noah, that kind and capable man, to get to work. He never gives up! Could Noah maybe build a ship large enough for all those animals?

*Noah's Ark* is the second book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: how do you keep believing in something, even when things get difficult?

Climb aboard and experience an adventure filled with wisdom, wonder and recognition.

courage • perseverance • animals



ELLE VAN LIESHOUT and  
ERIK VAN OS have been writing songs,  
fairy tales, poems, educational material  
and children's stories, both together and  
separately, for more than 25 years.

Their books have been published around  
the world and are regularly selected for the  
Dutch National Picture Book Top 10. Their  
poetry collections have received a Vlag en  
Wimpel commendation from the Dutch  
children's book awards jury, the Children's  
Bookshop Prize and five Sardes Reading  
Awards, including one for *Hair Full of  
Banana*. Their book *Little Sir and Mister* was  
selected for the 2022 Picture Book Top Ten.



ANDREA RIVOLA lives in Riolo Terme,  
a small Italian town, where he divides  
his time between illustration and wine  
production. As an illustrator, he has  
published more than fifty children's  
books and frequently works for the Italian  
newspaper *Il Corriere della Sera*.

• A story about courage  
and perseverance



**Noah's Ark**  
Elle van Lieshout en Erik van Os  
Illustrated by Andrea Rivola  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+



**BAS RAGAS** (Ambassador for Golden Bible Stories) is a Dutch singer, actor, television presenter and author. He portrayed the Apostle Peter in the acclaimed live television production *The Passion* and is currently developing his second theatre production centered on the Bible. The show is based on his bestselling book *Jesus, Why?*, which was nominated for Theological Book of the Year in the Netherlands.



For the Golden Bible Stories series, Bas Ragas has written the background notes and discussion questions included at the end of every book. These help parents, teachers and church educators engage children in meaningful conversations about the timeless stories and their relevance to today's world.

**RACHELLE JOY SLINGERLAND** currently works as a concept artist and character designer at Ambassadors Amsterdam. Previously, she worked as a concept artist at Woodwork Amsterdam. In 2016, she was an intern with James Castillo Murphy, also known as Murfish.



- *Dream along with Joseph and discover why you should never give up*



**Joseph's Dreams**  
Bas Ragas  
Illustrated by Rachelle Joy Slingerland  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+

## About bullying and justice

### Joseph's Dreams



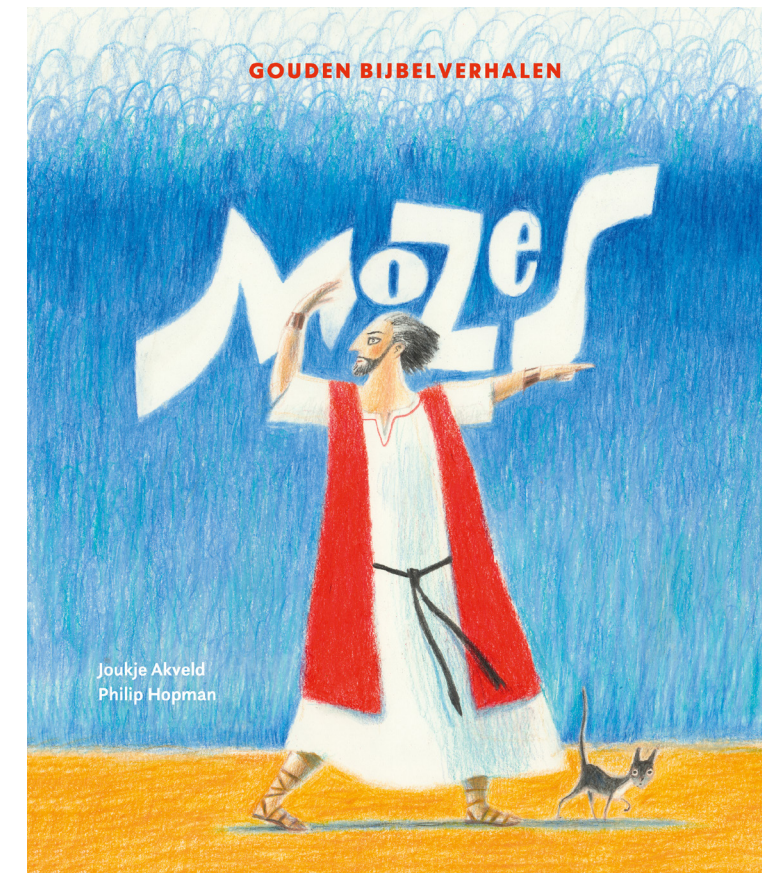
Joseph is a golden boy. Everything seems to go his way. He is his father's favourite child, even though he has eleven brothers. But when Joseph dreams that he is a real king and that his father and brothers must bow down before him, his brothers have had enough. They take their revenge in a cruel way: Joseph is taken to Egypt as a slave. Far from home, Joseph learns to keep going even when everything is against him. And then it turns out that his dreams were not merely dreams after all.

*Joseph's Dreams* is the third book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: what do you do when other people are jealous of you and begin to bully you? And how do you forgive someone who has hurt you?

resilience • dreams

## About oppression and liberation

### Moses



In a country where baby boys are forbidden, a baby boy is born. His sister hides him from the soldiers in a basket by the river. There, he is discovered by the daughter of the country's ruler and grows up in the palace.

As a man, he has everything he could ever wish for. Yet deep inside, he knows: I do not belong here. His people, who are oppressed by the country's ruler, do not belong here either. Will he succeed in setting his people free?

*Moses* is the fourth book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: how do you learn to trust yourself? And what does true freedom mean?

freedom leadership

**JOUKJE AKVELD** is a children's author and journalist. Her books have been translated in 15 countries and have received two Silver Slate Pencils, three nominations for the prestigious Woutertje Pieterse Prize and two Vlag en Wimpel commendations. She also translates picture books and writes about children's literature for the Dutch newspaper *Het Parool*.



**PHILIP HOPMAN** graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. Since 1988, he has illustrated more than two hundred children's books for publishers around the world. In 1999, Philip received a Silver Paintbrush for the book *22 Orphans*. In 2022, he received the Max Velthuis Prize, a triennial lifetime achievement award for Dutch illustrators. He was nominated for the 2024 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.



- *Explore the world around you and discover how to find your own path with confidence*



**Moses**  
Joukje Akveld  
Illustrated by Philip Hopman  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+



**MARK HAAYEMA** is a writer, actor and theatre maker. In addition to many picture books, he created two children's baking books together with Rutger van den Broek, first winner of the Dutch Bake Off Show.



His preschool bookseries Muk was in the top 10 picture books of the National Reading Days.

**EMANUEL WIEMANS** is an illustrator, animator and storyboard artist. Working mostly digitally, his work can best be described as vintage yet contemporary. Emanuel illustrated numerous picture books for various publishing houses, including Rubinstein, Random House and Gottmer.



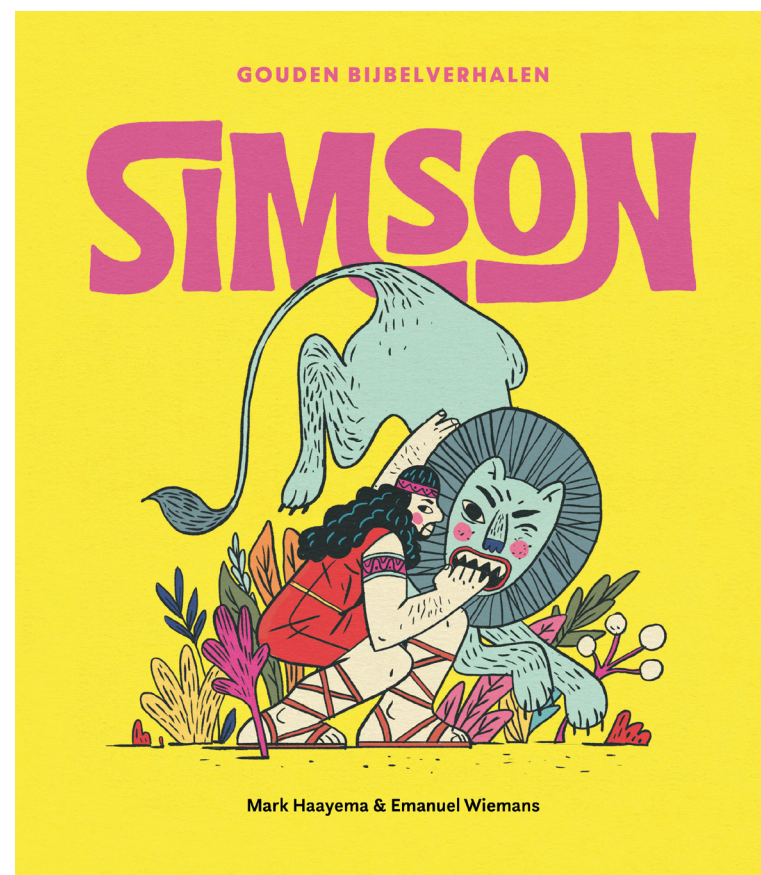
• *Marvel at Samson's strength and discover what happens when it is not used well*



**Samson**  
Mark Haayema  
Illustrated by Emanuel Wiemans  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+

## About talents and how to use them to make a better world

### Samson



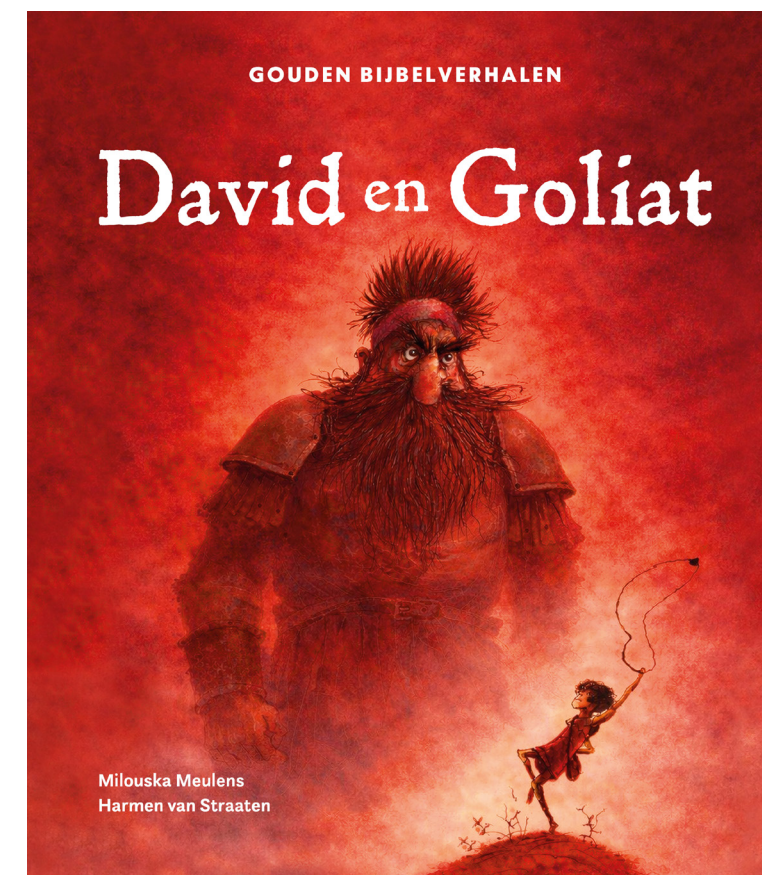
Samson is stronger than anyone, stronger even than a lion. He has been blessed with this extraordinary gift since birth — at least, so long as he follows a few important rules. But when he is betrayed by his friends and falls hopelessly in love with a beautiful Philistine girl, he seems to forget those rules for a moment. Then Samson discovers that true strength is not simply a matter of muscles.

*Samson* is the fifth book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: what is your talent, and how can you learn to use it wisely?

strength • trust • obedience

## About courage and trust

### David and Goliath



In *David and Goliath*, the young shepherd David defeats the giant Goliath using nothing but a stone and a sling. It is a powerful metaphor for standing up against injustice and finding courage. The story is retold in a clear and contemporary style by Milouska Meulens and illustrated in vivid colours by Harmen van Straaten.

*'Retelling the stories I grew up with while focusing on relevant themes is exactly the kind of thing I love to do. To me, David and Goliath is about daring to stand up for the underdog instead of quietly allowing oppression to continue.'*

– Milouska Meulens

courage • injustice • oppression



**MILOUSKA MEULENS** is a journalist, author, tv-presenter and moderator. She is known for her work on the Dutch children's news programme *NOS Jeugdjournaal*, presents radio programmes for broadcaster Omroep Zwart and made her debut as a children's author with *Elin*. She also wrote the autobiographical novel *Motherland* and contributes to various media. A true multi-hyphenate, she prefers to use her voice in as many ways as possible to help make the world a better place.

© photo: Bete van Meeuwen



**HARMEN VAN STRAATEN** illustrated his first children's book in 1987 and has since illustrated around 400 books. He has been recommended three times by the Dutch Children's Jury, received a Golden Apple at the Bratislava Biennial of Illustration, and was awarded Japan's Golden Brush. Translations of his work have been published in Germany, Belgium, Korea, Japan, France, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, among other countries. For Rubinstein Publishing, he has written and illustrated many titles in the Dutch Little Golden Books series.

• *The most iconic story to explain the concept of the big guys vs the little ones.*

**David and Goliath**  
Milouska Meulens  
Illustrated by Harmen van Straaten  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+



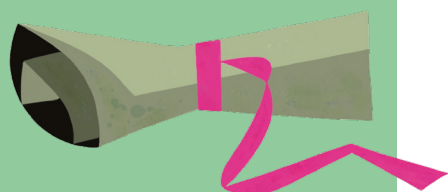
**BETTE WESTERA** is one of the Netherlands' most popular and highly acclaimed children's authors. She captures great emotions and profound themes in clear and moving language. She received both the Golden Slate Pencil and the Woutertje Pieterse Prize for *Dead Ordinary* and *Breaking Up*.



**JULIEN BIZAT**, based in Paris, is a talented illustrator, animator and character designer, and a former student of the Gobelins school. He currently works in feature-length animation, among other fields. He is known for his work on *Ron's Gone Wrong* (2021), *Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers* (2022) and *The Illusionist* (2010).



• Step behind the palace walls and discover an incredibly exciting story with an unexpected ending



**Esther**  
Bette Westera  
Illustrated by Julien Bizat  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+

## About courage and standing up for others

Esther



A courageous queen. A dangerous plan. A celebration that continues to this day. Queen Esther faces an impossible choice. She knows that taking a single step into the throne room could cost her her life. She takes the step anyway, trembling but determined. She does not do it for herself, but to save her people from a dark and destructive plan. In a kingdom where no law can ever be reversed and the king holds absolute power, Esther proves that one courageous woman can change the world.

*Esther* is the seventh book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: do you dare to stand up and speak out when it truly matters?

courage • speak out

## A story about love and peace

The First Christmas Night



On a silent night, a baby boy is born in a stable. Could he be the child from the ancient prophecy? Will he grow up to drive out the soldiers? Or will he become, as his mother says, a wise and loving leader? Shepherds and animals come to see the baby. The people begin to feel hopeful again. Will this child create a world in which people can live together without fear and with trust in one another?

*The First Christmas Night* is the eighth book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: what does Christmas mean to you? And what gives you hope? Follow Joseph, Mary and the shepherds in this heart-warming story that is told all over the world every year.

love • peace • a new beginning



**SELMA NOORT** (1960) wrote her first book when she was eighteen years old. Since then, she has written around one hundred books for young readers, several of which have won awards and have been translated. She has also written approximately 130 early-reader books and other titles for educational publishers. In recent years, Selma has begun illustrating her own work. Her best-known book is *The Sea Came Through the Letterbox*, a true story about the North Sea Flood of 1953.



**EEFJE KUIJL** graduated from the illustration programme at the HKU University of the Arts Utrecht in 2002. Since then, she has worked as a freelance illustrator for clients in the Netherlands and abroad. She has illustrated more than fifty books, including *Monkey Oops*, written by Jozua Douglas. Her work is cheerful and colourful, and she loves giving every illustrated character, whether human or animal, a personality of their own.

• The perfect Christmas gift



**The First Christmas Night**  
Selma Noort  
Illustrated by Eefje Kuijl  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+

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**STINE JENSEN** is a philosopher, author and podcast creator. She is Professor of Public Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam. She has written books for adults about fulfilment and identity, including *Go East*, *Godless* and *The Courage to Fail*, as well as children's books about philosophy and emotions. She received a Silver Pencil award for *Dear Stine, Do You Know the Answer?*

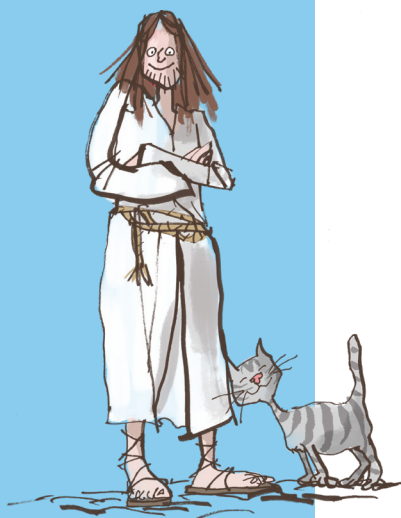


© photo: Romy van Leeuwen

**GEERT GRATAMA** (1958) grew up in Leeuwarden and studied at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. He has built a varied career as a designer and illustrator. His work includes illustrations for *The Great Vincent van Gogh Atlas: Junior Edition*, *Fix-it Faye* and several books by bestselling authors like Maren Stoffels, Jozua Douglas and Tosca Menten. In the 1980s, he was one of the first illustrators to experiment with a digital drawing tablet. The experience was so disappointing that he has preferred working on paper ever since—with a little help from the computer.



- A story about following your heart



**The First Disciples**  
Stine Jensen  
Illustrated by Geert Gratama  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+

## Do you dare to take risks and trust someone else?

### The First Disciples



The fishermen on the lake know exactly how to catch plenty of fish. But after spending an entire night on the water, their nets are still empty. When a stranger asks them to try one more time, together with him, they do not understand why. But they agree. It is the beginning of an extraordinary journey.

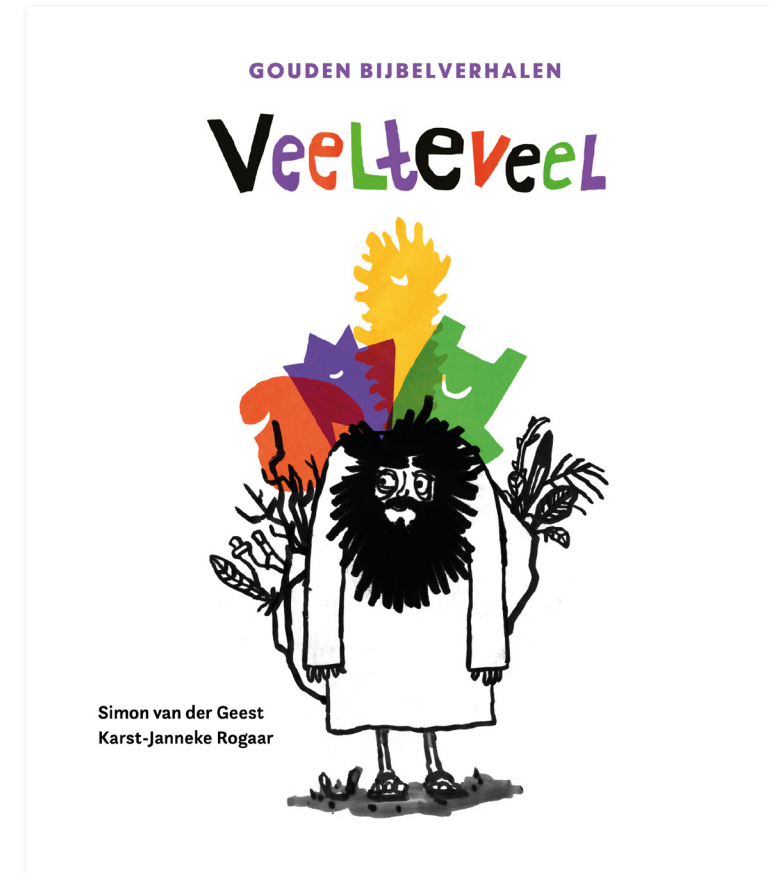
*The First Disciples* is the ninth book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: do you dare to trust someone who thinks differently from you?

Climb into the fishing boat and join a group of friends as they follow an exceptional teacher.

taking risks • follow your heart • trust

## About empathy and connection

### Far Too Much



On the other side of the water lives a strange man with a wild beard. Nobody dares to go near him. Everyone thinks he is mad. When Sam is allowed to travel to the other side with a group of friends, they see the strange man talking to himself. Sam finds the man a little frightening, but one of his friends simply walks up to him. Then something remarkable happens — something no one expected. A moving story about being seen, overcoming fear and being given the chance to begin again.

*Far Too Much* is the tenth book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: what can you do for people who are excluded or left on the sidelines?

inclusion • compassion



**SIMON VAN DER GEEST** (1978) writes books, plays and poetry, preferably for children. He received a Silver Slate Pencil for *The Project* and has twice won the Golden Slate Pencil, for *Dissus* and *Spinder*. He also wrote *The Zapp St. Matthew Passion*, a theatrical concert based on Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, for children.



**KARST-JANKE ROGAAR** is an award-winning illustrator. She studied Fine Art in London and at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. She creates children's books, book covers, infographics, museum illustrations, editorial illustrations, film and theatre posters, independent artwork and much more. Her work is recognisable for its unpolished linework and distinctive use of colour. Her carefully composed images are filled with humour and a great love of the small details of everyday life.

- Sail to an unfamiliar shore and see for yourself how a surprising encounter can transform a life



**Far Too Much**  
Simon van der Geest  
Illustrated by Karst-Janke Rogaar  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+



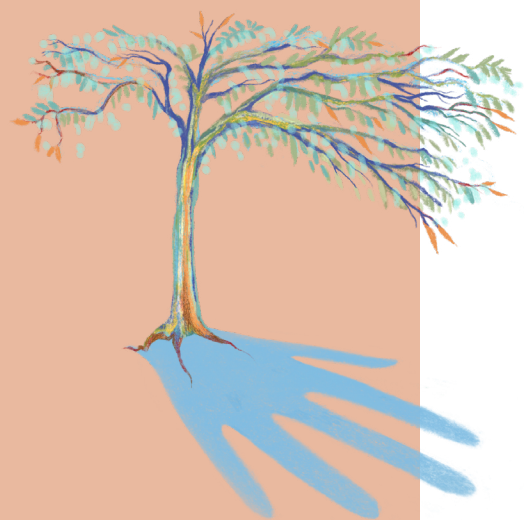
**JAN PAUL SCHUTTEN** is one of the Netherlands' most celebrated writers of non-fiction for children. His work, in which the emphasis is on history, nature and science, has twice been awarded the Gouden Griffel for the best children's book of the year.



**JESKA VERSTEGEN** studied advertising and began illustrating for magazines and publishers while she was still a student. Drawn to imaginative worlds, she created many illustrations for children's fiction. Jeska's artwork has been recognised by *The New York Times* and the New York Public Library. She was one of the winners of the Best Illustrated Children's Books Award in 2023. Her first novel, *I'll Keep You Close*, was published in the United States by Levine Querido in 2020. In 2024, she won the prestigious Dutch Golden Paintbrush Award. Her books have been translated into many languages.



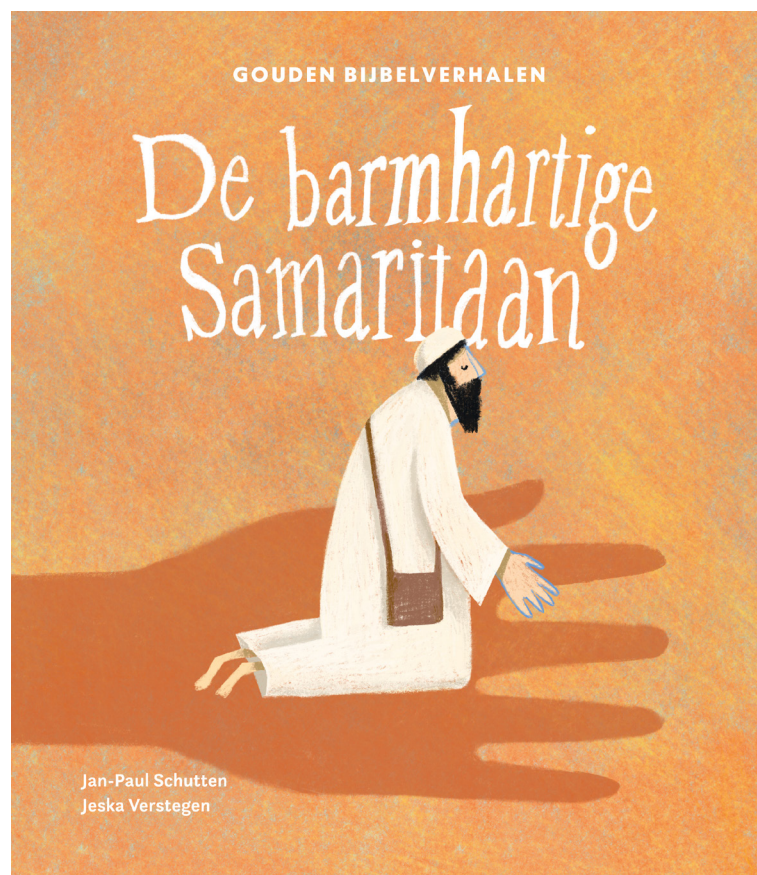
- *Step into a story that acts as a mirror, reflecting both yourself and the people around you*



**The Good Samaritan**  
Jan Paul Schutten  
Illustrated by Jeska Verstegen  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+

## About helping others and compassion

### The Good Samaritan



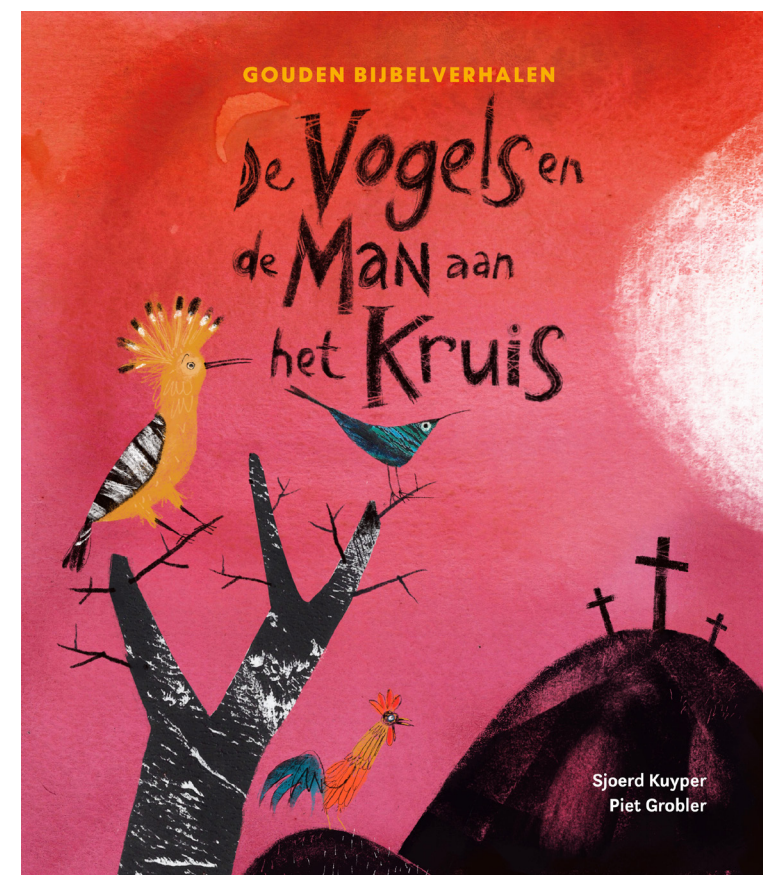
When a man is attacked on a narrow path in the desert, he is left injured by the roadside. Fortunately, help appears to be on its way. Surely the priest will help him! But the priest decides to leave him lying there. A temple assistant does the same. Then the injured man sees a Samaritan approaching and is terrified. The enemy! But the man soon learns that things are not always as they first appear.

*The Good Samaritan* is the eleventh book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: what is the difference between a friend and an enemy? And how can helping someone make the world a better place?

friendship • helping out

## About friendship and standing up for what matters to you

### The Birds and the Man on the Cross



A hoopoe and a sunbird are sitting high in a tree. They have heard Jesus warn his friends that one of them will betray him before the cock crows the following morning. The birds are puzzled by the way people treat one another. When a cockerel joins them, the three birds witness a miracle and hear a beautiful song. Those who listen carefully may still be able to hear it today.

*The Birds and the Man on the Cross* is the twelfth book in the popular Golden Bible Stories series and explores big questions such as: what do you stand for? And what are you willing to do for the people closest to you? Listen to the birds as they tell the powerful story of Good Friday and Easter.

principles • borders



**SJOERD KUYPER** writes much-loved children's books, poetry and stories filled with humour, adventure and emotion. His work has received numerous awards. He won a Golden Slate Pencil for *Robin and God* and a Silver Slate Pencil in 2025. Through his sparkling language and vivid characters, he transports readers into extraordinary worlds.



**PIET GROBLER** studied theology, journalism and graphic design and worked for many years as an editor and graphic designer. He has been a freelance artist and illustrator since 1996. Grobler has received numerous awards for his work in countries all over the world, from Italy to China.

- *The most iconic story to explain the concept of the big guys vs the little ones*



**The Birds and the Man on the Cross**  
Sjoerd Kuyper  
Illustrated by Piet Grobler  
40 pag. / 21,5 x 24,5 cm  
Hardcover  
Ages 6+



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for literature

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FOR MORE INFO:

