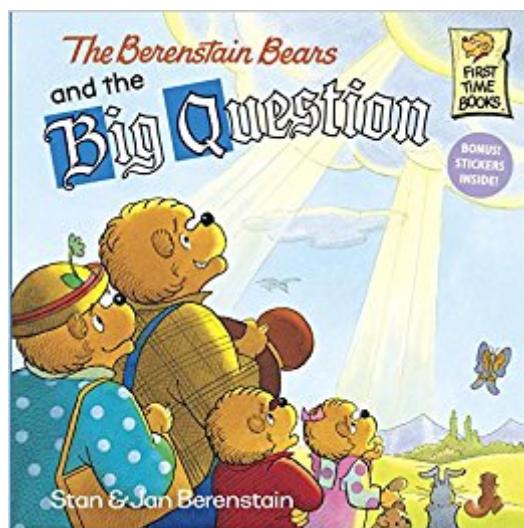


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# The Berenstain Bears And The Big Question



## **Synopsis**

This classic Berenstain Bears story is a perfect way to teach children about who God is and how to see His many blessings all around them! Come for a visit in Bear Country with this classic First Time Book® from Stan and Jan Berenstain. Sister is curious about God and what and where He is. Now, it's up to Papa and Mama to help Sister see that He is all around, from the sunshine to the birds and the clouds to the chapel. Includes over 50 bonus stickers!

## **Book Information**

Series: First Time Books(R)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (October 12, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679889612

ISBN-13: 978-0679889618

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #142,414 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Learning Concepts #39 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Family #453 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bears

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

Got for my grandchildren. They love to hear the stories and these books have good life lessons as well.

Good Book, my daughter made me buy every one for her and she reads them to me before bed. The lessons in these books should be mandatory reading for adults when they turn 21, it would make the world a more friendly place.

They don't address the big question of God at all, and never even touch on Jesus. The book ends on a note of uncertainty and didn't help us with our discussion of God at all. And we typically love

Berenstein bear books, we have many.

LOVE THE BEARS !

Good for kids.

I'm tired of people complaining about how the world is not open to their views. Those people are completely closed to the Christian view. This book is great and it does not shove anything down your thought. I enjoyed it and can't wait to share it. THANK YOU STAN BERENSTAIN for being open minded.

I'm 24 years old and have always liked the Berenstain Bears books because they are fun and tackle serious issues in a very human way. "The Big Question," however, left me wondering if this book was meant to urge kids to become Christian. While I'm not always so quick to jump onto the "conspiracy" bandwagon, it seems that this story could have been handled much differently. Unlike the other books, it appeals to only one audience-- Christian. I am Jewish and agnostic. I know some Jews, Christians, Muslims, Wiccans/Pagans, Buddists, atheists, and agnostics. What bothers me is that Mama answers Sister's question as if she KNOWS the answer. Why not tell sister that this is a tough question? There are many religions, many beliefs, and we have to respect all of these beliefs and that, ultimately, nobody really knows the answer? Why not tell her that many believe in one or many gods, and others don't believe in a god at all? Maybe then Mama could have said that she believes in God, and then taken the family to church (or wherever) to teach Sister about one of many ways of looking at the world, instead of insinuating that Christianity has all the answers?

I find it amusing that this book has gotten one star and five stars from people who identify as Christians. On one hand, the Berenstain bears go to "church," which Christian readers approve of, OTOH, there is no mention of Jesus or the Bible. Sister asks the Big Question of Mama, which is "What is God?" Mama answers telling her that God is the creator of everything. Then Sister asks if God created bad things like stomach aches, hurricanes and germs that make people sick and Mama has no easy answer. Mama and Sister see the grandparent bears "going to Sunday meeting" in their Sunday meeting clothes. They join them. The preacher tells the assembled that today, the congregation is going to be the "preachers" and they should stand up when they have something that they want to say. As a Quaker, I'm delighted to read this book to my kids since that's pretty

much the experience of going to an unprogrammed Quaker meeting. The building that the bears go to has no cross visible, though it is obviously a church with stained glass windows. There are no obvious symbols of Christianity present. The bears get up and speak about their gratitude to God and their love for one another. The book isn't intended as a polemic to give a catechistic definition of God. It asks children to consider one of the deepest questions of all, what is God and if God created everything, why is there suffering? There is no doctrinaire answer, the book is a jumping off point for discussion between parent and child. Each person must answer the Big Question for him/herself and it would be absurd that this little paperback book of less than 20 pages is expected to give any reader definitive answers. That's the job of parents, not Jan and Stan Berenstain.

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