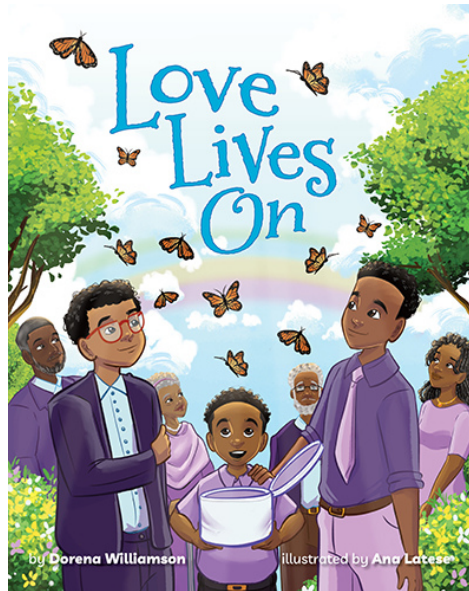


# BOOK TALK FOR LOVE LIVES ON

BY DORENA WILLIAMSON



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*Love Lives On* is my tenth picture book for kids. Glory to God for allowing me to join His good work!

I am grateful to have partnered with Magination Press in bringing this story to life. As the children + teen imprint of the American Psychological Association, this press does not include religious elements in their books. After prayerful consideration, I said “yes” to the open door of publishing with them as an opportunity to broadly share this book’s important message.

There is a note to adult readers at the end of the book. This page provides additional reflections to incorporate Christian faith in conversations on loss and love with children.

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| <p><b>God is love</b></p> <p>1 John 4:7</p> <p>Love comes from God. This is a foundation of our Christian faith and life! Teach children that love is a gift God gives us to share with others. I hope this book sparks more intentionality in treasuring every moment with our loved ones..</p> | <p><b>God is the giver of life</b></p> <p>Ecclesiastes 3</p> <p>There is a time for every season, including a time to be born and a time to die. Guide children to rest in the assurance that God already knows when life begins and ends.</p> | <p><b>Jesus wept</b></p> <p>John 11</p> <p>Before He raised Lazarus back to life, Jesus wept over his death. Give children the freedom to express sorrow and love as they grieve loved ones who die (this applies to any type of loss.)</p> | <p><b>Careful conversations</b></p> <p>Deuteronomy 6:7</p> <p>Seek information on funeral arrangements to prepare children for the experience. Resist the urge to respond with spiritual platitudes or unbiblical sentiments (Ex: the deceased has become an angel).</p> | <p><b>Grief + grace</b></p> <p>1 Thessalonians 4</p> <p>Children express grief in different ways. While we grieve with hope, grief is a journey. Practice breath prayers together for mutual comfort and keep an open door for expressing feelings as you and your child adjust to life without your loved one.</p> |
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## Gentle Language

In the book, the parents tell the child that the body of his loved one will be inside a shiny box (casket) although his soul is no longer with us. My dear friend, author Dorina Lazo Gilmore-Young used this phrase when describing how her late husband Eric Lee died: “He soared to heaven.” I treasure this sentiment of how believers go to be with Jesus. In the Black church experience (my background) we speak of loved ones going home. Others say, “our loved one has passed from this life, into eternity.” No matter your theological interpretation, give kids gentle, truthful language.

Death can be a specific time to dive into the Bible’s rich descriptions of heaven. School-age children can look up scriptures and use digital formats for Bible study. This would also be a fun art experience for children, and a nudge for us all to to set our minds on things above (Colossians 3:2)



**LIVE EVERY DAY WITH  
LOVE!**

Death is a part of our lived experience, and I pray you and the children in your life will experience the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus during your life's chapters of loss and love.

Stay in touch by visiting my website at [dorenawilliamson.com](http://dorenawilliamson.com).



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