

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On February 28, 2013, we received following comment and inquiries:

“Have you seen the coloring pages and connect the dots that are meant for children to print out on jw.org. Not to mention that it is encouraged to act out these scenes. I am not into child psychology but it sure seems like we would send the wrong message if I allowed my child to entertain themselves with violent scenes. Especially with the baby and the knife.

“So it is wrong for my teenager to watch or play violent movies and games but it is ok for my 4 year old to color pictures of a baby about to be slaughtered and a woman turned into salt with a horrible expression of fear and pain. Or Jesus beating animals with a thick stick? How is this upbuilding?

“I can't think anywhere where this would be acceptable. When I pick up an activity book with Disney characters I see happy princesses and heroic deeds and animals.

“I am really angry at this. The "My book of Bible Stories" contains enough violent photos as it is. I hardly ever referred to that book in my studies with my daughter. I plan on writing the society about it but as you may know they somehow feel the need to contact the local elders.

“Please, any advice would be helpful or if you plan on addressing it maybe that's enough. I am so mad, I just needed to talk this out.

To the author, thank you for your email. We have not seen the coloring pages you refer to, but if they are as you say, we certainly understand your concern. As for us, our ministry is currently focused on the matter of sonship with God. Therefore, we are not inclined to interject ourselves into the matter of their coloring books.

But it seems the solution is simple, as you have already discovered. Those who find the pages disturbing would choose not to have their children play with them. Keep in mind, too, that you are the caretaker for your children. The Father will look to you, not the Governing Body, as to how you raise them.

Nevertheless, we see no reason why concerned parents cannot voice their concern as long as it is tactful and to the point. That way, if such a letter were to find its way to your local elders, there should not be any grounds for discipline.

We hope our reluctance to get involved in this matter does not discourage or offend you. We will, however, post your comment and our response to the site as a way of making other parents aware of this matter.

“Elaia Luchnia”
