



• DEEP DIVE •

into the Old Testament

51 EXPEDITIONS IN

GOD'S WORD

CLAIRE SIMS

“The Old Testament can sometimes feel like deep waters—but this creative, brain-tastic devotional invites kids to dive right in! Through a rich deep-sea adventure, young readers can discover God’s truth in a way that is engaging, thoughtful and fun, uncovering meaning and solving puzzles along the way.”

SHELL PERRIS, ALIVE Kids

“This superb resource is everything a child’s devotional should be: clear, fun, interactive and easy to use. Tricky concepts are explained superbly, and children will build up Bible study skills they can use again and again.”

LUCY RYCROFT, Founder, The Hope-Filled Family

“A biblically faithful and thoughtfully constructed resource that keeps Christ at the center. Children will learn much through each ‘dive’ and come up for air with a deep sense of gratitude for the gospel.”

KORRIE JOHNSON, Founder, Good Book Mom

“What a gift for families! *Deep Dive* is interactive and fun, and wonderfully, it encourages children to dig deep into Scripture for themselves—not only nurturing a habit for Bible reading but also for turning their hearts to Christ!”

SARAH DARGUE, *Two Sisters and a Cup of Tea* podcast

“Simple without being shallow, this is an excellent introduction for young readers learning to engage fully with their Bibles. It teaches kids to ask good questions and demonstrates how we get to know God through his word.”

ANNA MEADE HARRIS, Author, *God’s Grace for Every Family*;
Contributing Editor, Rooted Ministry

“Claire reflects a clear understanding of great Bible stories, teaching them in a way that will make children and young people want to read more and more. I hope this is the first book of many!”

TREVOR PEARCE, Senior Minister (Children and Youth),
All Souls Langham Place, London

“Rich theology, simply presented in a fun way. These Bible studies are easy enough for a child to use independently yet substantial enough to use in a kids’ group. This is a gift that will keep on giving.”

LINDA ALLCOCK, Author, *Head, Heart, Hands* teen Bible studies

“Having a guide like Claire Sims is a gift to this generation of parents. Her creative approach to telling the beginning of God’s story makes it easy for kids to get excited about studying the Bible.”

CASSIE BRYANT, Family Discipleship Podcast;
Spiritual Formation Minister, Northway Church, Texas

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Published by:
The Good Book Company



thegoodbook.com | thegoodbook.co.uk
thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz

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Design by André Parker

ISBN: 9781802544305 | JOB-008599 | Printed in India

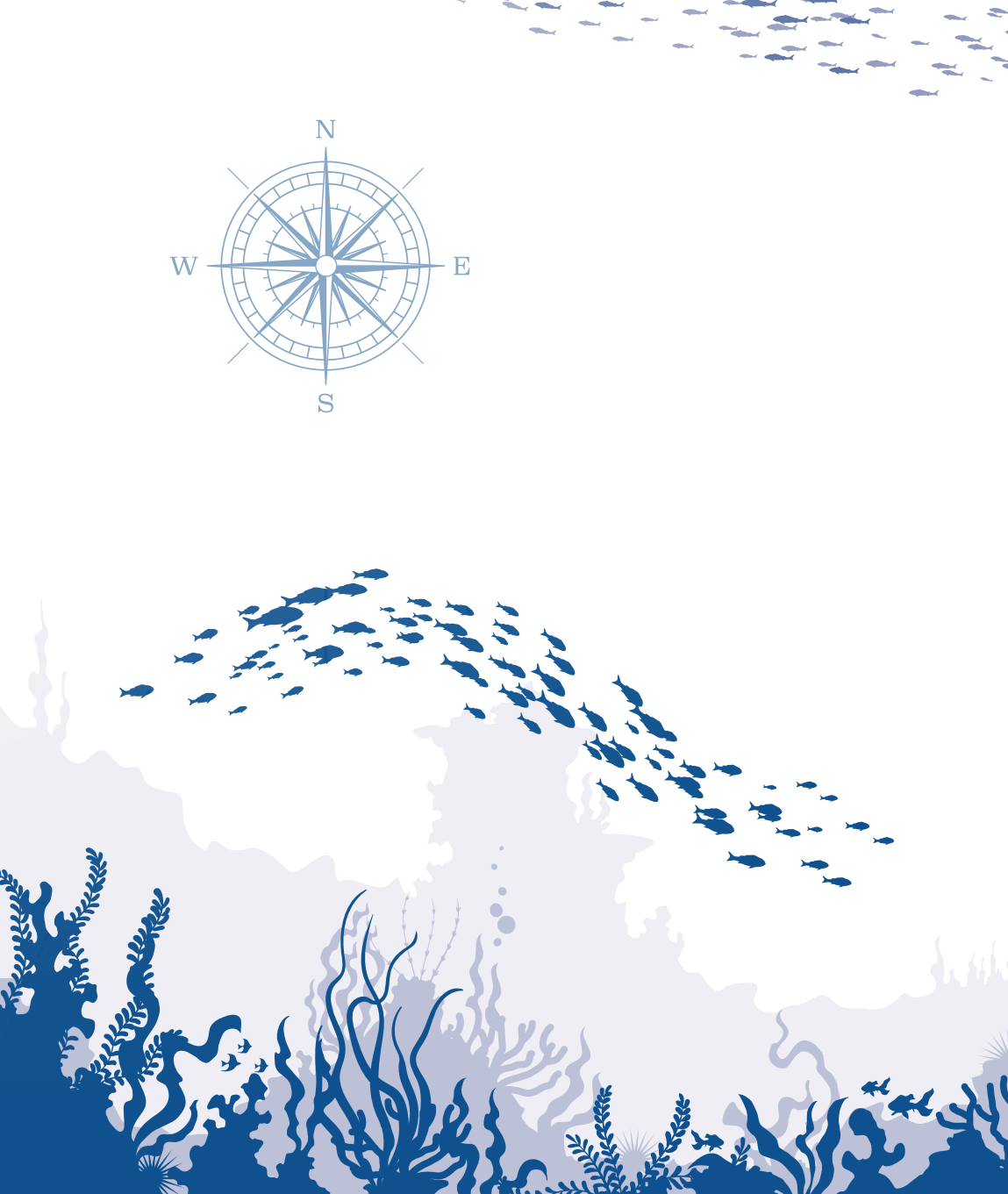
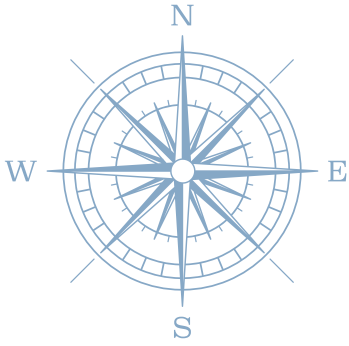
DEEP DIVE

into the Old Testament

51 EXPEDITIONS
IN GOD'S WORD




thegoodbook
COMPANY



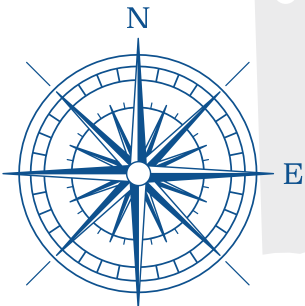


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GETTING STARTED

S There are lots of reasons why you could be holding this book today: maybe it's because you like exploring, or maybe it's because you want to get to know God better. Maybe someone gave this book to you and challenged you to investigate. Or maybe it's because you want to read your Bible, but you don't know where to begin.

If any of those describe you, you're in the right place!

Over the next 51 days, we're going to dive deep into the first two books of the Bible. We're going to read some very cool true stories, but most importantly, we're going to be learning about the God behind them all!

Lots of people, when they read the Bible, try to figure out where they fit into the story or which character they are most like. But actually, that's not how the Bible is meant to be read. In reality, the Bible is mostly not about us but about God: what he's like and what he's done. As we learn about God, we begin to understand what that means for us and our lives.

In this book you are going to go on seven dives into the books of Genesis and Exodus. Each dive follows one story and will take a number of days. At the end of each dive there is a debrief, and then you'll be ready to move on to the next dive.

If you can, try to deep dive every day! Find a time that works for you and commit to reading God's word, with the help of this book, at that time every day. Of course, there might be times where you can't do one day. That's okay—you can just dive straight back in the next day.



KIT LIST

Here is everything you'll need as we head out on our dives over the next few weeks.

- **Deep Dive into the Old Testament.** That's this book! This is your daily guide to the dives you'll be doing.
- **A Bible.** This is what we're going to be diving into! It's big and powerful, and I'm excited to be exploring it with you! If you have an NIV Bible, use that one as it will match up best with this book.
- **A pen or pencil.** Sometimes there will be activities and tasks for you to complete. A pen or pencil will be needed.
- **Highlighters.** These will help you in decoding messages, finding key information and sorting your findings. This will be important when you're diving deep in God's word.
- **An adult.** Sometimes diving gets tough, and we need a dive buddy to help us out. If you need help or you don't know an answer, ask an adult who loves Jesus to help you!

Now your kit is ready, you're ready to get started!



• DIVE ONE •

THE STORY OF CREATION

MISSION: To explore the beginning of all things

DEEP SEA DISCOVERY

Our first dive takes us back to the very start. Before oceans and mountains, before planets and stars, before life in any form. Back to when the universe was formless. There was nothing. Except... there was someone... someone who existed before everything else.

That's who we're going to explore through this book. And we're starting here—at the very beginning.

So grab your kit, and let's head to the dive site!



1. IN THE BEGINNING

DIVE SITE: Genesis 1. Emptiness

MAPPING THE ENVIRONMENT

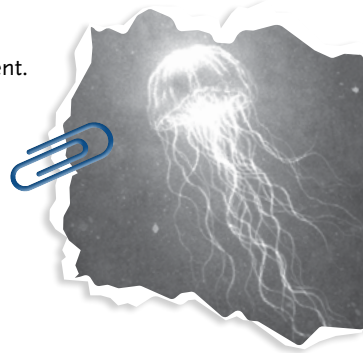
As we dive into this first mission, we need to map the environment. So grab a pen and complete the dive report card.

Read Genesis 1:1

DIVE REPORT CARD

Who or what was there?

In the beginning, _ _ _



In these first four words in the Bible, we learn something about God. We learn he is...

E T E R N A L

Eternal means everlasting. It means God has no beginning and no end!

How do we know? Look at verse 1. Who or what is mentioned, and in what order? Write numbers 1, 2 and 3 beside them.

Heavens: __

Earth: __

God: __

Which of these things was there before any of the others?

.....

We know God is eternal because verse 1 tells us that he was there before the beginning. This is confusing because in our experience, *everything* has a beginning! But it's true!

The crazy thing is, when something is eternal, it doesn't only mean it has no beginning—it means it has no end too. Everything dies eventually, from coral reefs to cuttlefish and, most sadly of all, people. But God won't die!

Let's dive deeper to discover why.

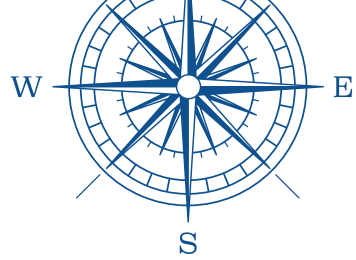
DIVING INTO THE DEPTHS

Everything in our world was created at some point. Fill in the gaps to see the link between creator and creation.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|
| A _ _ _ _ _ | —————> | Painting |
| C _ _ _ | —————> | Meal |
| Builder | —————> | House |
| A _ _ _ _ _ | —————> | Book |



These people are the creators. They made these things. They designed them and thought them up. They own them.



Let's have a look at another diagram...

???



God

Does anything go before the arrow?



Now, this is some really deep truth. The Bible teaches us that God was *not created*.

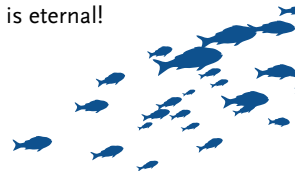
This is what makes him God. He was never made. That means there is no one bigger or more powerful than him. Instead, he is the one who has made *all* things, just like verse 1 told us!

BACK TO SURFACE

If you find this confusing, that's okay. We don't have to understand everything, but we can know it is *really* good news for us! We're going to find out why over the next few weeks.



Let's thank God that he is eternal. This is a bit mind-blowing, and sometimes when we're mind-blown, we don't really know what to say—other than WOW! But that's great—that's what Christians call "praise". So take a few moments to yourself just to praise God that he is eternal!



2. CREATOR

DIVE SITE: Genesis 1. The very beginning

A GLANCE ACROSS THE WATERS

We're snorkelling nearer the surface today, not going deep... but we'll cover a lot of area. So get those flippers on! As you look around, record your findings below. I've done the first one for you.

Look at Genesis 1:3-31

Verses	Repeated phrase	Questions to answer
3, 6-7, 9, 11, 14-15, 20-21, 24-25, 26-27	"And God said (...) and there was..." "And God said (...) and it was so"	God speaks—and what happens? Whatever he says happens. What does this tell us about God? His words are powerful.
4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31	"God saw that it was _ _ _ _"	What did God think about his creation? Which part of creation was VERY good?

Verses	Repeated phrase	Question to answer
5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31	“And there was -----, and there was -----”	Was God being careful and planned or crazy and chaotic?

So much creativity—yet so much order! Let’s dive a bit deeper now and see just how carefully he planned it all!

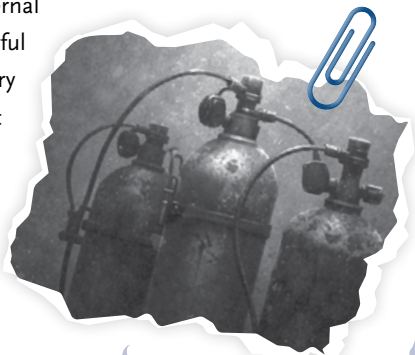
COLLECTING SAMPLES

On the next page, grab a sample from each day and see what you discover.

Once you’re done... Look at that! On days 1, 2 and 3 he formed the spaces, and on days 4, 5 and 6 he filled them. What a carefully organised plan!

BACK TO SURFACE

We’re beginning to see a bit more about our eternal God. He is wonderfully creative, his words are powerful and he LOVES the world he made. And from the very beginning, God has written order into the world. It was all carefully planned.



DAY ONE (v 5)
God formed...
d _ _ and n _ _ _ _ .

DAY FOUR (v 16)
God filled it with...
s _ _ , m _ _ _ and
s _ _ _ _ .

DAY TWO (v 7-8)
God formed...
s _ _ and w _ _ _ r .

DAY FIVE (v 20)
God filled it with...
sea c _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
and b _ _ _ _ .

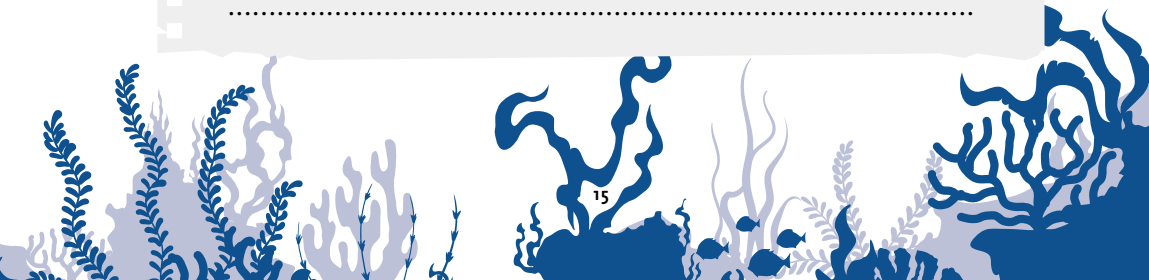
DAY THREE (v 9)
God formed...
d _ _ l _ _ d .

DAY SIX (v 24)
God filled it with...
a _ _ _ _ _ .

Remember that truth. God is still a planner! He is always at work behind the scenes, and he is always purposeful in everything he does.

When will it help you to remember this truth?

.....



3. IN GOD'S IMAGE

DIVE SITE: Genesis 2. The Garden of Eden

ON THE EDGE OF THE BOAT

Imagine you're standing on the edge of a boat, ready to dive, looking down at your reflection in the water. It's a bit murky, but you can see yourself clearly. It's not actually you (you are in the boat!), but it is a clear reflection of what you look like.

Today, we're going to dive right into that reflection. Let's take a look at what God said about reflections, right back at the beginning...

Read Genesis 1:27

When God made people, there are two major details recorded.

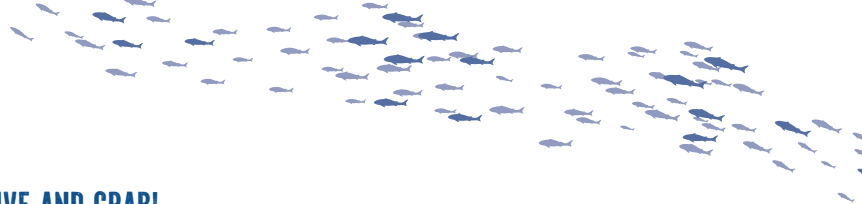
1. He created them __ his own _____.

This means that we are all little reflections of God! Each of us have qualities that reflect what God is like. We all have the family likeness.

2. He created them _____ and _____.

This means that men and women are different. We all reflect God's image, but God made some of us male and some of us female!

These two truths are who God created us to *be*. This is called our *identity*.



QUICK DIVE AND GRAB!

Chapter 2 zooms in on God creating the man, Adam. Dive into these verses and grab each answer as quick as you can, shouting it out loud!

DIVE	GRAB
Genesis 2:7	What was Adam made from?
Genesis 2:7	What did God give Adam?
Genesis 2:8	Where did God put Adam?
Genesis 2:15	What job did God give Adam?

Right from the start, God gave humans value, purpose and the gift of life! What a good God!

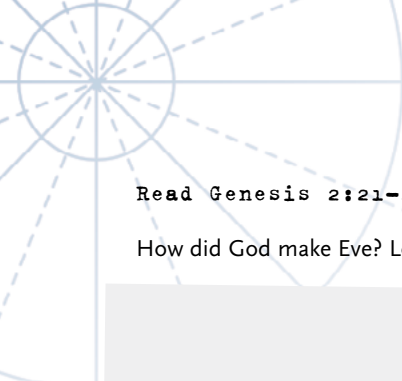
UNCHARTED WATERS

But quickly, we realise that something is missing!

In verse 18, God says Adam needs a...?

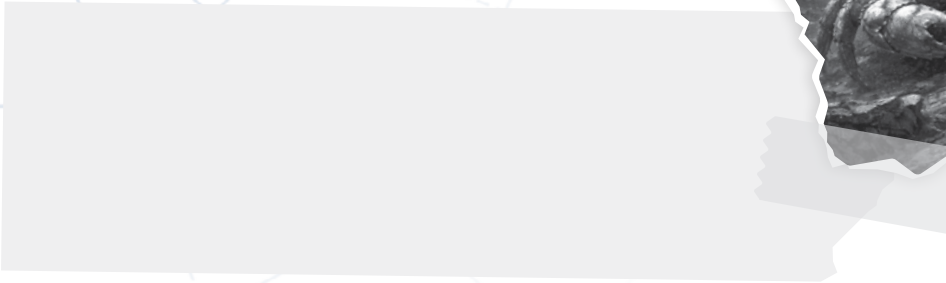


Remember, Adam was made to reflect God. And God has never been alone. He has always existed as three in one—Father, Son and Spirit. For Adam to really reflect God, he couldn't be alone! And so God created Eve. She was the same as Adam, but different from him as well!



Read Genesis 2:21-22

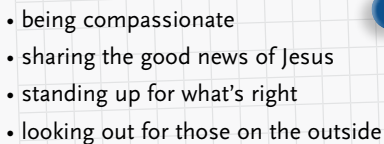
How did God make Eve? Log the operation—you can draw or write.



BACK TO SURFACE

Adam and Eve were now ready to reflect God together as they cared for the world God had given them.

God has created each one of us as mirrors to reflect him to the world too. There are so many ways we can do that! Here are a few:

- 
- being compassionate
 - sharing the good news of Jesus
 - standing up for what's right
 - looking out for those on the outside

Even just being creative is a way to reflect who God is—after all, he's the ultimate Creator!

Think about what you'll do today or tomorrow. How can you reflect God's character to the people you meet? Ask God to help you to do that.