



THE BIGGEST STORY

**HOLY
BIBLE
FOR KIDS**



THE BIGGEST STORY

HOLY BIBLE FOR KIDS

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION



CROSSWAY

WHEATON, ILLINOIS — ESV.ORG

ESV The Biggest Story® Holy Bible for Kids

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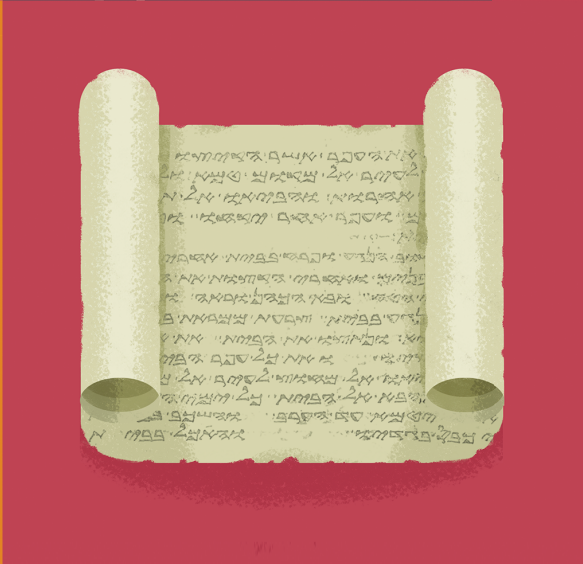
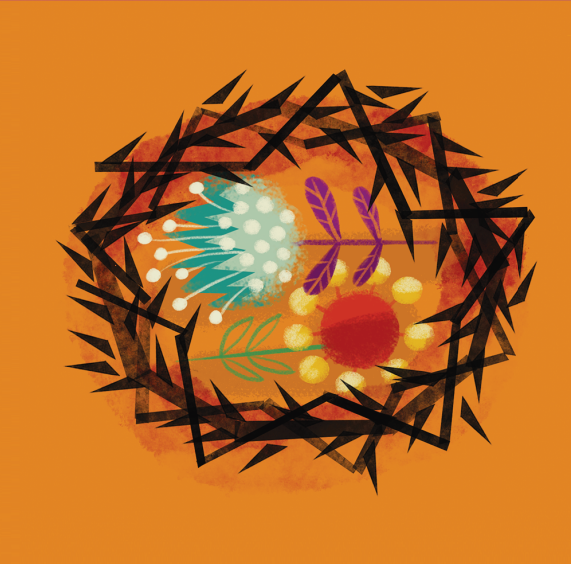
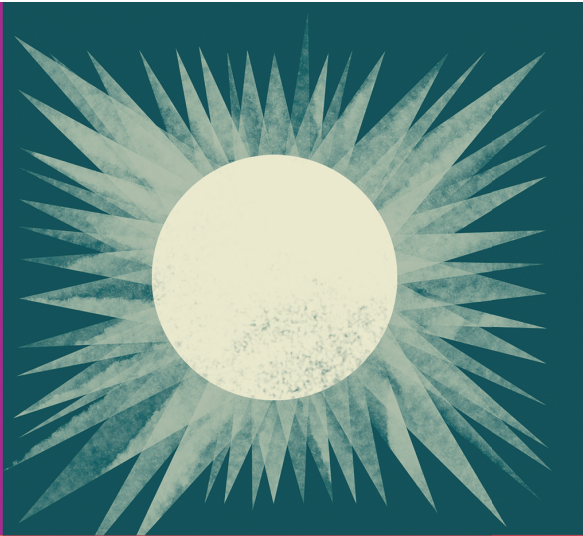
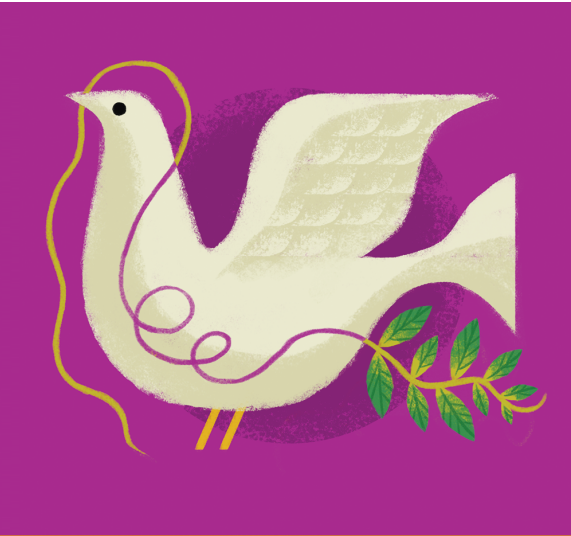
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INTRODUCTION

TO THE BIGGEST STORY HOLY BIBLE FOR KIDS

Did you know that the Bible teaches us about the Bible? It is true. The Bible teaches us that each and every word of Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit (“All Scripture is breathed out by God,” 2 Tim. 3:16). It also teaches us that the word of God (the Bible!) has the power to make us God’s children and to teach us to walk in his ways as we believe what we hear in its pages: We are “born again . . . through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Pet. 1:23), and the “sacred writings . . . are able to make [us] wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15).

The Bible teaches us the way of salvation (how to become a Christian) because each and every story of the Bible connects to our Savior, Jesus Christ. After Jesus’ resurrection he taught his disciples this important lesson: “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets” (this is a way of talking about the whole Old Testament), Jesus “opened their minds to understand” how “everything written” about him was fulfilled through his life, death, and resurrection (Luke 24:27, 44–46). Amazing!

Even the very first pages of the Bible (Genesis) talk about Jesus. Really? How so? Jesus—with the Father and Spirit—created the world, right? Yes, as John writes, “In the beginning . . . all things were made through him” (John 1:1–3). This means that the creation story you read in Genesis 1–2 has Jesus in it, even though you will not find his name there.

Also, after Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Savior (Gen. 3:15). Who do you think that Savior is? Yep, you guessed it: Jesus again. From this verse we could also call Jesus the Snake Crusher, because God promised Eve that one day a great, great, very great-grandchild (Jesus!) would crush Satan, the snake who tempted Adam and Eve. With each of the little stories that you will read, *The Biggest Story Holy Bible for Kids* will help you see and understand the big story of Jesus and his defeat of Satan and the forces of evil.

This Bible contains a variety of resources to help you connect deeper with Scripture. First, you will find book introductions that contain a timeline giving the context of the book, explanations about who wrote the book, what it’s about, character profiles that highlight key people in that book, and a map that shows the places where events happen. Then you will want to read the material that goes along with each story from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*. Each story begins with a short

introduction and is followed by a four-part study guide to help you as you dig deeper into the story.

Next, you will find sections to help you dig deeper and better understand God's word. This Bible also contains study notes on significant words within each book. Look for those highlighted in pink as you read. There are even videos of the 104 stories that all tell a part of God's big story. Finally, throughout these pages you will find sidebars, which are designed so you may know more about the Bible, apply the Bible to your life, and see Jesus in all of Scripture. If you like a challenge, see the back of this Bible for a list of all these features. As you read them, check off the box to record your progress. Try to read them all!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14). We hope that this Bible will help you plant God's word deep in your heart (Ps. 119:11). We hope that you will grow—day by day and year by year—in your love for Jesus and your desire to walk in his ways. Enjoy the adventure through God's word. And to God be the glory!

KEY FEATURES



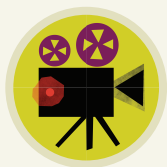
Book Introductions

Some books of the Bible can be difficult to read and understand. The introductions at the start of each book are included so you can know ahead of time what you are about to read.



Digging Deeper

Sometimes you read through a Bible story, and you only scrape the surface. The Digging Deeper feature offers four ways—Learn, Discover, Reflect, and Pray—that will help you find the treasures of God's word.



Animated Videos

Do you like watching videos? Throughout this Bible, there are QR codes. Scan those with a phone and watch a retelling of the 104 stories.



Did You Know?

This feature points out and explains key details that we discover in the Bible. There is so much to learn as we read God's inspired word!



Applying God's Truth to Your Life

It is one thing to know the Bible; it is another thing to live in light of what God says. This feature offers thoughts on how you can move from what you learn in Scripture to how you live your everyday life.



Seeing the Snake Crusher

The whole Bible points to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. This feature puts the spotlight on some important passages of Scripture that help us to see Jesus, even in the Old Testament.



Study Notes

Do you know what the word *covenant* means? It's in the Bible, and it's an important word. At the bottom of the pages throughout this Bible, you will find helpful study notes providing definitions, explanations, or insights on many of the Bible's important words.

ABOUT THE ESV

The Bible

The words of the Bible are the very words of God our Creator speaking to us. They are completely truthful;¹ they are pure;² they are powerful;³ and they are wise and righteous.⁴ We should read these words with reverence and awe,⁵ and with joy and delight.⁶ Through these words God gives us eternal life,⁷ and daily nourishes our spiritual lives.⁸

The ESV Translation

The English Standard Version® (ESV®) stands in the classic stream of English Bible translations that goes back nearly five centuries. In this stream, accurate faithfulness to the original text is combined with simplicity, beauty, and dignity of expression. Our goal has been to carry forward this legacy for this generation and generations to come.

The ESV is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks as far as possible to reproduce the meaning and structure of the original text and

¹ Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18 ² Ps. 12:6 ³ Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23 ⁴ Ps. 19:7–11

⁵ Deut. 28:58; Ps. 119:74; Isa. 66:2 ⁶ Ps. 19:7–11; 119:14, 97, 103; Jer. 15:16 ⁷ John 6:68; 1 Pet. 1:23

⁸ Deut. 32:46; Matt. 4:4



the personal style of each Bible writer. We have sought to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clear expression and literary excellence. Therefore the ESV is well suited for both personal reading and church ministry, for devotional reflection and serious study, and for Scripture memorization.

The ESV Publishing Team

The ESV publishing team has included more than a hundred people. The Translation Oversight Committee benefited from the work of fifty biblical experts serving as Translation Review Scholars and from the comments of the more than fifty members of the Advisory Council. This international team from many denominations shares a common commitment to the truth of God’s word and to historic Christian orthodoxy.

To God’s Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

Soli Deo Gloria!—To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

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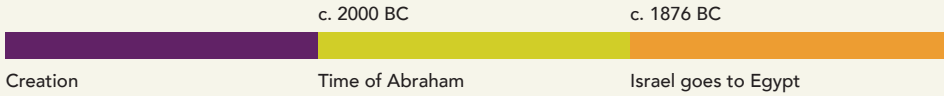
Grant Fonda



OLD TESTAMENT



INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS



Who Wrote It?

Moses wrote Genesis.



What's It About?

God created everything, and when he did he called it all “very good” (Gen. 1:31). Sadly, though, the story that began “very good” turns very bad very fast! Adam and Eve sinned against God, and death came into the world. But God was not done with his world or his people. He promised that the Snake Crusher would come from Adam and Eve. He also promised Abraham that, through the Snake Crusher, he would bless all nations of the earth.

Genesis is a book of beginnings. It's also a book full of stories that you'll hear repeated throughout the whole Bible. As you read, look out for stories about the great flood, the Tower of Babel, God's asking Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, and Joseph's getting sold into slavery by his brothers.



Stories in This Book

And So It Begins	Genesis 1–2
A Very Bad Day	Genesis 3
From Bad to Worse	Genesis 3–4
Rain, Rain, Go Away	Genesis 6–9
A Table and a Tower	Genesis 10–11
The Father of Nations	Genesis 11–13
Let's Make a Deal	Genesis 15; 17
The Judge Judges Justly	Genesis 18–19
It's a Boy!	Genesis 21–22
God's Tricky, Hairy, Blessed People	Genesis 25; 27
Blessings in the Night	Genesis 28; 32
Joseph's Mean Brothers and What God Meant to Do . .	Genesis 37; 50



Adam and Eve

The first man and woman, made in the image of God as the high point of creation. They had peace with God in Eden but then disobeyed, bringing forth sin and death for all.



Noah

A righteous man who obeyed God even when it was hard. God saved Noah and his family through the ark and then promised never to send such a flood again.



Abraham and Sarah

A faithful couple who received God's blessing and became the parents of many nations. Abraham's story teaches us that righteousness (being right with God) comes through faith.



Jacob

A trickster who wrestled with God yet advanced God's promises. Jacob was renamed Israel, and he was the father of twelve sons, whose offspring became the twelve tribes of Israel.



Joseph

The beloved son of Jacob, who made his brothers so angry that they sold him into slavery. God lifted Joseph out of slavery and prison to rule as Pharaoh's right-hand man.



Pharaoh

Possibly the most powerful man in the most powerful place (Egypt). He had a scary dream that Joseph helped him understand. This pharaoh was kind to God's people.



You Are Here

c. 2000 BC

The book of Genesis takes place in the ancient Near East, starting at the very beginning of time and covering events up until Jacob and his sons move to Egypt. The stories you'll read in this book have to do with some of the oldest nations in the world!

GENESIS

STORY 1 • GENESIS 1–2

And So It Begins

Genesis begins with God: “In the beginning, God . . .” (Gen. 1:1). That’s the first line of the Bible! Before “God created the heavens and the earth,” God was. He always was. But what did he do before he created everyone and everything? Was he lonely? No. Bored? Of course not. Scared? Certainly not. God is one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God is God, and he has always existed in a loving relationship within himself. It is out of this love that he creates every person, place, and thing.

The Creation of the World

1 In the beginning, God **created** the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.

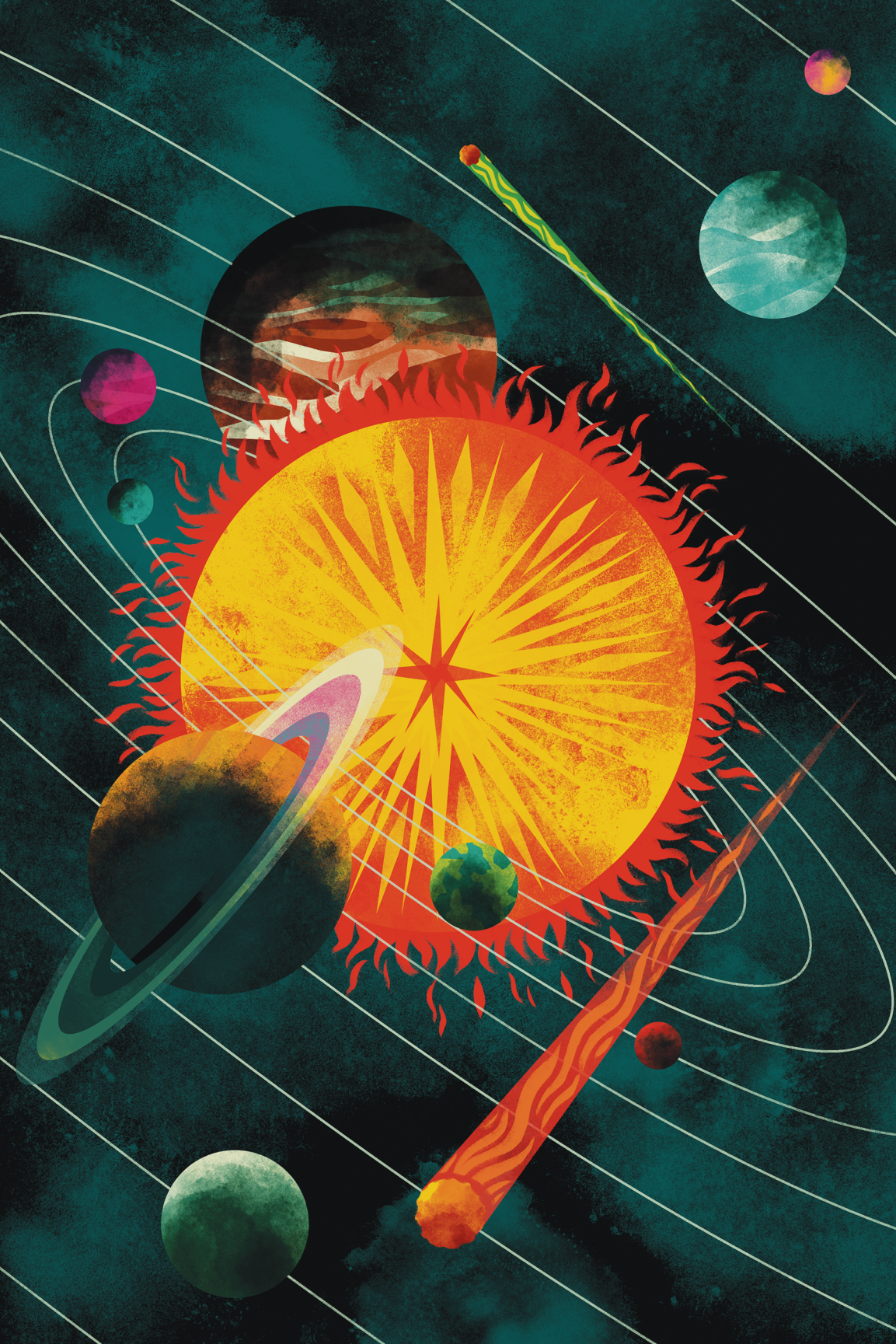
¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the

waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the

Created: God made everything. There is nothing in the universe—no animal, no person, no planet, no galaxy—that God did not create (John 1:3). Before God created, there was nothing except God.



light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our **image**, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green

plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Creation of Man and Woman

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which

Image: Idol worshipers made images to represent their false gods. But the one true God created an image to represent himself: humans. Only people—not animals—are created in the image of God. This gives humans special value (Gen. 9:6).

flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

¹⁶And the LORD God **commanded** the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast

of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

Commanded: God is King over everything. When he commands, creation obeys: Light and planets and animals and oceans are created (1:3–25). God also gives commands to people (1:28–30; 2:15–17).





Digging Deeper into Genesis 1–2

Learn

Out of nothing God created everything in six days. On day one God created light and separated the light from the darkness. The light he called day and the darkness night. On day two he separated the sky from the seas, the clouds above from the oceans below. On day three he created the land, with seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees. On days four, five, and six he filled what he had made with more amazing creations: the sun, moon, and stars for the sky and animals, birds, insects, and fish on, above, and under the earth. God is good. His creation is good. On the sixth day God's good creation got even better. God said, "Let us make man in our image" (Gen. 1:26). God created Adam and Eve, and he put these people in a beautiful place called the garden of Eden. Their job was to show what God was like and to grow a family that would go everywhere and also show what God was like. Then on day seven God rested. What a perfect beginning to the beginning. Very good!

Gospel Connection

The story of creation is just the first story of the Biggest Story. In Genesis we will learn that, because of sin, people aren't very good mirrors. We don't reflect God very well. But "the Word" (John 1:1) came as the "image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15). He perfectly showed what God is like, and he made a way for our broken mirrors to be repaired so that we could again do the job God had created us to do. But the Son of God isn't just our Savior. He, with the Father and the Spirit, created everything. Our Creator saves!

Discover

Four truths to discover! First, look and see how many times you can find the words "And God said." Second, find the verse in Genesis 2 that talks about the river in the garden of Eden. Third, look at the introduction map for the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Fourth, turn to the fourth book in the New Testament, the Gospel of John. Read the first three verses and learn *through whom* God the Father created everything.

Reflect

Three questions to answer. First, on the fourth day of creation God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures" (Gen. 1:20). Can you name three different kinds of sea creatures? Second, God made us in his image. We are supposed to reflect who he is. What are some ways we can mirror God to the world? Third, God created the world with a built-in day of rest and worship. Does your family set aside a day for rest and worship?

Pray

Dear God, we love to see all the good things in your creation. Thank you for making this world and for making us to be like you. Amen.



Watch Story 1
& discover more
resources



"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and
his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they
shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his
wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

STORY 2 • GENESIS 3

A Very Bad Day

Our very good God placed his very good people in a very good place. In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve would work, play, and raise their family. It was the most beautiful place you could ever imagine. There was a clear river and so many wonderful fruit trees. There was also a special, off-limits tree. "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden," God told Adam, "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:16–17). Do you think Adam kept this command?

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But

the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the
woman,
and between your offspring and her
offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,



“I will surely multiply your pain in
childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth chil-
dren.
Your desire shall be for your hus-
band,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice
of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the
days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth
for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the
field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ The man called his wife’s name Eve,
because she was the mother of all living.
²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for
his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the
man has become like one of us in knowing

good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand
and take also of the tree of life and eat, and
live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent
him out from the garden of Eden to work the
ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove
out the man, and at the east of the garden of
Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming
sword that turned every way to guard the way
to the tree of life.





Digging Deeper into Genesis 3

Learn

Remember God's command to Adam? "You can eat of every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (see 2:16–17). Remember the warning? "For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (2:17). This special tree was a testing tree. God put it in the garden to see whether Adam and Eve would obey and trust him to tell them right from wrong. But did Adam and Eve listen to God? No. They listened to Satan. One day Satan, in the form of a snake, slithered into the garden. He wanted to get Adam to eat from the off-limits tree by tricking and deceiving Eve. His plan worked. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit—the first sin. The worst sin in the world! Adam and Eve knew it. God too. It was a bad move and a very bad day. God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden. And he cursed his very good world. The ground would be hard. Work would be hard. Marriage would be hard. Having babies would be hard. And death would soon come to everyone.

Gospel Connection

Genesis 3 records a very bad day. God cursed the snake, the man, and the woman. He promised that hardship and death would come to every human. (And it has!) But he also promised a fresh start. Adam and Eve would die, but not right away. Eve would have children. More than that (much more than that!), one of her offspring would deal with the snake (read Gen. 3:15). Let's call him the Snake Crusher. We know him as Jesus. Satan would "bruise" Jesus (Jesus died). And yet, when Jesus died, he actually destroyed Satan. He crushed the snake! Yes, Jesus' worst day was our best day.

Discover

Two truths to discover! First, in his death Jesus fulfilled the mysterious promise God made in Genesis 3:15: "I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Turn to Romans 5:12–21 to see what the apostle Paul has to teach about this. Second, read through Genesis 3 again and find how many times the words eat and ate are used.

Reflect

Two questions to answer. First, whom did Adam blame for his sin? Do you ever blame others for your sin? Should you? Second, we all choose to sin for lots of different reasons, but sinning always damages us and our relationships with God and others. Adam's sin hurt everyone in the world! Sin, suffering, and death came into the world through his disobedience. Is there any sin in your life that is damaging others? If so, pray to God for forgiveness and help.

Pray

Dear God, we are sorry for all the lies we believe and all the bad stuff in our hearts. Thank you for the Snake Crusher, who gives us a new beginning. Amen.



Watch Story 2
& discover more
resources





STORY 3 • GENESIS 3-4

From Bad to Worse

Genesis 3 teaches us how sin and death came into the world. It also relays the wonderful promise that God would send the Snake Crusher to crush, well, the snake! But before we talk about that good news we need to look at Genesis 4, which tells us about some very bad news. And sad news. Life outside of Eden goes from bad to worse. Adam and Eve have two boys, Cain and Abel. That sounds great! But the problem is that neither one of them is the Snake Crusher. The bigger problem is that Cain crushes his own little brother. He murders him. How terrible!

Cain and Abel

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it.”

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰ And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can

bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

¹⁷ Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²² Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what
I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.



Digging Deeper into Genesis 3–4

Learn

Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. One day Cain brought an offering from the ground; Abel brought his firstborn sheep. God accepted Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's, because Abel trusted God and his promises while Cain did not. This made Cain red-in-the-face angry. God said, "Why are you angry? Do what is right, and I will accept your gift. Don't let sin grab hold of your heart" (see 4:6–7). Cain didn't listen. He let sin grab hold of his heart even more. One day, when he and his brother were working in the field, Cain murdered his little brother. How terrible. Wicked! Sad. God saw this terrible, wicked, sad thing and punished him. "Now, when you are farming," God said, "it will be really, really hard" (see 4:12). And God said, "You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth" (4:12). This meant he would be without a home and without his mother or father. How very sad. He wandered away, farther east of Eden.

Gospel Connection

Adam and Eve must have missed Eden. Now they lived without God's daily presence and with sin and death everywhere. But what hope did they have? Could they just fight the mighty angel and return to the garden? No. Could they fly to heaven to be with God? Of course not! All that they could do was trust God's promise. God would not leave his people in this curse forever. God loved us and sent Jesus. And Jesus loved us and paid for our sins by dying on the cross. Now, if we believe in him, we can walk with God and talk with God. A return to Eden! Better than Eden.

Discover

Four truths to discover! First, sin and death are now in the world—everywhere and in everyone. Note some of the signs that life outside the garden isn't very good. Second, turn to 1 John 3:12 and discover the reason Cain killed Abel. Third, note everything that happened to Cain after he killed his brother. Jot down how God punished Cain for his sin and also how he showed mercy toward him. Fourth, Genesis 4:21 mentions "the lyre." Do an image search online for that musical instrument.

Reflect

Three questions to answer. First, Hebrews 11:4 teaches us that Cain's offering was sinful because it wasn't offered with faith in God's promises. Why is it wrong to worship God without faith? Second, when God asked Cain where his brother, Abel, was, how did Cain respond? Was that the right response? Third, what is the final verse of chapter 4? Why is it important?

Pray

O Lord, please help us to turn away from evil. We want to learn to trust you. Save us from our sin and from ourselves. Amen.



Watch Story 3
& discover more
resources



²⁴ If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." ²⁶ To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the **LORD**.

Adam's Descendants to Noah

5 This is the book of the **generations** of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

⁶ When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. ⁷ Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸ Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹ Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and


daughters. ²⁰ Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. ²² Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the **LORD** has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." ³⁰ Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹ Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

³² After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.



When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.

GENESIS 5:1-2

LORD: When God makes an agreement with his people (a covenant; Gen. 15:7), the **LORD** is the name he uses. He is the mighty God who created everything and the loving Lord who takes care of his people (Ex. 3:13-15; 34:6-7).

Generations: Generations refers to someone's family—a person's descendants. This word is used ten times in Genesis to mark a new section in the book (Gen. 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2).



STORY 4 • GENESIS 6–9

Rain, Rain, Go Away

Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Good. Very Good. Remember those words? God said them at creation. But ever since Adam and Eve ate from the off-limits tree, the words bad, bad, bad, bad, bad, bad, and very bad best describe what happened next. It was bad that Eve got tricked by the snake, bad that Adam disobeyed God, and bad that Cain killed his brother. And by Noah's day, people were so very bad that God sent a great flood to wipe out everyone evil from the face of the earth. Only Noah and his family were spared, because they trusted in God's word and hoped in his promise.

Increasing Corruption on Earth

6 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah and the Flood

⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my **covenant** with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort

Covenant: A covenant is a serious agreement between two or more people. God makes this kind of agreement with different people: He promises not to destroy the earth by a flood (Gen. 9:11), and he promises to bless Abram and his family (Gen. 15:1–3, 18).

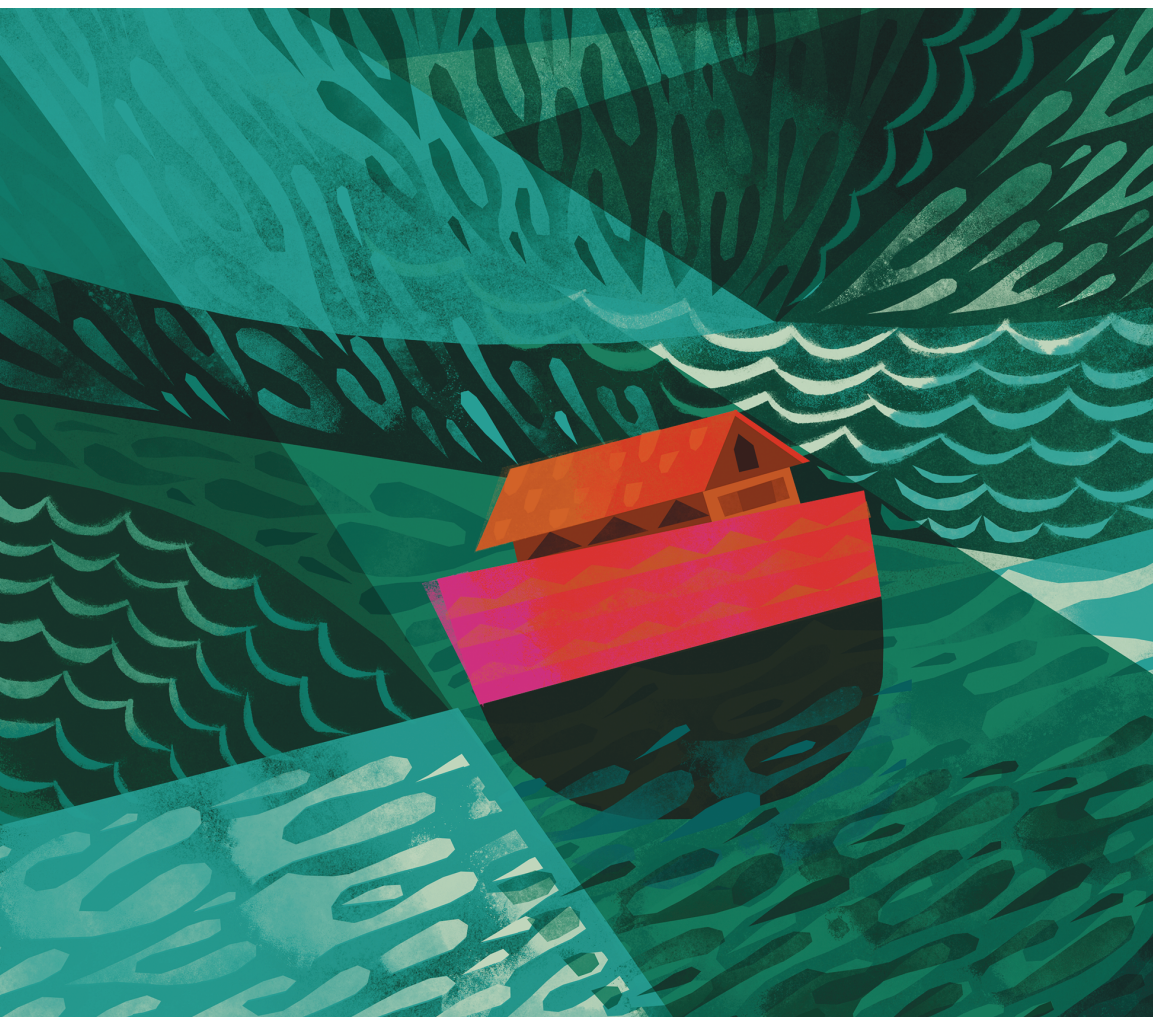
of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.”²² Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.² Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate,³ and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth.⁴ For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.”⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth.⁷ And

Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.⁸ Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground,⁹ two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah.¹⁰ And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.¹² And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.¹³ On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark,¹⁴ they and every beast, according to



its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.

¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

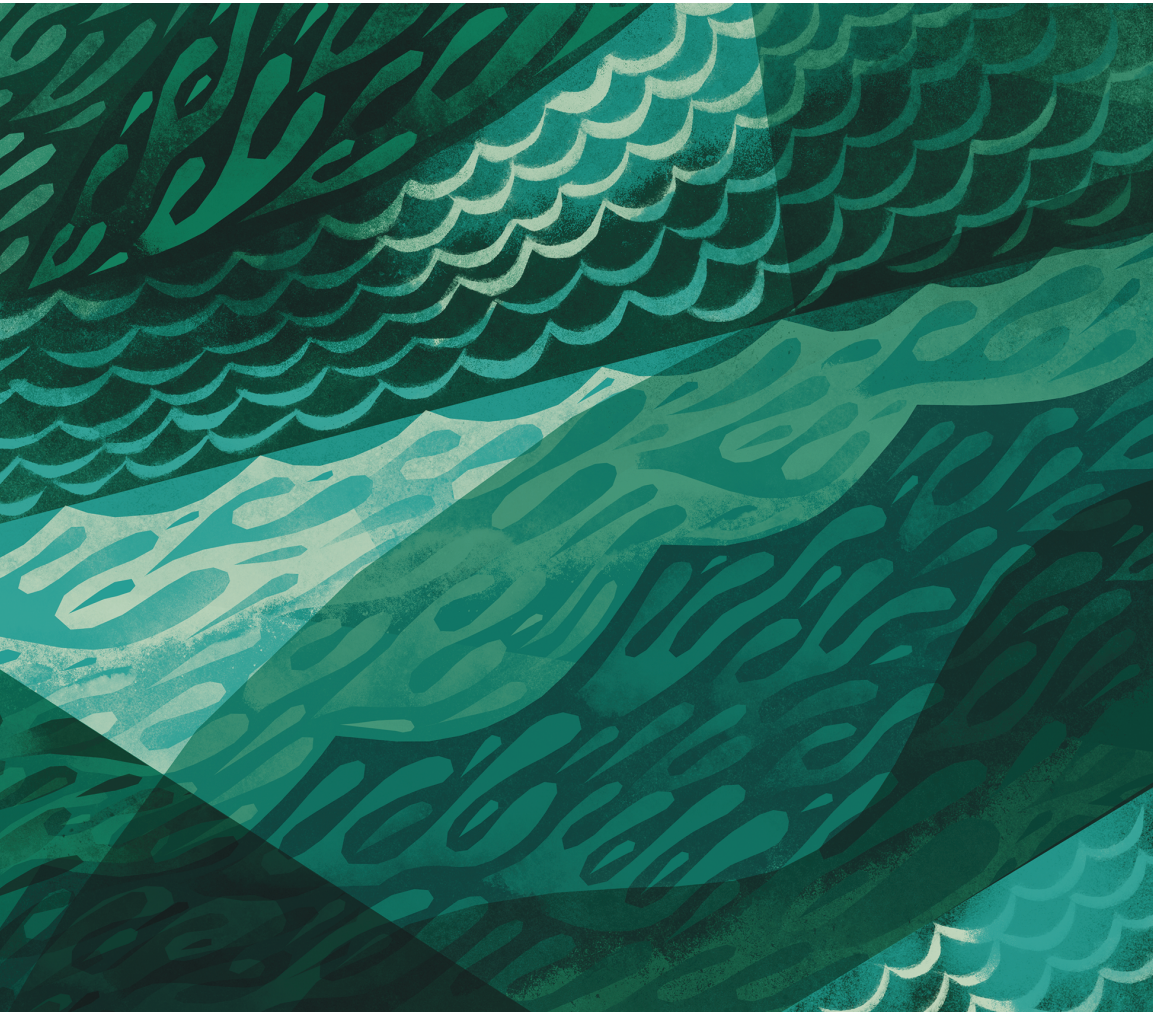
²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind.

²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

The Flood Subsides

8 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

²The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from



the heavens was restrained, ³and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, ⁴and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

¹³In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. ¹⁹Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

God’s Covenant with Noah

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of

every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²²While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

9 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ²The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

⁷And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will

remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Noah's Descendants

¹⁸The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.

²⁰Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. ²²And Ham, the father of **Canaan**, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. ²³Then Shem and Japheth

took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵he said,

“Cursed be Canaan;
a servant of servants shall he be to
his brothers.”

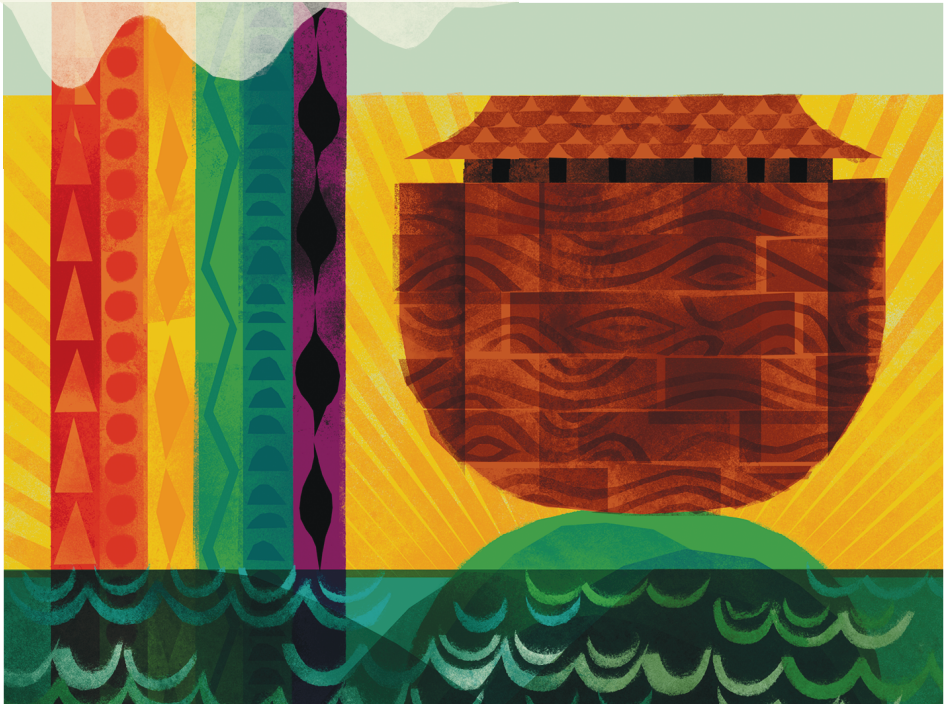
²⁶He also said,

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;
and let Canaan be his servant.

²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth,
and let him dwell in the tents of
Shem,
and let Canaan be his servant.”

²⁸After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

Canaan: Canaan is one of Noah's grandsons. Canaan's descendants (the Canaanites) would one day live in a land that God would give to his people, the “land of Canaan” (11:31; 17:8).





Digging Deeper into Genesis 6–9

Learn

God told Noah to build a really big boat. The ark would be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It wasn't as big as the Titanic, but it sure was big! Noah believed everything God told him, so he obeyed. Once the boat was finished, Noah and his family, along with two of every kind of animal, got into the ark. God sealed the door. Two peacocks peeked out the window. Two giraffes stretched their necks. Two aardvarks did whatever aardvarks do. Then, God kept his promise. It started to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights. Everything and everyone outside the boat was destroyed. Months later, when the people and animals came out of the ark to live on the land, God made a covenant—a special promise—with Noah that he would never again destroy the world with water. Then God gave a sign to remember his promise: a rainbow. The world had a new beginning.

Gospel Connection

Our day is not so different than Noah's day. Some people ignore God. Other people hate God. And lots of people hate one another. Well, God does not like this, and he has promised to judge all sin. One day he will destroy all that is not good—not with water (remember the rainbow?) but with fire. But there is also good news, what the Bible calls the gospel. If we come to Jesus, we will be saved from the coming judgment, just like Noah was saved. And we too will have a new beginning.

Discover

Two truths to discover! First, read Genesis 6:1–13 and find (and write down, if you'd like) the words used to describe the people when Noah was alive. Second, read the instructions God gave to Noah about building the ark (6:14–16). A few years ago, a replica of the ark was built. You can see it yourself if you travel to Williamstown, Kentucky. Or you can view it online at arkencounter.com (click on the tab "About the Ark") or at Google Images (type in "Noah's ark replica").

Reflect

Three questions to answer. First, God sees sin and punishes people for acting sinfully. What an amazing truth! Close your eyes and think for a minute. God can see everything you do and think. How does that make you feel? Happy? Scared? A bit of both? Second, God punishes, but he also saves. Why did God save Noah and his family? What does this tell us about God? Third, Hebrews 11:1–7 talks about faith, reflecting on some of the people in Genesis. What are some of the characteristics of faith?

Pray

God, we know you have a right to be angry with us when we sin. We are glad you haven't given up on us. Amen.



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STORY 5 • GENESIS 10–11

A Table and a Tower

Why are there so many nations? Why are there so many languages? And why do so many Chinese people speak Mandarin, so many Indians speak Hindi, and so many Egyptians speak Arabic? In these chapters the Bible shares a story about how God created the nations, gave people different languages, and scattered them around the world. It might sound like a fun story. But it's actually another sad story. Or, it starts fun and ends sad. It starts as God's image bearers keep God's command to be fruitful and multiply. But by the end God's image bearers want to make themselves as great as God instead of showing how great God is.

Nations Descended from Noah

10 These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood.

²The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. ³The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. ⁴The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. ⁵From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations.

⁶The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. ⁷The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. ⁸Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. ⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and ¹²Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. ¹³Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, ¹⁴Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came), and Capthorim.

¹⁵Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth, ¹⁶and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, ¹⁷the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, ¹⁸the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed. ¹⁹And the territory of

the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. ²⁰These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

²¹To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born. ²²The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.





²³ The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. ²⁴ Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber. ²⁵ To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. ²⁶ Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan. ³⁰ The territory in which they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east. ³¹ These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

³² These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

The Tower of Babel

11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Shem's Descendants

¹⁰ These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered

Arpachshad two years after the flood. ¹¹ And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹² When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah. ¹³ And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴ When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber. ¹⁵ And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶ When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg. ¹⁷ And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸ When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu. ¹⁹ And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰ When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug. ²¹ And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

²² When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor. ²³ And Serug lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁴ When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah. ²⁵ And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁶ When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Terah's Descendants

²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.



Digging Deeper into Genesis 10–11

Learn

Genesis 10 records a list of seventy names, starting with the sons of Noah. From these three brothers came all the nations. All these different nations, who all spoke the same language of that time, came up with a brilliant idea. (Or they thought it was.) “Let’s stay in one place and build a great city and a tall tower!” There is nothing wrong with building something great and tall. The problem is that God told them to fill the earth—not stay in one place. Plus, they wanted to show off. “Look how amazing we are!” Well, God hates pride and disobedience. Do you know what pride is? These people showed us. They thought and acted like they were number one and God and everyone else were number two. But God destroyed their prideful plan by confusing their language. The place where it happened was called Babel, which means “confusion.” And God scattered them from that place so that they filled the earth.

Gospel Connection

When Jesus came, he saved not just his own tribe (the Jews) but people from every language and tribe and nation (the Gentiles). First, people from Jerusalem believed in him. Then people from the Middle East, Africa, and Europe did. Then people from the Americas and Asia. From the North Pole to the South! And new people and nations are still believing today. Someday, in heaven, God will be praised by people from every nation in all sorts of languages. And then and there we will finally work together to show just how amazing God is.

Discover

Four truths to discover! First, find the names of Noah’s three sons and discover who had the most children. Second, the end of Genesis 11 lists descendants from Shem to Abram (who would later be called Abraham). Create a family tree by writing down all the names. Third, look online for pictures of the Tower of Babel. Some people think it was an ancient building called a ziggurat. Google “ziggurat” and see what you find. Fourth, turn to Revelation 7:9–12 and see God’s plan for the nations.

Reflect

Six questions to answer. First, what is one of the reasons the people wanted to build the tower? Second, what did God think of their plan? Third, what did he do about their plan? Fourth, why did God do what he did? Fifth, is it better to make ourselves look good or to show how great God is? Sixth, what are some ways in which we can show how great God is?

Pray

O God, sometimes we like to think we are bigger than you. We’re sorry. Thank you for caring about people from every nation on the earth. Amen.



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RESOURCES

THE BIBLE'S BIG MESSAGE

The Big Message

What is the point of the Bible? What is its big message?

As we first begin to read the Bible, we may be overwhelmed at the many different stories and characters. But there is a single big story that is told all through the Bible. That single big story is the story of God's great love for his people and how he proved that love by sending his own Son to save his people from their sins.

What is so remarkable about this big story is that his people show themselves to be sinful at every point in the Bible. God does not protect and deliver those who are perfect. He protects and delivers the needy, the failures, the sad, the lonely, the sinful. The message of the Bible is God's grace for sinners.

From Genesis to Revelation

The Bible tells us that God made this world—people and animals, stars and moon, waterfalls and mountains. And God placed people over his creation to rule over it and spread peace and happiness throughout the whole earth.

But Adam and Eve, the first humans, failed. They listened to the serpent instead of God. As a result, a wall went up between humans and God. The peace and friendship they had enjoyed was broken. Instead of peace and happiness, darkness and sadness began to spread through the whole earth.

The rest of the Bible is the story of God working to restore his friendship with his people. Even though his people keep on sinning, God never gives up on them. With patience and love he pursues them time and again. He called Abraham to be the father of a special people, Israel. Through Israel, God would work to bring peace and joy to the whole world once again.

Yet even Israel was sinful! They became slaves to Egypt, but God sent Moses to deliver them and to teach them how to live as God's people. This teaching was called the "law." But time and again Israel failed to keep the law. Like Adam and Eve, they chose their own way and continued mankind's plunge into misery.

So God sent judges and prophets and kings to try to help Israel to honor God and follow his law. But the people refused—and in many

cases, these judges and prophets and kings were part of the problem themselves. Sin had infected the whole human race.

But even after all this, God did not give up on his people. How can that be?

The Main Character of the Bible: Jesus

The answer is that the Bible is not mainly about people being good and God rewarding them. It is about people being bad and God loving them anyway. The Bible is not mainly a book telling us how to live, with stories sprinkled in. It is mainly a big Story about God's unstoppable love, with instructions sprinkled in along the way. But even these instructions are given to those whom God already loves. We do not obey God so that he will love us. We obey him because we know he already loves us.

How can that be? The answer is Jesus. After sending many different kinds of messengers to save his people throughout the Old Testament, God eventually sent a final Messenger. All the other messengers were themselves sinners. But this final Messenger was sinless. He obeyed the law perfectly. He trusted in the Lord without ever failing. He was God's own Son. His only Son. Jesus.

And then he died horribly on a cross. Why? Wasn't he the only one who ever lived who deserved not to die?

Yes! But here is the beauty of the gospel. Jesus was taking the punishment for all of God's people down through the centuries who had failed but had counted on God to forgive them, and for everyone after Jesus who would ever trust in him. He received the penalty in our place. He, the innocent one, was declared guilty—so that we, the guilty ones, might go free.

And after Jesus died he rose again from the dead, which was the beginning of the end of death, sadness, sickness, and darkness. When we see the risen Jesus, we who follow him are seeing our own future. That is the kind of body and the kind of perfection that we will enjoy one day. He has conquered death and Satan and will return in victory one day soon.

And the entire Bible is about Jesus and this great work of salvation he accomplished. It is not just the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) that tell us about Jesus. It is not even just the New Testament that tells us about Jesus. Rather, the whole Old Testament prepares us for Jesus and anticipates his coming. Jesus himself said so (John 5:39–46; Luke 24:27, 44). And the New Testament describes his coming and shows us what it means.

How Should You Respond?

And what does his coming mean? It means you can be rinsed clean for free. It means that all your sins—even the sins you have not yet done—have been punished already, in Jesus. It means you are safe.

How? By receiving God's grace. By bringing to God nothing but your need. By counting on God to forgive you because of what Jesus did, rather than trying to get God to love you by what you do. It is hard to learn to do this at first, because we naturally try to get God to accept us by doing a good job of obeying him. But we must keep remembering that Jesus obeyed God perfectly in our place. If you have trusted in Jesus, you are now connected to him. You have been born again. You are a new you. And this is all by the gift of God's grace.

This does not mean that we should live any old way. The Bible calls God's children to holiness, which means to live for God and to walk in his ways. But how do we live this kind of life? We can do so only by remembering how much he already loves us. As our hearts are softened and changed by the amazing grace of the gospel, we will find new desires inside us that want to obey God. It is not easy, and it often requires great work. But we will live a life that honors God only as we enjoy his great, invincible love for us that does not go up or down based on how we are doing. Trust him. Thank him for the gospel, which tells us of how God sent Jesus to die for our sins and rise again. Spend some time each day reading the Bible and learning of God's great love. He will meet with you as you do.

GLOSSARY

Adoption: in Bible times the practicing of bringing a young man into a family to learn the family business and one day manage it. Those adopted were usually talented and smart. Amazingly, however, God did not pick the best people to be his children; he saved and adopted common sinners instead.

Apostle: a person sent on a mission. After Jesus was raised from the dead he sent his disciples (Peter, James, John, etc.)—men who had been with Jesus and seen his life, death, and resurrection—to spread the message of the gospel. These men are called apostles.

Baptism: the Christian practice of washing with water that represents being cleansed by God from sin. Jesus commanded all those who repent and trust him to be baptized—this shows the world that they belong to him.

Believe: to know and to trust in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. People who trust Jesus as their Savior from sin have eternal life.

Called: in Paul's writing, to have heard the gospel and believed. "When you were called" is another way to say "when you became a Christian."

Chosen: to be loved by God even before one's birth. God had selected Abraham's family to become his people. Sadly, none of them lived perfectly like God's people were supposed to, until one day one of them did: Jesus, the beloved Son, selected by God the Father to be the Savior. All who follow Jesus were previously "chosen" to be his people.

Christ: "messiah" or "anointed one." In the Old Testament the anointed king would deliver God's people from their enemies. Jesus is the Messiah; he is the true King that God had sent. And he has rescued his people from their greatest enemy: sin.

Church: the union of all people who are one with Jesus Christ by faith and also one with each another. The church is universal and lasts throughout time, and it is made up of various local churches and regional denominations around the world.

Covenant: an agreement or promise that God makes with his people to be their God and to take care of them; they promise to be his people and to serve him.

Disciples: students who learn to act like their teacher by listening to him and imitating his life. In the New Testament disciples are people who learn to obey Jesus' teaching. We are still called to follow and obey Jesus today; this is called discipleship.

Faith: receiving and believing the good news about Jesus by relying on what he has done and trusting in him for all things.

Fear of God: the act of remembering that God is great and powerful, and therefore worthy of respect, awe, and full obedience. He is not some tiny idol that people can control by giving him lots of gifts. They should fear God and him alone.

Glory: the display of the spectacular and beautiful character of God, seen most visibly in Jesus. The Son of God displays the glory of God the Father, and one day everyone will see his glory on full display. Christians will share in his glory too.

Godliness: seeking to love, worship, and serve God with all our lives and with all our hearts.

Gospel: good news, or an announcement that something amazing has happened. In the Bible the "gospel" points to that wonderful fact that Jesus has accomplished salvation for sinners. He defeated sin and evil by his death, burial, and resurrection.

Grace: a free gift of God. God gives salvation to his people through Jesus—they do not earn it. It is a generous, free gift of eternal life. Because he is generous, God through Jesus gives grace to his people all throughout their lives.

Holy: the quality of being separate, in a different category. God is holy—he is the only God; there is no one like him. And he wants his people to live in holiness, different from everyone else, not just in action but from the heart.

Hope: sure and confident trust in God for future blessings in Christ, based on his promises and on his faithfulness to his people in the past.

Image of God: a quality given to humans at creation that allowed them to represent and reflect God in his character and work. Only people—not

animals—are created in the image of God. This gives humans value. Jesus is the true image of God.

Justified: to be declared righteous by God through faith in Jesus, who takes all our sins upon himself and gives us his perfect righteous status instead.

Kingdom: in the Bible especially God’s rule over his people, as he gives his good laws and punishes evildoers. God also rules his people through human kings, such as Saul, David, and Solomon. Jesus is the true king who amazed people by how well he knew and obeyed God’s law and who now rules over us from heaven.

Lord: God’s covenant name with his people, known in Hebrew as “Yahweh.” This covenant Lord is the mighty God who is high above all created things. His people belong to him, and he lives among them and takes care of them.

Lord’s Supper: a meal given by Christ also called “communion” or the “eucharist,” at which Christians eat bread and drink wine or juice to remember Jesus’ death for their sins and to receive his mercy and grace. Christians enjoy this meal by confessing their sin to God and welcoming other Christians as equals.

Love: in the Bible God’s affection and commitment to his people as shown to them in Jesus Christ. Because of this love Christians love God in return and should love other people as well—even enemies.

Parables: stories that have a hidden point, often told by Jesus in the Bible. Sometimes people understand them (only because God helps them understand). A lot of times people do not understand the point of the story.

Prayer: speaking to God in the name of Christ in order to tell him our desires, to confess our sins, and to thank him for his mercies.

Predestined: to be chosen by God, before the world was created, for salvation through Christ in order to become God’s adopted sons and to inherit his blessings.

Redeem: to buy something at a price. If someone was a servant or slave in Bible times, he could be set free (“redeemed”)—but only if a price was paid to his owner. Jesus redeemed us from slavery to sin—at the cost of his own life.

Repent: to turn away from sin. When John the Baptist preached, sinners repented and turned to God. And when the apostles preached, people also repented.

Resurrection: Jesus' return to life on the third day after his death. Jesus' body was raised to eternal life, never to die again—just as ours will be when Jesus returns.

Righteousness: God's character trait of being true and of always doing the right thing in the right way. God wants his children to do right too. He shares his own righteousness: He declares sinners who trust in his Son to be righteous.

Sabbath: a word meaning to “stop” or “rest.” On the seventh day of creation God stopped working because his work was all finished. God wants his people to do the same thing, to stop working on the Sabbath in order to be refreshed. Christians now celebrate the Sabbath on the first day of the week because Jesus rose from the dead on that day and because Christians find all their rest in what Jesus has done for them. One day, at the end of history, God will give all his people total rest, a refreshment that will last forever.

Salvation: God's rescue of his people from sin and death and the devil. God accomplished this through the work of Jesus, who died for our sins and then conquered death and the devil in his resurrection. God now grants us this salvation through his Spirit, who gives us faith and joins us to Jesus.

Satan: an evil spirit also known as the devil or the “man of lawlessness” or “lawless one.” The word “satan” means “accuser.” Satan tempted Adam and Eve into sinning against God, and he still uses his power to try to trick people. When Jesus comes back to earth, the Lord will destroy all Satan's power.

Scripture: the word of God as contained in the Old and New Testaments. This word comes from God's own mouth and gives us all we need in order to know Christ and to live as Christians.

Sin: evil or wickedness. When someone sins, he is living with himself, not God, as his king. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they sinned against him. They became sinners, and all their descendants are born sinners. The punishment for sin is death, but Jesus took that punishment and brought life for his people.

Steadfast love: God's sure and constant kindness and compassion toward people who do not deserve it. God loves his people with this kind of loyalty, and he wants his people to love others in this way too.

Wisdom: the skill of knowing how to relate rightly to God, other people, yourself, and the world God has made. In the Bible God tells us what this wisdom looks like, and it begins with fearing him. The ultimate expression of wisdom is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Works: good deeds that cannot save us (only Jesus can do that!) but that, once we are saved, are required of believers as evidence of their thankfulness to God and of their new obedient hearts that he has given them.

Worship: bowing before God in obedience and praise as the right response to all that our great King has done for us.

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