

# This Catholic Children's Bible

Belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

— Matthew 19:14



## My Faith Journey

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of First Reconciliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of First Eucharist: \_\_\_\_\_



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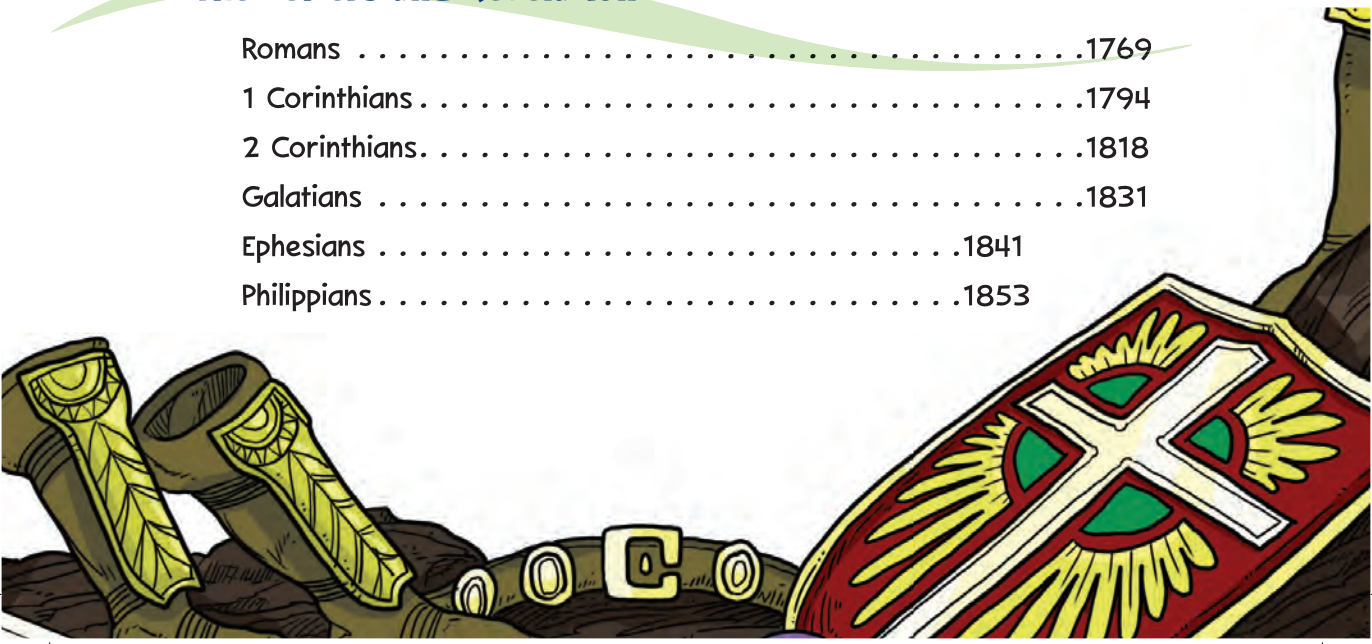
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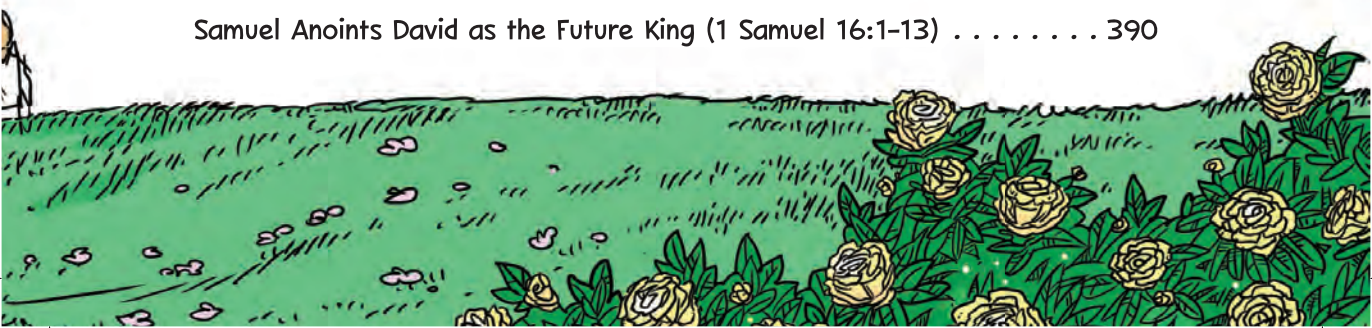
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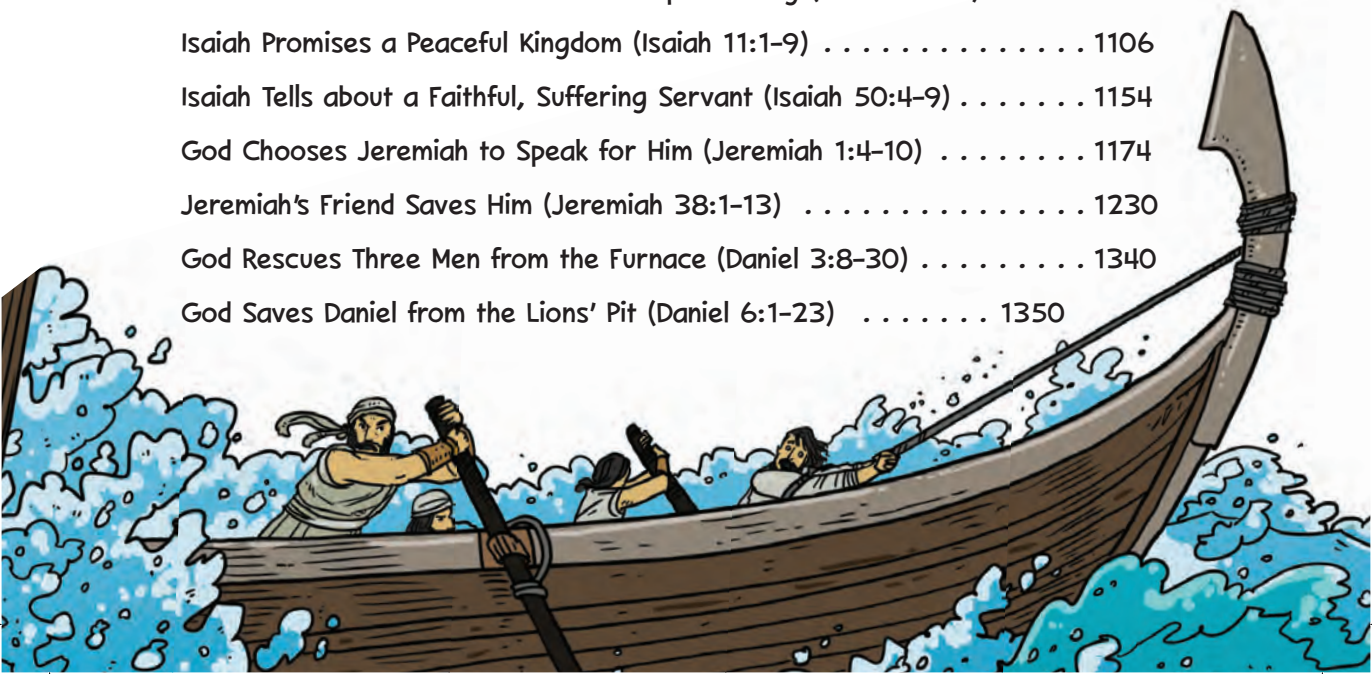


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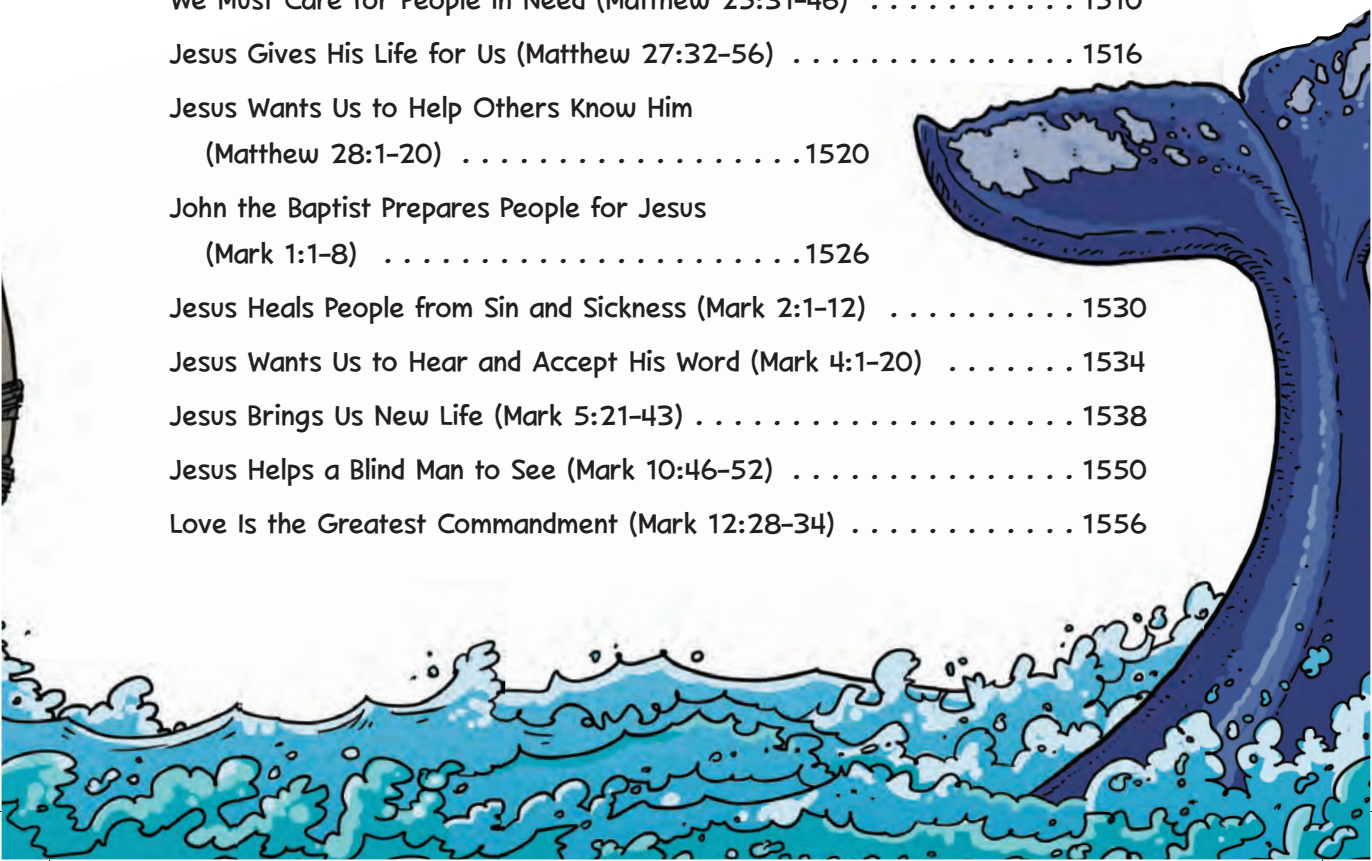




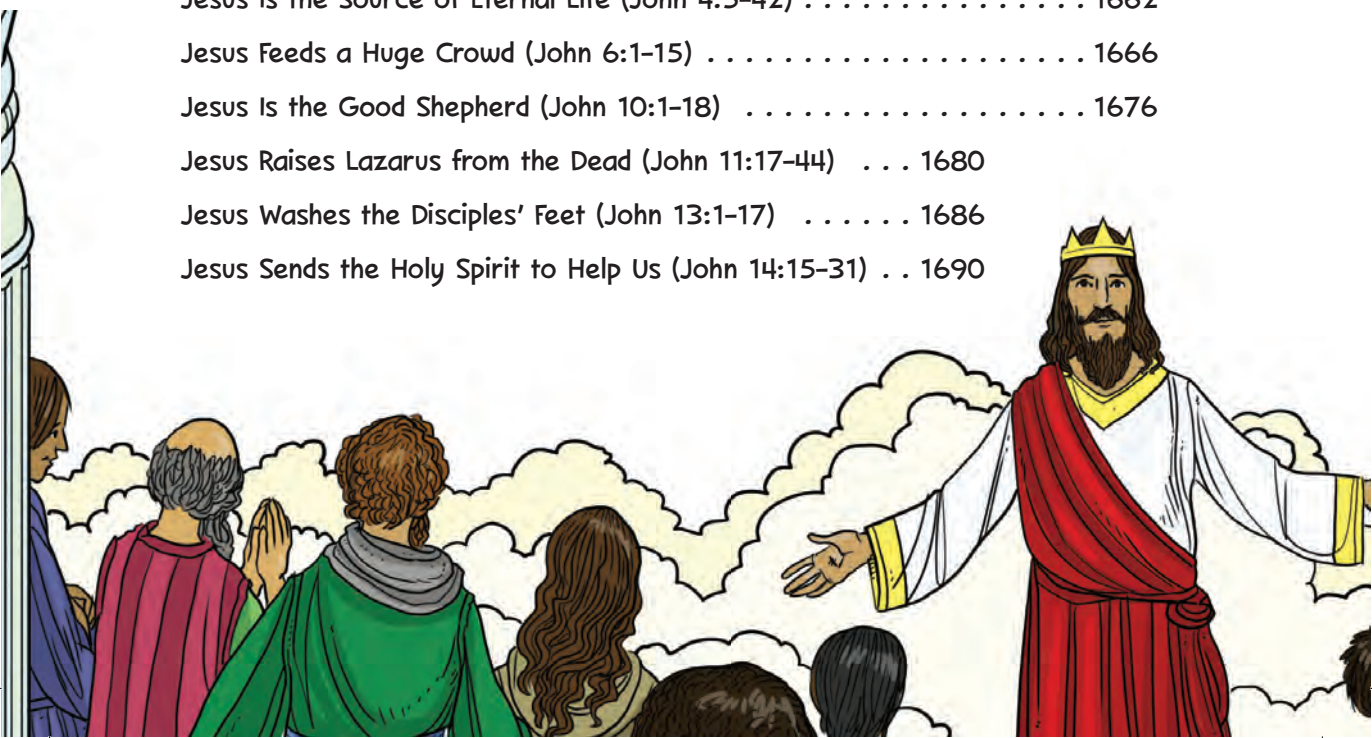
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# Welcome!

The Catholic Children’s Bible is just for you. It will help you to find important stories in the Bible. It will help you to read those stories by yourself. And it will help you to understand what you read. God wants you to read and understand the Bible because he speaks to you through its words.

The Catholic Children’s Bible is big! It is big because it contains all the books of the Bible. It is big to make it is easier for you to find and read Bible stories. It is also big because it has something special for you. We have picked 125 Bible stories that we call Featured Stories. As you read the Bible, you will see a leaf like this  to let you know which Bible story is a Featured Story. In the Bible, a leaf appears at the start and end of the stories that are Featured Stories.

Each Featured Story is presented on two pages. On these two pages you will find:

- a shorter and simpler version of the Bible story
- fun art that will bring the story to life
- **Understand It!**—a feature that explains the Scripture story
- **Live It!**—a feature to help you know what the story means for your life
- **Tell It!**—a feature to help you retell the story in your own words

When you first read this Bible, start with the Featured Stories. They have been created to help you understand the Bible.

The Bible tells all about God’s love. It tells us that we are all God’s children. He loves us very much. He wants us to love him back. And he wants us to love other people. The more you read the Bible, the more you will learn how much God loves you and how to love God and love others!

# How to Find a Bible Passage

Even though the pages of the Bible are numbered, when we want to find stories or passages in the Bible we don't use page numbers. Instead, we use a special kind of numbering. The numbering tells us in which part of each book of the Bible we can find a particular story. Here is an example of that numbering and what each part stands for:

This is the name of the book.

This is the chapter number.

**Matthew 22:34-40**

These are the verse numbers.

So Matthew 22:34–40 stands for The Gospel According to Matthew, chapter 22, verses 34 through 40. A book of the Bible can have one or more chapters. Each chapter has two or more verses. A verse is usually one or two sentences of the story or passage.

Here is the way you would find those verses in the Bible.

First, find the Bible book.

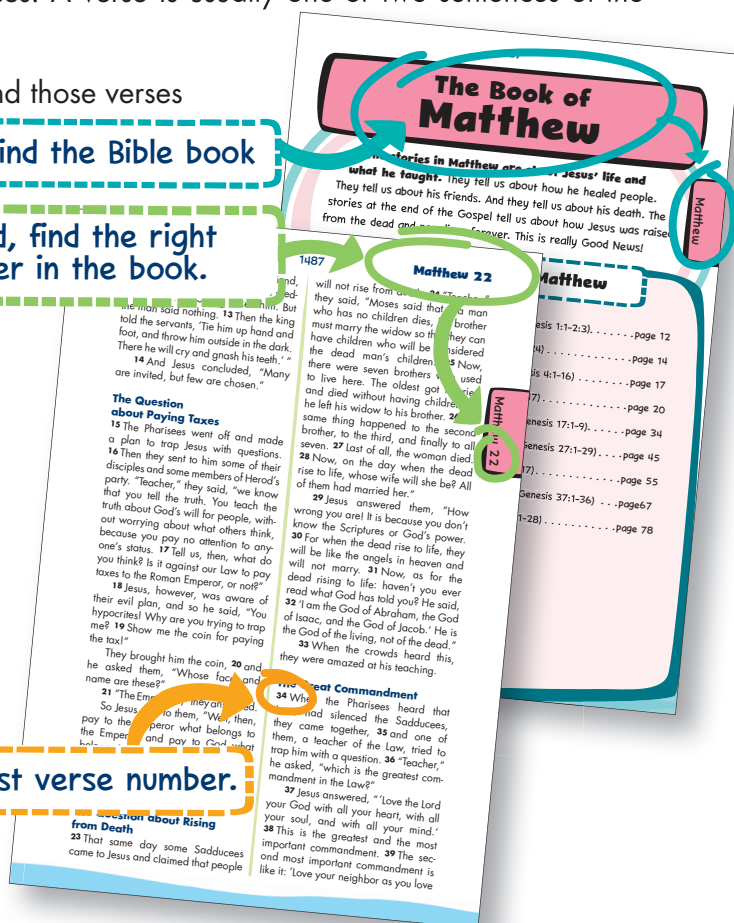
First, find the Bible book

Second, find the right chapter in the book.

Second, find the right chapter in the book.

Third, find the first verse number and start reading. When there are two verse numbers, read all the verses between the two numbers, including the first and the final verse.

Third, find the first verse number.





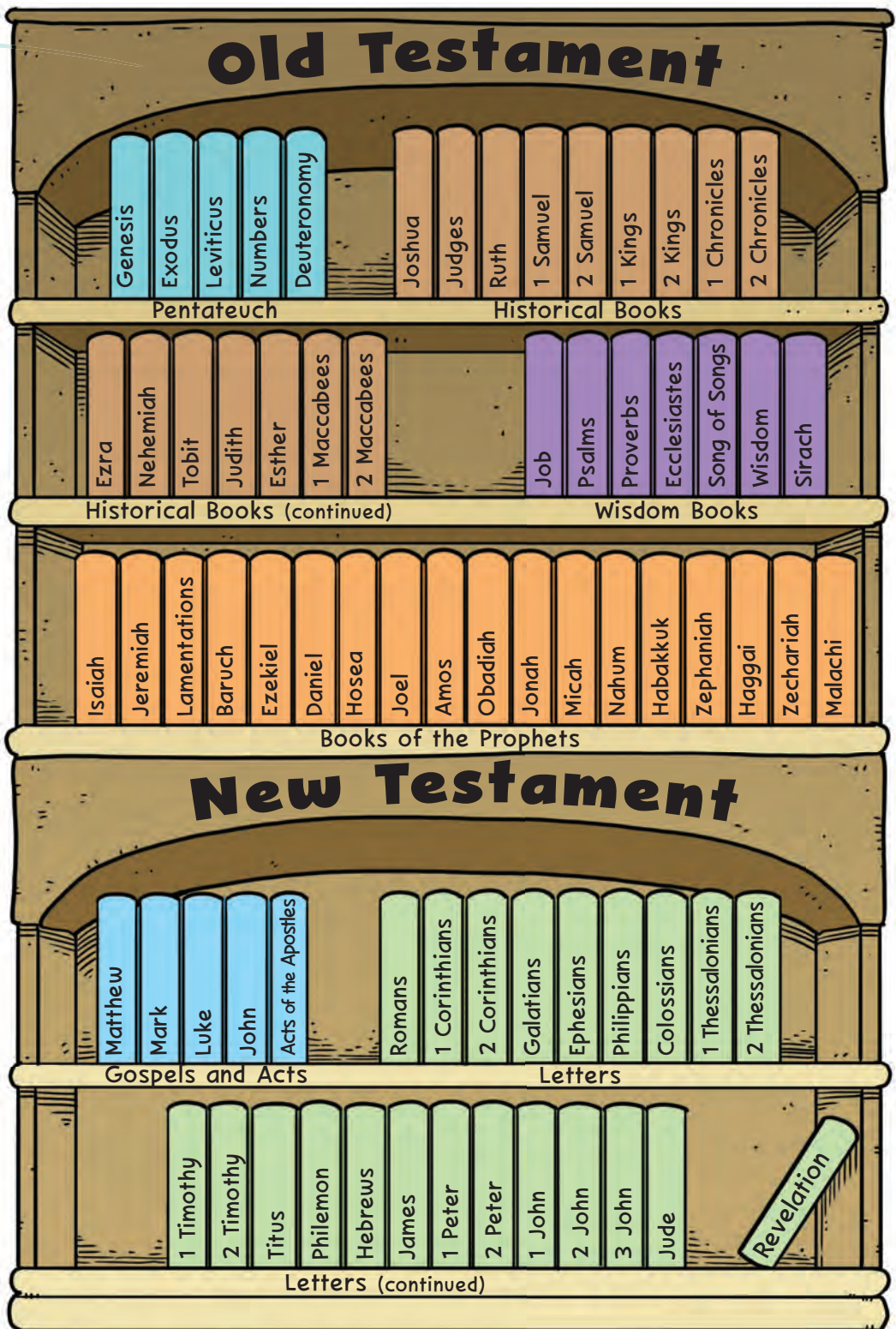
# The Bible Is Like a Bookshelf

Did you know the Bible is not just one book? Even though it looks like one book, it actually has 73 different books. Some of the books are poetry. Some books are history. Some books are mostly laws. Some books are the sayings of the prophets, the people who spoke for God. Some books are letters written to people. And some books are about the life of Jesus.

The books of the Bible are divided into sections, sort of like the shelves on a bookshelf. The two main sections are the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament books are shown on the three top shelves of the bookshelf on the next page. The 46 books on these shelves were written a long time ago. They were written before Jesus was born. They are about God's saving work with his original Chosen People.

The New Testament books are on the two bottom shelves of the bookshelf. The 27 books on these shelves were also written a long time ago, but they were written after Jesus had risen from the dead. These books teach us about the life of Jesus. They teach us that he was the Son of God and the Savior of the world. These books also tell us about the first followers of Jesus. They spread the Good News about Jesus by telling others about him.

You can see that there are smaller sections of books on the bookshelf; for example, the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, and so on. These smaller sections are explained at the beginning of the Old Testament and at the beginning of the New Testament. When you read this Bible, you can always tell which section you are in by looking at the color at the bottom of the page. It will be the same color as the color of the books on that section of the bookshelf.





# Pronunciation Key

In the Featured Stories, there are some names that are hard to say. So we have included pronunciation guides to help you read those names. Here is a key to the sounds used in the pronunciation guides.

## Vowel Sounds

- A: cat, sat
- AH or AW: law, saw
- AR: car, far
- AY: ace, hey, day
- AIR: air, tear, fair
- E or EH: bread, Fred, Ted
- ER: bird, heard
- EE: eat, beet, neat
- I or IH: bit, hit
- EYE or Y: ice, nice, fly
- OH: home, coat
- OO: moon, spoon
- OI: boy, coin
- OU: out, shout, down
- U: book, put, should, full, wolf
- UH: cut, nut, love

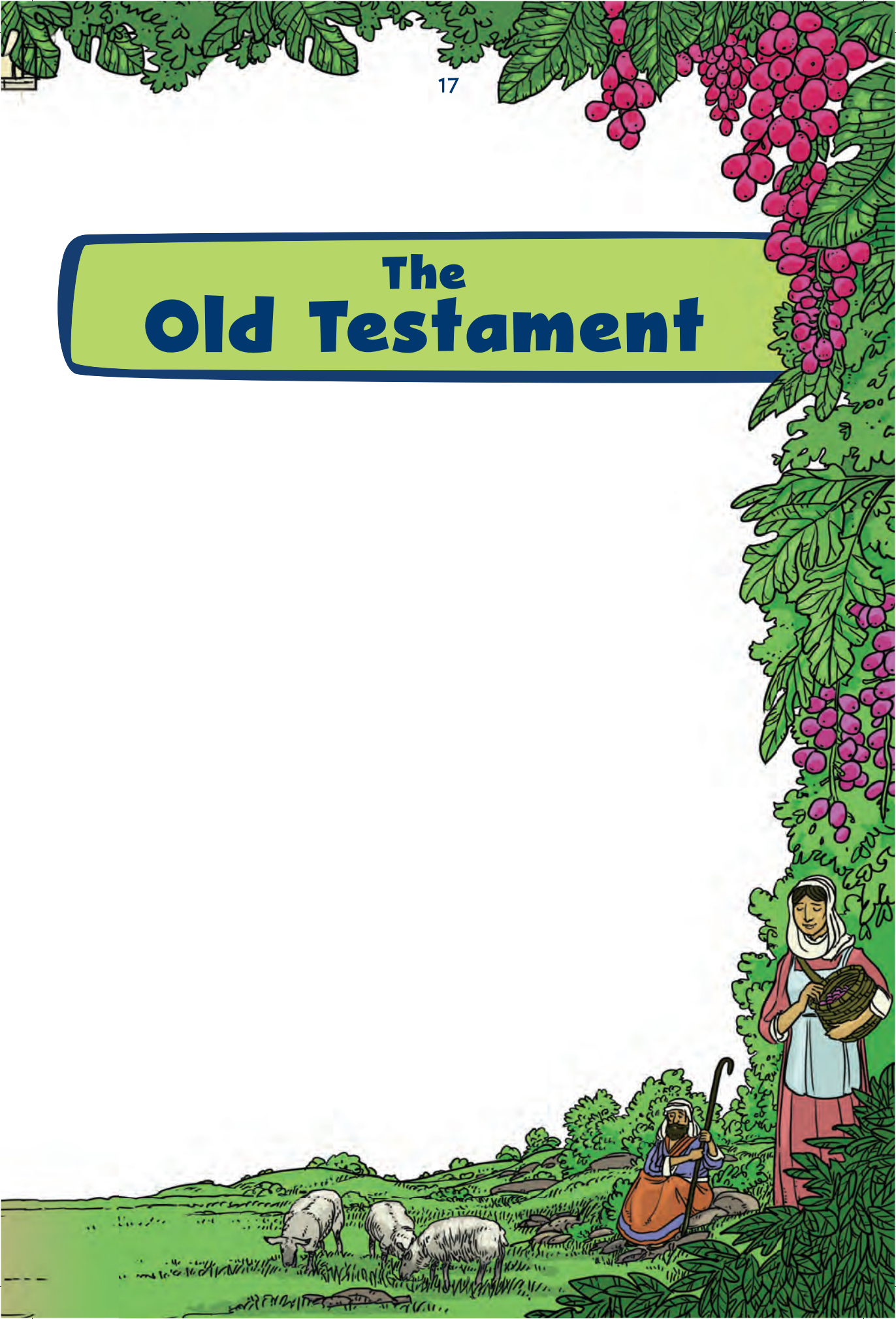
## Consonant Sounds

Consonants sound as the letter normally sounds with these exceptions:

- C: (hard C) kite, kitten
- CH: church, chance, cheap
- G: (hard G) gun, lug
- J: edge, dodge, bandage



# The Old Testament



# The Old Testament

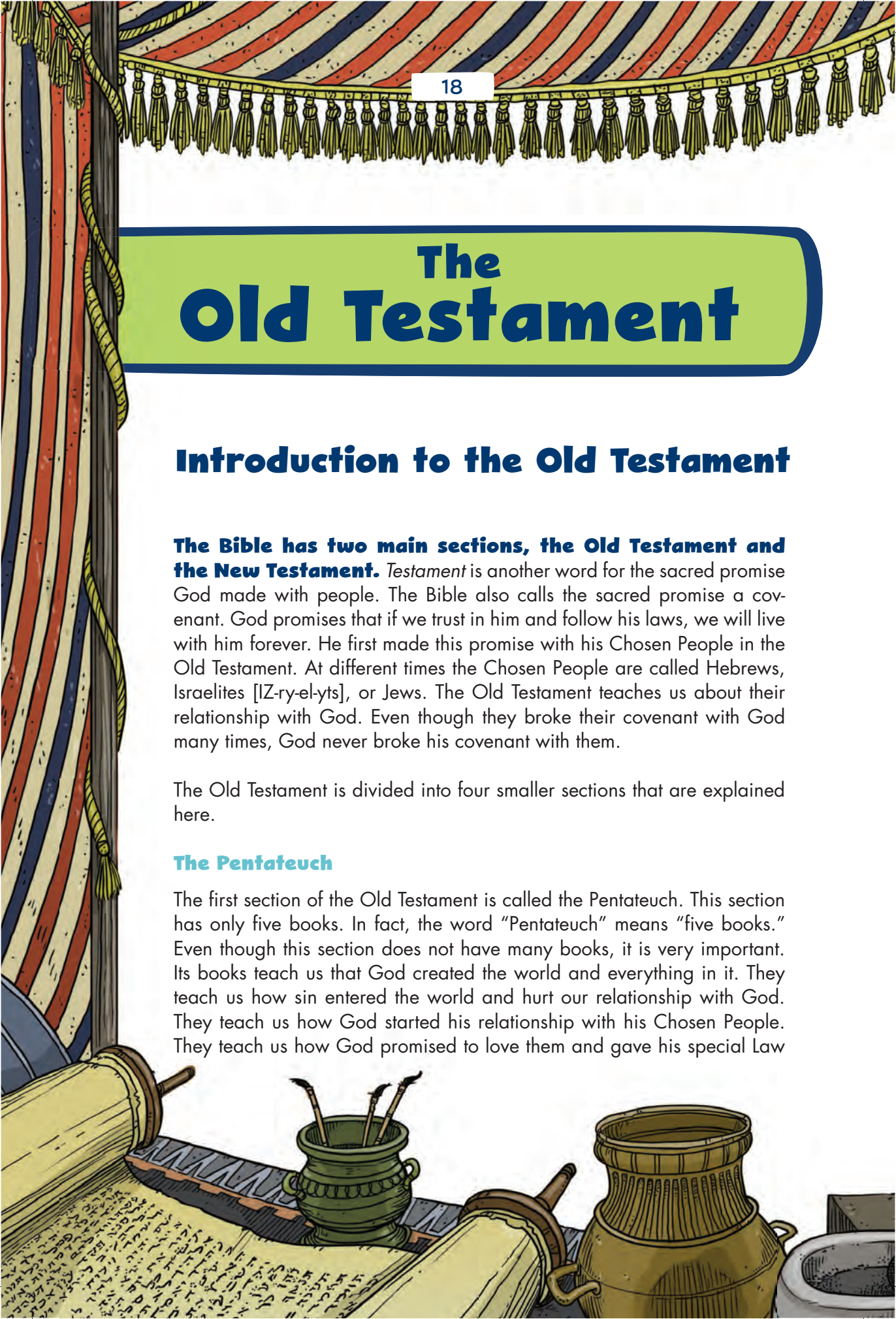
## Introduction to the Old Testament

**The Bible has two main sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament.** *Testament* is another word for the sacred promise God made with people. The Bible also calls the sacred promise a covenant. God promises that if we trust in him and follow his laws, we will live with him forever. He first made this promise with his Chosen People in the Old Testament. At different times the Chosen People are called Hebrews, Israelites [I-Z-ry-el-yts], or Jews. The Old Testament teaches us about their relationship with God. Even though they broke their covenant with God many times, God never broke his covenant with them.

The Old Testament is divided into four smaller sections that are explained here.

### The Pentateuch

The first section of the Old Testament is called the Pentateuch. This section has only five books. In fact, the word "Pentateuch" means "five books." Even though this section does not have many books, it is very important. Its books teach us that God created the world and everything in it. They teach us how sin entered the world and hurt our relationship with God. They teach us how God started his relationship with his Chosen People. They teach us how God promised to love them and gave his special Law



to them. If you know the stories in these five books of the Old Testament, the rest of the Bible is easier to understand.

### The Historical Books

The second section of the Old Testament has sixteen books. These books teach us about the history of God's Chosen People. There are stories about ordinary people, mighty warriors, and great kings and queens. We learn about their relationship with God. When the Chosen People trusted God and followed his Law, their lives were good. When they did not trust God and follow his Law, they suffered. Because they kept disobeying God, their kingdom was destroyed. Still, God always was faithful to his promise. When the Chosen People turned to God again, he helped them to start over.

### The Wisdom Books

The third section of the Old Testament contains seven books. They teach us how to be wise, or have wisdom. Having wisdom means living as God wants us to live. The wisdom books include many different types of writing. There are songs, prayers, love poems, and clever sayings. But what the wisdom books all have in common is that they teach us how to worship God and please him by making good choices.

### The Books of the Prophets

A prophet is a person who speaks for God. There were many prophets in the Old Testament. The teachings of some prophets were written down in books. These books are the fourth section of the Old Testament. There are eighteen books of the prophets. The prophets warned the Chosen People to keep their covenant with God and to follow his laws. They also promised that God would always care for his Chosen People. Some prophets even promised that God would send them a Savior. This Savior would bring the fullness of God's love and peace to the entire world. The Savior the prophets promised is Jesus Christ. The New Testament is all about him!



# The Book of Genesis

**Have you seen photos of your parents when they were children?** Have you heard funny stories about yourself as a baby? You probably have. People like to tell stories about how things began.

The first book in the Bible is called Genesis. It has stories about how God made the world and everything in it. It teaches that God made human beings so he could share his love with us. Even after the first people God made disobeyed him, he still loved them. God reached out to people like Noah and Abraham. He wanted to share his love with them and with their families. The stories in Genesis remind us that God loves us and our families too.

## Featured Stories in Genesis

- God Made Us to Love and to Be Loved (Genesis 1:1–2:3) . . . page 22
- Adam and Eve Disobey God (Genesis 3:1–24) . . . . . page 26
- Cain's Sin Leads to Abel's Death (Genesis 4:1–16) . . . . . page 30
- God Saves Noah's Family (Genesis 6:9–9:17) . . . . . page 34
- God Makes a Promise with Abraham (Genesis 17:1–9) . . . . . page 44
- Jacob Tricks His Brother, Esau (Genesis 27:1–29) . . . . . page 60
- Jacob and Esau Make Peace with Each Other  
(Genesis 33:1–17) . . . . . page 70
- Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery (Genesis 37:1–36) . . . page 78
- Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 45:1–28) . . . . . page 90

## The Story of Creation

**1** In the beginning, when God created the universe, **2** the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. **3** Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared. **4** God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, **5** and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

**6-7** Then God commanded, "Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places"—and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. **8** He named the dome "Sky." Evening passed and morning came—that was the second day.

**9** Then God commanded, "Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear"—and it was done. **10** He named the land "Earth," and the water which had come together he named "Sea." And God was pleased with what he saw. **11** Then he commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit"—and it was done. **12** So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. **13** Evening passed and morning came—that was the third day.

**14** Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; **15** they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth"—and it was

done. **16** So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. **17** He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, **18** to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. **19** Evening passed and morning came—that was the fourth day.

**20** Then God commanded, "Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds." **21** So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. **22** He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. **23** Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.

**24** Then God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small"—and it was done. **25** So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

**26** Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small." **27** So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, **28** blessed them, and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. **29** I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; **30** but

## God Made Us to Love and to Be Loved



Genesis 1:26–31 (For the full story, read Genesis 1:1–2:3.)

26 Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us. . . .” 27 So God **created** human beings. . . . He created them male and female, 28 blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your **descendants** will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. 29 I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; 30 . . .” —and it was done. 31 God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

**created** made something

**descendants** all of a person’s children down through time

## Understand It!

When you look at the stars, do you wonder who made them? Do you also wonder who made you? This Bible story tells you the answers. Once there was only God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three Persons of the Trinity were happy loving one another. But God wished to share his life and love. So God created the universe. Then he made a man and a woman. God loved them very much and told them to have children. You came from these first parents. God made you and loves you too!

God gives us powers like he has. We can think, so we can know about God and our world. We are free to make choices about what to eat and what to wear and how to act. Best of all, we have the power to love God back and love other people.

STORY  
Genesis 1

## Live It!

Stars, trees, and animals are not able to praise their creator, but we can. Continue the prayer of praise here. Add at least five lines by putting in other words for the **blue words**. Your words can stand for anything God created. This includes you!

For **mighty mountains**,  
glory to you, God.

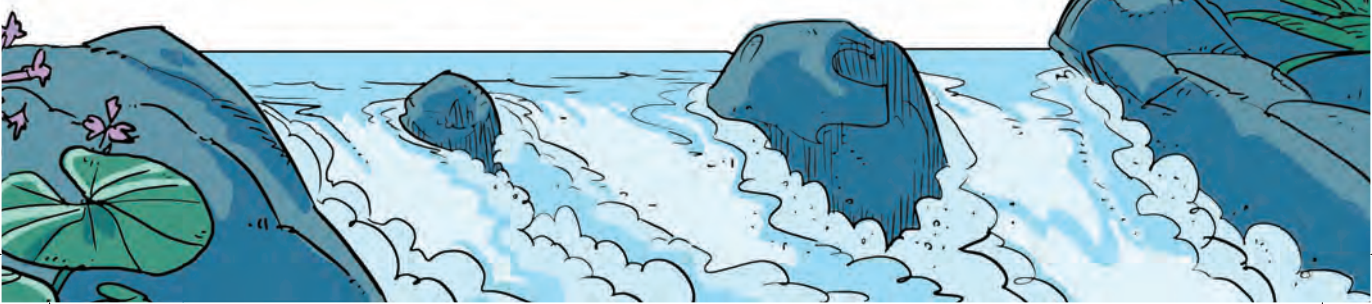
For **beautiful roses**,  
glory to you, God.

For **roaring lions**,  
glory to you, God.

## Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.



for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food”—and it was done.

**31** God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

**2** **1** And so the whole universe was completed. **2** By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. **3** He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working. **4** And that is how the universe was created.

### The Garden of Eden

When the LORD God made the universe, **5** there were no plants on the earth and no seeds had sprouted, because he had not sent any rain, and there was no one to cultivate the land; **6** but water would come up from beneath the surface and water the ground.

**7** Then the LORD God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.

**8** Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. **9** He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.

**10** A stream flowed in Eden and watered the garden; beyond Eden it divided into four rivers. **11** The first river is the Pishon; it flows around the country of Havilah. (**12** Pure gold is found there and also rare perfume and precious stones.) **13** The second river is the Gihon; it flows around the country

of Cush. **14** The third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria, and the fourth river is the Euphrates.

**15** Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. **16** He told him, “You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, **17** except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.”

**18** Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him.” **19** So he took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they all got their names. **20** So the man named all the birds and all the animals; but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him.

**21** Then the LORD God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the flesh. **22** He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. **23** Then the man said,

“At last, here is one of my own kind—

Bone taken from my bone, and  
flesh from my flesh.

‘Woman’ is her name because  
she was taken out of man.”

**24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.

**25** The man and the woman were both naked, but they were not embarrassed.





### Human Disobedience

**3** <sup>1</sup> Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the LORD God had made. The snake asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?”

<sup>2</sup> “We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden,” the woman answered, <sup>3</sup> “except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die.”

<sup>4</sup> The snake replied, “That’s not true; you will not die. <sup>5</sup> God said that because he knows that when you eat it, you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad.”

<sup>6</sup> The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it. <sup>7</sup> As soon as they had eaten it, they were given understanding and realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.

<sup>8</sup> That evening they heard the LORD God walking in the garden, and they hid from him among the trees. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called out to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you, because I was naked.”

<sup>11</sup> “Who told you that you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup> The man answered, “The woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup> The LORD God asked the woman, “Why did you do this?”

She replied, “The snake tricked me into eating it.”

### God Pronounces Judgment

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD God said to the snake, “You will be punished for this; you alone of all the animals must bear this curse: From now on you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dust as long as you live. <sup>15</sup> I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring’s heel.”

<sup>16</sup> And he said to the woman, “I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet you will be subject to him.”

<sup>17</sup> And he said to the man, “You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you. <sup>18</sup> It will produce weeds and thorns, and you will have to eat wild plants. <sup>19</sup> You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed. You were made from soil, and you will become soil again.”

<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all human beings. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and he clothed them.

### Adam and Eve Are Sent Out of the Garden

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Now these human beings have become