

Hints and Helps

K **eeep it simple!** Take, for example, Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” This statement is profound yet simple. To the scientist and the young child alike, the Bible says one thing. God is before all that we know and see, and He made all that we know and see. The Scriptures do not debate God; they affirm Him without question. He is! He does! Most important is for us to call children to faith, not provide them with a detailed explanation.

Verse to Memorize

Jonah 4:2: “I know that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness, one who relents from doing harm” (NKJV).

Who Is God?

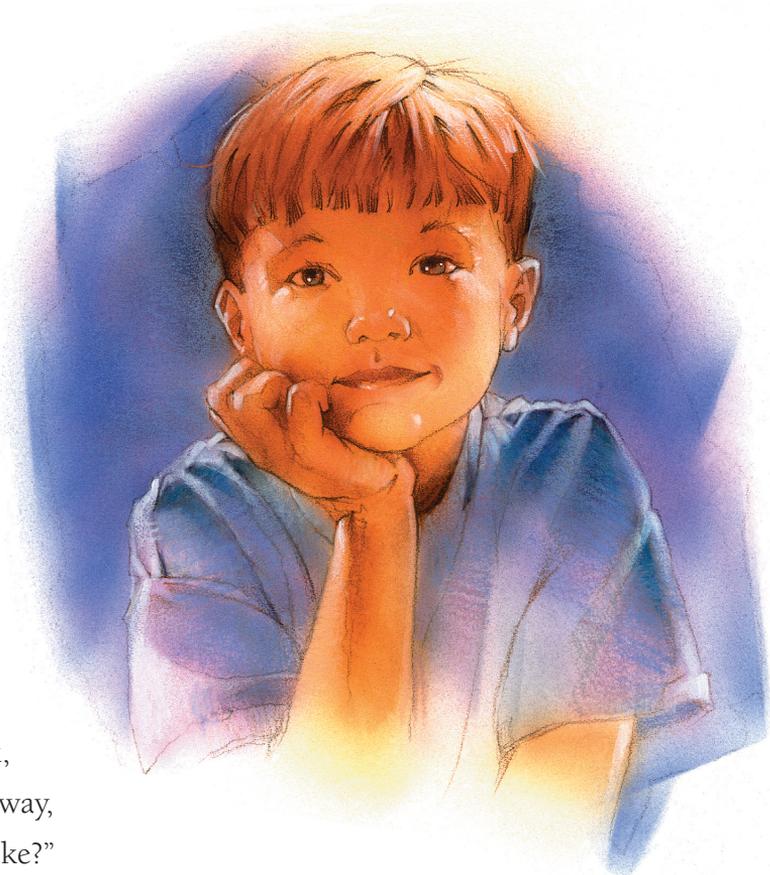


Hi! *My name is Topher.* Really my name is Christopher, but my friends call me Toph or Topher. I'm eight. I like to ride my bike and play T-ball, soccer, and basketball. I have two sisters, Megan and Bobbie. Megan is ten and plays the piano all the time. She takes lessons. Roberta is four. We call her Bobbie. She's fun to tease, but she drives me nuts, always asking, "What's that?" or "What does this mean?" Mom and Dad say she'll grow out of always asking questions, but I doubt it.

She did it just yesterday. In the afternoon a man came to our house. Bobbie ran to the door, and right after Mom opened it, she asked, "Who are you?"

"Bobbie," Mom said.

But the man smiled. "I'm a firefighter. I help people when they are sick and need to get to the hospital or when they have a crash in their car or when their house catches on fire. Right now I'm collecting money for the fire department."



The firefighter talked to Mom for a while. I think she even gave him some money. When he left, Bobbie asked right away, “What is a fireman like?”

“He told you he helps people, Bobbie.” I had to remind her.

“But what is he like?” Bobbie asked the same question again.

Mom answered that time. “He is helpful and hardworking. He is a fine neighbor.”

“Is God like that too? Would He be a good neighbor?”

Mom was quiet for a minute. I could tell she was thinking. “No one has ever asked me that before, Bobbie,” she finally said. “I’m not sure how to answer you. When I was a little girl, I went to church and read the Bible a lot, but it’s been a long time. Let me think . . . God is holy.”

“What does ‘holy’ mean?” When Mom answers one question, Bobbie always asks another one. See why I go crazy?

She told Bobbie, “‘Holy’ means that God is set apart from sin. We can think of sin as being dirty and holy as being clean. I remember, too, that angels called out that God is holy, holy, holy.”¹

“That means God is really, really, really clean. Does He take a lot of baths?”

“No, it means He does what is right.”

“How does He know what is right?”

“He is God, and whatever He does is right. He knows everything too, so He knows everything that is right and wrong.”

I asked Mom, “You mean God never does anything wrong?”

“No, never.”

Bobbie said, “I wish I was God so I would never do anything wrong.”

I laughed. “Bobbie, you can’t be God.”

Mom told us, “You both can be like Him. He wants you to do what is right all the time.”

“Does God love me?”

“Yes, He does, Bobbie.”

“Does He love Toph?”

“God loves everyone!”

“Even Michael Lobatosky?”

“Yes, even Michael.”

“Does He love Mikki, our cat?”

“Yes, God loves all the creatures. He made them, you know.”

“I think God would be a good neighbor.”

“Yes, Bobbie, I think He would be the best neighbor you could ever have.”

Verses to Read

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten

Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (NKJV).

Leviticus 11:44: “For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy” (NKJV).

Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

1. Isaiah 6:1–3

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD



1. *What is God like?*
2. *What does “holy” mean?*
3. *How can you be holy?*