

This booklet has been written and designed especially for children and we hope they will enjoy the Bible stories and attractive activities.

ear Parents ...

Our great desire is that through reading this book they will learn about God, Jesus and what He has done.

We hope you will encourage your children to read it, or better still, that you will read it together with them.

Since 1937

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® Reaching children worldwide*

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Bogdan Bassara

International Literature Director Child Evangelism Fellowship® Your brain is the most amazing computer of all? It is better by far than any built by people.

Your brain sends billions of bits of information to all parts of your body. This makes you do all sorts of things like sniffing, blinking or quickly moving your hand away from something hot. Without your brain you cannot live.

Someone invented your brain. It was designed by Someone who is VERY clever and wise.

Maybe you have ideas who you think it could be. Have you ever thought that it could be God? Some people say God is shiny and bright, He has a beard and He's kind.

What is God like?

Some people say God is in the wind and trees, and He is in me.

My uncle has a god on a shelf—it is a little statue

Write who you think God is. Others say God is like the Force.

> Who is right? How do we know who is right?

God wants everyone to know what He is like, so He has not left us guessing. He has not left us to think up our own ideas about Him. He has not even left us to google it! God has told us what He is like in a special book called "The Bible".

You can get a Bible in the library or in a bookstore. It is the very best book to read, for all the things God wants you to know are in there.

God used about 40 people to write down His words. For example, He used a fisherman, a doctor and a farmer. They wrote at different times and most did not know each other. Yet the whole book fits together. All the words are God's words, so it is all true.

In this booklet the words taken straight from the Bible are in red print.

What job had these "Bible writers"?



"From everlasting to everlasting, You are God" Psalm 90:2.

"Everlasting" means lasting for ever. If you could get into a time machine and go back, or forward, thousands of years, God would be there. God has no beginning and no end. He will never die. Draw something that does

not exist now, but might exist in the future.

Draw something your grandparents did not have, but you have. We go to school to learn; sometimes it is fun and sometimes it is boring. God never learns because He already knows about the trees, the animals and insects. He knows all about outer space, even stars that have not yet been discovered. He knows all about you: your name, your problems and your secrets.

"For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether" Psalm 139:4.



In the Bible God tells us that he is the only real God. He says, **"I am the Lord**, **and there is no other" Isaiah 45:5.** God is three persons. He is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are not three gods, they are one. This is hard to understand. Nobody fully understands it, but we can believe it for it is in the Bible. There are some things you do well. There are some things you would like to do but you cannot. God can do whatever He wants. In the Bible we read of God doing amazing things.

He rescued people from slavery, making a dry path for them through a sea.

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"With God all things are possible" Mark 10:27. He created the whole universe in six days, just by speaking.

He sent birds with food to a man who had none. We can be mean and grumpy. We can tell lies. God is never like that. In the Bible we read that God is holy.

HOLY

PERFECT

HOLY

100%

GOOD

GOOD

 $\mathsf{M}\%$

PERFECT

100%

"Holy, holy, holy [is the] Lord God Almighty," Revelation 4:8. That means that He is perfect. Everything He does is right and good. He is so pure that nothing bad can be near Him. He cannot stand lies, cheating, selfishness or bad temper. God is very different from us; He is in a class of His own. Over and over again we read in the Bible that God is holy, so it must be very important that we know this.

You cannot put God on show in a museum or a church because He is invisible. **"God is Spirit" John 4:24.** He does not have a body. Yet He is a real person who speaks and listens, He loves and hates, He can be happy or sad. He is Someone you can know and love.

God is almighty and spirit so He can be everywhere at the same time.

"Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord" Jeremiah 23:24.



"Who cares about me?" Perhaps you have thought or asked that question. God cares about you very much. You may feel very small and bad when you think of God but you can be sure that God loves you. "God is love" 1 John 4:8.

His love is the biggest and best love. He freely loves people who do not deserve His love. He loves all day every day! God wants the very best for you—He wants you to know Him and to belong to Him for ever. Nothing could be better than that. God gave the most amazing gift so that you could belong to Him and be safe in His love. Keep on reading and you will discover what He gave because He loves you.

Make a list of the people who care for you.

God-He always cares for me

Match the words with the animals.

Penguin



Rabbit



Fish

There are all sorts of animals: beautiful ones, ugly ones, huge ones, tiny ones, scary ones and cuddly ones. And then there are people! People are different. When God was making the world, He said, "Let Us make man in Our image" Genesis 1:26. That is what He did. So in some ways people are like God. Just like God we can:

Enjoy beautiful things

Thinkup new ideas and solve problems

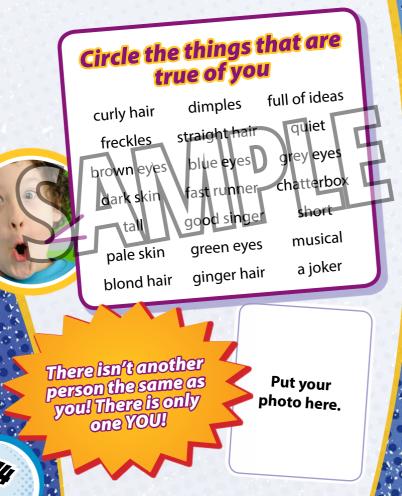
Love each other.

Know what is right and what is wrong

People are special to God. Out of all the creatures He made only they can be His friends.

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There are millions and millions of people in the world but not one is exactly like you. God designed you as you are. He made you. How special is that! "You [God] covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" Psalm 139:13-14.

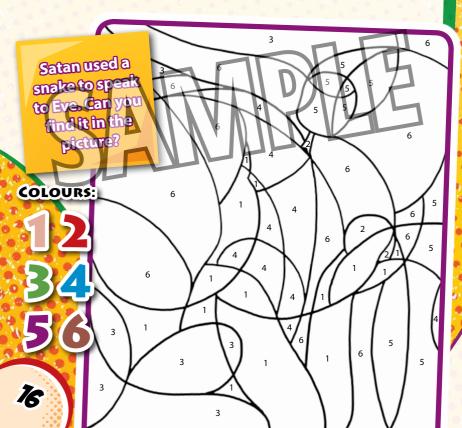


But there are things about you that God does not like—ugly things like selfishness, bad temper, lies and disobedience. These displease God, they spoil your life and they spoil the whole world.

When God made the first people they were perfect until something went badly wrong ...

The first man and woman. Adam and Eve, lived in a perfect world. God told them to enjoy all the fruit on the trees in their garden. He told them there was just one fruit they were not to take. If they disobeyed Him they would die. God has a horrible enemy called the devil or Satan. He wanted to wreck God's perfect world and ruin God's people. With crafty lies he coaxed Eve to disobey God and eat the fruit. She gave some to Adam.

Then for the first time ever they were afraid of God. They tried to hide. But God knew where they were. They lost their friendship with God. And later they did die. All the bad and sad things in the world began when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.



Since then every person born chooses to disobey God. All of us go our own way rather than God's way. "We have turned, every one, to his own way" Isaiah 53:6.

God's commands show us His way. Tick the ones you've always kept.

Have no other gods but God

Do not worship statues

Do not misuse God's name

keep one day a week special for God

Respect your father and mother

Do not murder

Be faithful in marriage

Do not steal

Do not tell lies

Do not want things that belong to other people

(From Exodus 20)

Think about how you have disobeyed God by things you have thought, said or done. The Bible calls this sin.

Sin separates us from God because He is so pure. Sin is a **BG** problem which we cannot solve.

Drawa time when you disobeyed and

sinned

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If God had left things that way nobody could ever be God's friend. Nobody could ever be forgiven the wrong they have done. Nobody could ever get free from sin. Nobody could ever live in God's special home, Heaven. God's home is a beautiful and happy place: **"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;** there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain" Revelation 21:4.

Even before Adam and Eve brought sin into the world God had an amazing plan. He planned to send Someone who would make things right and bring people back to God. There was only one person who could do it.



That person was Jesus. God's plan was to send His Son down to the earth. He became a human being, but was still God. God chose Mary to be the mother of His Son. He told her, **"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest"** Luke 1:32. He was born in a stable as a baby. We celebrate this at Christmas. He had created the world but was now a helpless baby named Jesus.

This was God's amazing gift; He could not have given a bigger one. God gave His only Son, His dear Son because He loved you so much.

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Join the dots to see what baby Jesus slept in. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Like you, He learned to walk and talk. He played with friends and family. He learned to do chores. In only one way He was different from all other children: He never ever did anything wrong.

When Jesus was 30 years old He began to go from place to place teaching people. He was a wonderful teacher for, of course, His words were God's words. He was kind and truthful. He really cared for people and He loved children. People crowded to listen to Him and to see His miracles. He did many amazing things like ...

> ••• giving a blind man

perfect sight

.... calming a storm—by just saying, "Be quiet," to the wind,

makinga

dead girl come

back to life.

Click your fingers—that is how quickly Jesus could do a miracle!

He could do these things because He was God. healing sick

people.

Sadly not everyone liked Jesus. Some, who thought of themselves as "God experts", hated Him and the things He said. They plotted to kill Him because "He ... said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God" John 5:18. These men worked together with Roman soldiers to arrest Jesus. They took Him to different courts and judges but nobody could find any wrong in Him. Even so, they hit Him, mocked Him, yelled at Him, spat at Him and pushed a crown of thorns on His head. Jesus did not fight back.

Then they led Him to a hill outside Jerusalem to kill Him. Soldiers nailed His hands and His feet to a wooden cross.

Jesus had the power to escape, but He chose not to. He knew it was His Father's plan that He should die,

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As Jesus hung on the cross what hurt Him most was that God His Father punished Him for all our wrongdoing. All God's holy anger against sin fell on Jesus. "It pleased the Lord to bruise Him" ... "the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity [sin] of us all" Isaiah 53:10, 6.

God did not do it to be mean to His Son—remember He really loved Him.

God did not do it because Jesus deserved it—we deserved it.

God did it because there was no other way for sin to be taken away. God loves us that much. Jesus, God's Son, "loved me and gave Himself for me" Galatians 2:20.

As J**esus hung on the cross the** sky became dark.

After three hours of awful pain Jesus called out, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) and then He died. Sad friends took His body and placed it in a cave. A giant stone was rolled across the entrance. Soldiers stood guard.

Colour the sky in the picture.

But soldiers could not stop what happened next. Early in the morning on the third day after His death, Jesus came out of the grave **ALIVE**. He got out without the stone being moved. An angel came and rolled it away so people could go in and see that Jesus was not there. Many people saw the living Jesus. They talked with Him and ate with Him. After 40 days His friends saw Him go up, up, up into the sky and back to Heaven. There was a coronation in Heaven for the Father made Jesus Lord and King over everything.

Jesus says, "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore" Revelation 1:18. There is nobody like Jesus! He is the only one who can make things right between you and God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" John 14:6.



The Lord Jesus is the only one who can rescue you from sin. "Jesus" means Saviour or Rescuer. He can save you from the punishment you deserve from God. Sin is boss in your life; that is why you think, say and do lots of wrong things. Jesus can rescue from that bad boss. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" Acts 16:31.

Jesus can forgive all the wrong you ever did or ever will do. That is a lot of bad stuff—some of it you don't even remember. **"Through His name, wheever believes in Him will receive remission [forgiveness]** of sins" Acts 10:43.

> It is as if all the wrong you do is written on a whiteboard and then erased. It is gone. God punished His Son as if He had done your sin, so that He could treat you as if you had lived Jesus' perfect life.

Using a pencil, write the ways you have sinned. Then take an eraser and rub out those sins.

Marble Fun!

Use the following code to find out what you must do to be rescued from sin and be forgiven.

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"Believe" means to trust. It means you believe Jesus died for your sin and you give yourself over to Him to save you, forgive you and be your King.

If you really want to trust Jesus, you could say something like this to Him:

"Lord Jesus, I know I have done lots of wrong things and I am very sorry. Thank You for being punished in my place. Please save me and forgive me so I can be God's friend. I want You in charge of me from now on."

If you trust the Lord Jesus you can be sure that you are rescued from sin and forgiven. That is what is promised in the Bible. These are God's promises so they are true.

FILL IN THE WORD

IN THE PROMISE Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you

be saved."

God also promises eternal life to anyone who believes in Jesus. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting [eternal] life." John 3:16.** "Perish" means to be separated from God for ever. "Eternal life" means to know God and belong to Him for ever, going to Heaven when you die.

> Fill in your own name in the blanks.

> > God solovec

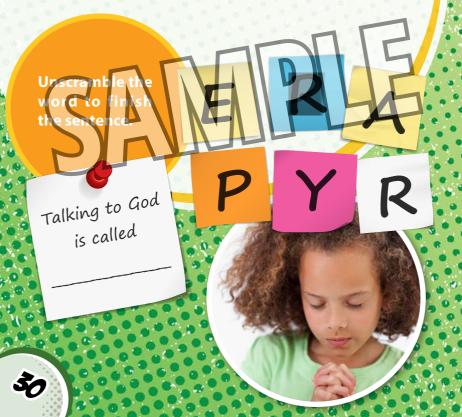
believes in Him

that He gave His only Son, that if

will not perish but have eternal life."

9

When you trust in Jesus, He makes you a child of God. God will be your Father and you will always be in His family. Even when you do wrong, God will still love you. When you are God's child you may talk to God any time and anywhere. He will always listen. "My God will hear me" Micah 7:7.



The Holy Spirit can make you a **NEW** PERSON!

When Jesus went back to Heaven God sent the Holy Spirit to live in all who believe in Jesus. If you have trusted the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit has made you a new person on the inside. He has made you a person who wants to love and obey God. The Holy Spirit lives in you for ever. Isn't that amazing? He will help you to understand the Bible and do the things that please God.



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