



SAMPLER

SPARK  
HOUSE  
[wearesparkhouse.org](http://wearesparkhouse.org)

HOW TO USE YOUR



## MAKE THIS **SPARK BIBLE** YOUR OWN!

Welcome to your Spark Bible! You just started a journey through God's word that will last a lifetime. To make it your best trip ever, we want you to **MAKE THIS BIBLE YOUR OWN!**

**GET TO KNOW GOD** by using this Bible. The more you use it, the more interesting it gets.

Use every tool available to **MAKE THIS BIBLE WORK FOR YOU.**  
You can **USE ANY OF THESE TOOLS** whenever you read your Bible:  
**Stickers • Pens • Pencils • Colored Pencils • Markers • Highlighters • Ruler  
Sticky Notes**

The next pages will help you start understanding that the Bible story is your story, too. **HAVE FUN**, and let people know how it's going. It's your Bible. **MAKE THE MOST OF IT.**

### SPARK BIBLE

New Revised Standard Version

These pages are excerpted from the Spark Bible, copyright © 2009 Sparkhouse. All rights reserved. Spark Bible is a trademark of Sparkhouse. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Visit 1517.media, write to Permissions, 1517 Media, Box 1209 Minneapolis, MN 55440, or e-mail copyright@1517.media for further inquiries.

The NRSV is published by arrangement with HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America and used by permission. All rights reserved.

To purchase copies of the Spark Bible, go to [wearesparkhouse.org](http://wearesparkhouse.org), ISBN 978-0-8066-7048-5.

# USE EVERYTHING IN THE SPARK BIBLE!

You'll always know what book of the Bible you're in.

GENESIS 1:1

## SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

**1** In the beginning when God created<sup>a</sup> the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God<sup>b</sup> swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

<sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

### Genesis 1:31

**KNOW IT!** What did God make on each day of creation?

**THINK ABOUT IT!** Everything God makes is good. How does this change what you think about mosquitoes?

**TRY IT!** Go outside. Watch a bug for two minutes. Finish your time with your buggy friend by saying, "And it was good!"

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humankind<sup>c</sup> in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,<sup>d</sup> and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind<sup>e</sup> in his image, in the image of God he created them;<sup>e</sup> male and female he created them.

<sup>a</sup> Or when God began to create or In the beginning God created <sup>b</sup> Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind <sup>c</sup> Heb adam <sup>d</sup> Syr: Heb and over all the earth <sup>e</sup> Heb him

2 • PENTATEUCH

You'll always know what section of the Bible you're in.

Key Verses are highlighted all over this Bible. Try to figure out why they're important. You can highlight some Key Verses of your own.

Get to know some of the Bible words that matter most.

GENESIS 2:17

**EDEN** The beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived.

The garden will come back for a final encore. God will renew all of creation. Read about it in Revelation 21:9–22:7.

**LORD** God formed man from the dust of the ground,<sup>b</sup> and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup> A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

<sup>28</sup> 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 air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, 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. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

### ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION

In the day that the LORD<sup>a</sup> God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup>then the

<sup>12</sup>and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>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 die."

### Genesis 2:7

**KNOW IT!** How did God make the first human?

**THINK ABOUT IT!** What good does dirt do in your life?

**TRY IT!** Grab a handful of dirt. Get it wet and let it ooze between your fingers.

Explore more about some of the people, places, things, and events in the Bible stories you're reading.

### DID YOU KNOW? SCIENCE AND CREATION

People in Bible times were curious about how the world worked, so the Bible writers used thoughtful stories to explain creation. The six days God used to create the world could be literal. Or they could be a poetic way the writer of Genesis symbolized great spans of time.

God is delighted when you learn about the world. Creation praises God too! Check out Psalm 148.

<sup>a</sup> Heb YHWH, as in other places where "LORD" is spelled with capital letters (see also Ex 3.14-15 with notes). <sup>b</sup> Or formed a man (Heb adam) of dust from the ground (Heb adamah)

PENTATEUCH • 3

# MARK UP YOUR SPARK BIBLE!

GENESIS 1:1

September 6

Write the date that you read the story.

Underline stuff you want to remember later.

## SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

**1** In the beginning when God created<sup>a</sup> the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God<sup>b</sup> swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

<sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

### Genesis 1:31

**KNOW IT!** What did God make on each day of creation?

**THINK ABOUT IT!** Everything God makes is good. How does this change what you think about mosquitoes?

**TRY IT!** Go outside. Watch a bug for two minutes. Finish your time with your buggy friend by saying, "And it was good!"

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humankind<sup>c</sup> in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,<sup>d</sup> and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind<sup>e</sup> in his image, in the image of God he created them;<sup>e</sup> male and female he created them.

Circle words that are confusing, interesting, or gross.

Color or highlight parts you really like.

<sup>a</sup> Or when God began to create or In the beginning God created  
<sup>b</sup> Heb adam <sup>c</sup> Syr: Heb and over all the earth <sup>d</sup> Heb him

<sup>e</sup> Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind

2 • PENTATEUCH

Attach a sticky note so you can find this page again.

GENESIS 2:17

<sup>28</sup>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 air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, 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. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

### ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION

In the day that the LORD<sup>a</sup> God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup>then the

LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground,<sup>b</sup> and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup> A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

### Genesis 2:7

**KNOW IT!** How did God make the first human?

**THINK ABOUT IT!** What good does dirt do in your life?

**TRY IT!** Grab a handful of dirt. Get it wet and let it ooze between your fingers.

<sup>12</sup>and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>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 die."

Jot notes in the margin.

Dirt is good!

Put a sticker near places you read, remember, or want to know more about. (See the back of your Bible for more about stickers.)

### DID YOU KNOW? SCIENCE AND CREATION

People in Bible times were curious about how the world worked, so the Bible writers used thoughtful stories to explain creation. The six days God used to create the world could be literal. Or they could be a poetic way the writer of Genesis symbolized great spans of time.

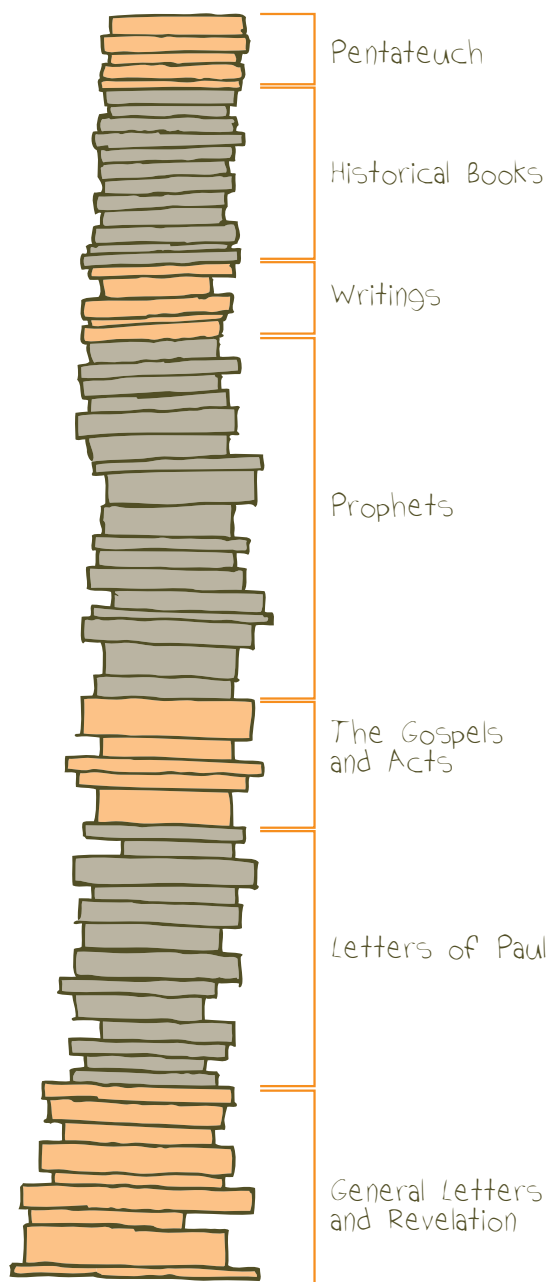
God is delighted when you learn about the world. Creation praises God too! Check out Psalm 148.

<sup>a</sup> Heb YHWH, as in other places where "LORD" is spelled with capital letters (see also Exod 3.14-15 with notes).

<sup>b</sup> Or formed a man (Heb adam) of dust from the ground (Heb adamah)

PENTATEUCH • 3

# MAKE YOUR SPARK BIBLE SMALLER!



Did you know that the Bible isn't really one book? It's actually 66 books all bound together. Some of the books are only a page long.

The 66 books can be divided into seven sections: Pentateuch, Historical Books, Writings, Prophets, The Gospels and Acts, Letters of Paul, and General Letters and Revelation.

The Bible also divides into two testaments, called the Old Testament and the New Testament. You can remember this and how many books each has by using the simple formula of 39.

3 letters in OLD      9 letters in TESTAMENT

**OLD TESTAMENT**

3 NEXT TO 9 = 39 BOOKS

3 letters in NEW      9 letters in TESTAMENT

**NEW TESTAMENT**

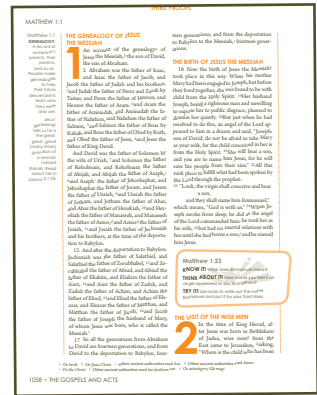
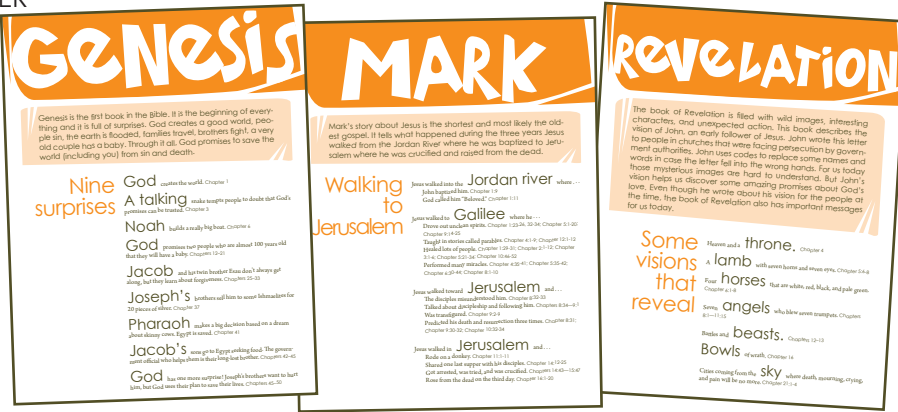
3 x 9 = 27 BOOKS

Here's a tip to help you find each section. Use highlighter pens in seven different colors (or at least rotate through a minimum of two). Highlight the edges of your Bible based on these sections. Keep your Bible closed while you do it.





Every book has a one-page introduction. Read those to decide which book to read first.

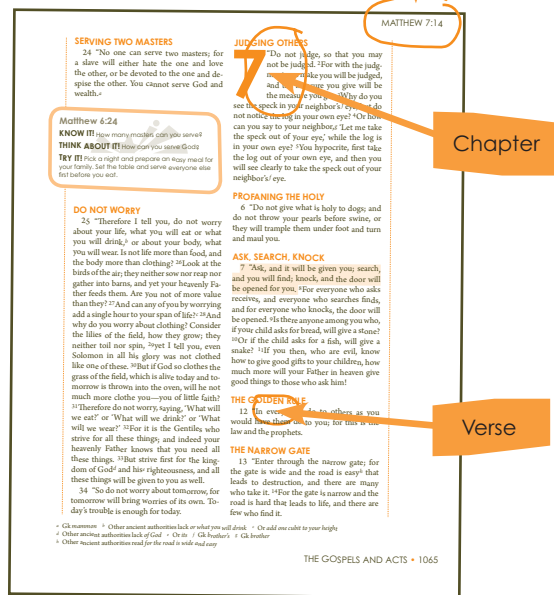


The books in the Bible are organized in the same way: from the whole Bible to a specific Book from Book to Chapter from Chapter to Verse

When you want to look up two verses in your Bible, there are three parts to check. A word or words before the number, a number before the colon, and one or more numbers after the colon.

**MATTHEW 7:12**

- The **WORD** tells you the book of the Bible where you'll find the verse.
- The number **BEFORE THE COLON** tells you the chapter. (Those are the big numbers in your Bible.)
- The number **AFTER THE COLON** tells you the verse. (Those are the little numbers in your Bible.)



**TIPS FOR LOOKING UP BIBLE VERSES**

- 1 The first verse in any chapter usually doesn't have a 1. Instead, the big number shows that you're starting with the first verse of a new chapter.
- 2 If you're not sure where to find the book of the Bible, use the Table of Contents on pages iii-v to help you.
- 3 Sometimes Bible verses are called a passage, a text, a reference, or a citation. No matter what word is used, you'll be looking up verses in the same way.
- 4 Sometimes the name of a Bible book includes a number, like 2 Samuel, 1 Corinthians, or 3 John.
- 5 If you see a short dash between verse numbers, this means that there is more than one verse. The number before the dash tells you where to start and the number after the dash tells you where to end.
- 6 If you see a long dash between chapter numbers, this means that the verses go across more than one chapter.
- 7 A few books in the Bible are so short that they only have one chapter! In those books, only the verse numbers are shown.

LOOK IT UP,  
 MARK IT UP,  
 AND REMEMBER TO  
 ASK QUESTIONS ALONG THE WAY!

# Genesis

Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It is the beginning of everything and it is full of surprises. God creates a good world, people sin, the earth is flooded, families travel, brothers fight, a very old couple has a baby. Through it all, God promises to save the world (including you) from sin and death.

## Nine surprises

**God** creates the world. Chapter 1

**A talking snake** tempts people to doubt that God's promises can be trusted. Chapter 3

**Noah** builds a really big boat. Chapter 6

**God** promises two people who are almost 100 years old that they will have a baby. Chapters 12–21

**Jacob** and his twin brother Esau don't always get along, but they learn about forgiveness. Chapters 25–33

**Joseph's** brothers sell him to some Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. Chapter 37

**Pharaoh** makes a big decision based on a dream about skinny cows. Egypt is saved. Chapter 41

**Jacob's** sons go to Egypt seeking food. The government official who helps them is their long-lost brother. Chapters 42–45

**God** has one more surprise! Joseph's brothers want to hurt him, but God uses their plan to save their lives. Chapters 45–50

### SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

**1** In the beginning when God created<sup>a</sup> the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God<sup>b</sup> swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

<sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

#### Genesis 1:31

**KNOW IT!** What did God make on each day of creation?

**THINK ABOUT IT!** Everything God makes is good. How does this change what you think about mosquitoes?

**TRY IT!** Go outside. Watch a bug for two minutes. Finish your time with your buggy friend by saying, "And it was good!"

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humankind<sup>c</sup> in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,<sup>d</sup> and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind<sup>c</sup> in his image, in the image of God he created them;<sup>e</sup> male and female he created them.

<sup>a</sup> Or when God began to create or In the beginning God created  
<sup>c</sup> Heb adam <sup>d</sup> Syr: Heb and over all the earth <sup>e</sup> Heb him

<sup>b</sup> Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind

<sup>28</sup>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 air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup>God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, 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. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

**ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION**

In the day that the LORD<sup>a</sup> God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>when no plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup>then the

LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground,<sup>b</sup> and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup> A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

<sup>12</sup>and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>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 die.”

Genesis 2:10 **EDEN:** The beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived.

The garden will come back for a final encore. God will renew all of creation. Read about it in Revelation 21:9—22:7.

Genesis 3:6 **SIN:** How we separate ourselves from God. We can't help it and sin in what we think, say, and do. Jesus brings us back from sin so we can live in God's love.

Sin is powerful. Read Romans 5:12-14. But God is more powerful. Read Romans 5:15-21.

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, 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. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man<sup>c</sup> there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman,<sup>b</sup> for out of Man<sup>c</sup> this one was taken.”

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

**THE FIRST SIN AND ITS PUNISHMENT**

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when

you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,<sup>d</sup> knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So 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. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree,

**Genesis 3:1**

**KNOW IT!** How did the sneaky serpent change the words God spoke to Adam and Eve in chapter 2?  
**THINK ABOUT IT!** Why would you trust what a talking snake said?  
**TRY IT!** Call a friend you really trust and say thanks.

and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

**DID YOU KNOW? SCIENCE AND CREATION**

People in Bible times were curious about how the world worked, so the Bible writers used thoughtful stories to explain creation. The six days God used to create the world could be literal. Or they could be a poetic way the writer of Genesis symbolized great spans of time.

God is delighted when you learn about the world. Creation praises God too! Check out Psalm 148.

<sup>a</sup> Heb YHWH, as in other places where “LORD” is spelled with capital letters (see also Ex 3.14-15 with notes).  
<sup>b</sup> Or formed a man (Heb adam) of dust from the ground (Heb adamah)

**DID YOU KNOW? THE FIRST ENVIRONMENTALIST**

Guess what was the first job God gave to human beings? God told Adam to take care of creation. Adam was the earth's first caretaker.

Going green is nothing new. The Bible teaches us that God's creation often needs attention—and that even land needs rest sometimes. Read about it in Leviticus 25:3-5.

<sup>a</sup> Or for Adam <sup>b</sup> Heb ishshah <sup>c</sup> Heb ish <sup>d</sup> Or gods



“Because you have done this,  
 cursed are you among all animals  
 and among all wild creatures;  
 upon your belly you shall go,  
 and dust you shall eat  
 all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the  
 woman,  
 and between your offspring and hers;  
 he will strike your head,  
 and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,  
 “I will greatly increase your pangs in  
 childbearing;  
 in pain you shall bring forth children,  
 yet your desire shall be for your husband,  
 and he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And to the man<sup>a</sup> he said,  
 “Because you have listened to the voice  
 of your wife,  
 and have eaten of the tree  
 about which I commanded you,  
 ‘You shall not eat of it,’  
 cursed is the ground because of you;  
 in toil you shall eat of it all the days of  
 your life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for  
 you;  
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.

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

<sup>20</sup> The man named his wife Eve,<sup>b</sup> be-  
 cause she was the mother of all living.<sup>21</sup> And  
 the LORD God made garments of skins for  
 the man<sup>c</sup> and for his wife, and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “See, the  
 man has become like one of us, knowing  
 good and evil; and now, he might reach out  
 his hand and take also from the tree of life,  
 and eat, and live forever”—<sup>23</sup> therefore the  
 LORD God sent him forth from the garden  
 of Eden, to till the ground from which he  
 was taken.<sup>24</sup> He drove out the man; and at

the east of the garden of Eden he placed the  
 cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning  
 to guard the way to the tree of life.

### CAIN MURDERS ABEL

**4** Now the man knew his wife Eve,  
 and she conceived and bore Cain,  
 saying, “I have produced<sup>d</sup> a man  
 with the help of the LORD.”<sup>2</sup> Next  
 she bore his brother Abel. Now  
 Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a til-  
 ler of the ground.<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain  
 brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit  
 of the ground,<sup>4</sup> and Abel for his part brought  
 of the firstlings of his flock, their fat por-  
 tions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and  
 his offering,<sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering

#### Genesis 4:3-4

**KNOW IT!** What offerings did Cain and Abel bring  
 to the Lord?

**THINK ABOUT IT!** Why do you think brothers and  
 sisters fight with each other?

**TRY IT!** Play with someone in a different group  
 during recess.

he had no regard. So Cain was very angry,  
 and his countenance fell.<sup>6</sup> The LORD said to  
 Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your  
 countenance fallen? If you do well, will you  
 not be accepted? And if you do not do well,  
 sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you,  
 but you must master it.”

<sup>8</sup> Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go  
 out to the field.”<sup>e</sup> And when they were in the  
 field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel,  
 and killed him.<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain,  
 “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do  
 not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”<sup>10</sup> And  
 the LORD said, “What have you done? Lis-  
 ten; your brother’s blood is crying out to  
 me from the ground!<sup>11</sup> And now you are  
 cursed from the ground, which has opened  
 its mouth to receive your brother’s blood  
 from your hand.<sup>12</sup> When you till the ground,  
 it will no longer yield to you its strength;

<sup>a</sup> Or to Adam <sup>b</sup> In Heb *Eve* resembles the word for *living* <sup>c</sup> Or for Adam <sup>d</sup> The verb in Heb resembles the word  
 for *Cain* <sup>e</sup> Sam Gk Syr Compare Vg: MT lacks *Let us go out to the field*