

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.

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 When God began to create^a the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^b swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God 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 a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So 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. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule

over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And 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!"

²⁰ 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."²¹ 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. ²²God 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 of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God 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.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humans^c 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^d and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humans^e in his image, in the image of God he created them;^f male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them,

^a Or In the beginning God created ^b Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind ^c Heb adam ^d Syr: Heb and over all the earth ^e Heb him

Think about these questions, and ask a friend or family member to do the **TRY IT!** activities with you.

2 • PENTATEUCH

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

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

GENESIS 2:18

“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.”²⁹ 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.”³⁰ 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.³¹ 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.² On the sixth¹ day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

4 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^s God made the earth and the heavens,⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation 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,⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the

ground^h and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.⁹ 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.

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.

10 A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows 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 Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush.¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

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

18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will

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.

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.

¹ Sam Gk Syr: MT seventh ^s Heb YHWH, as in other places where “LORD” is spelled with capital letters (see also Ex 3:14–15 with notes) ^h In Heb the word for ground resembles the word for man

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.

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Circle words that are confusing, interesting, or gross.

Color or highlight parts you really like.

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

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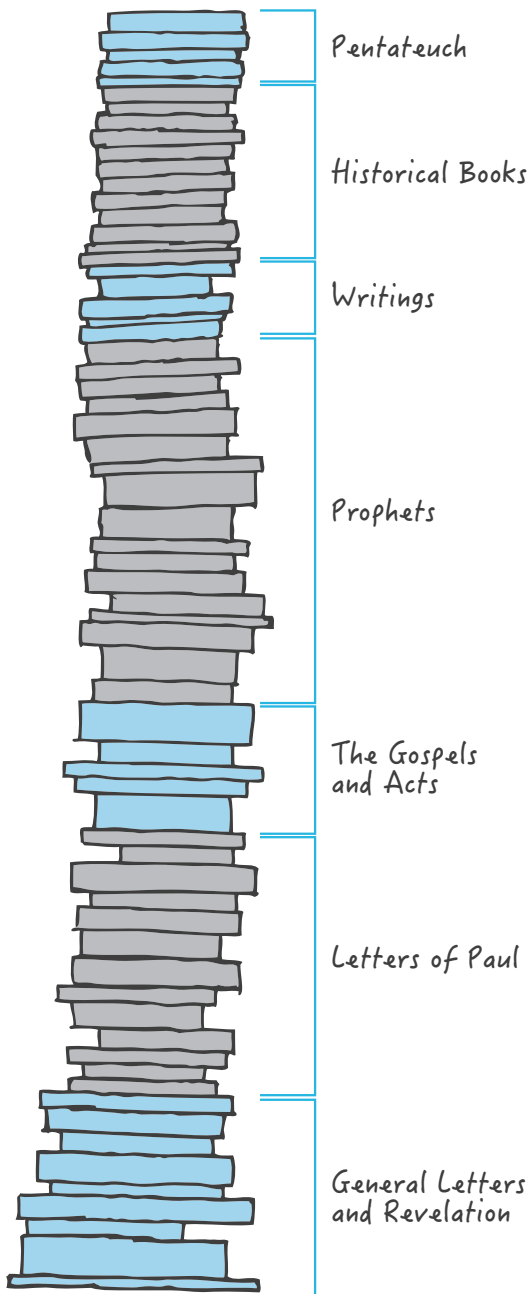
Dirt is good!

Jot notes in the margin.

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



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
OLDTESTAMENT

3 NEXT TO 9 = 39 BOOKS

3 letters in NEW
9 letters in TESTAMENT
NEWTTESTAMENT

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.



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!