

GOD MAKES THE WORLD

Genesis 1-2



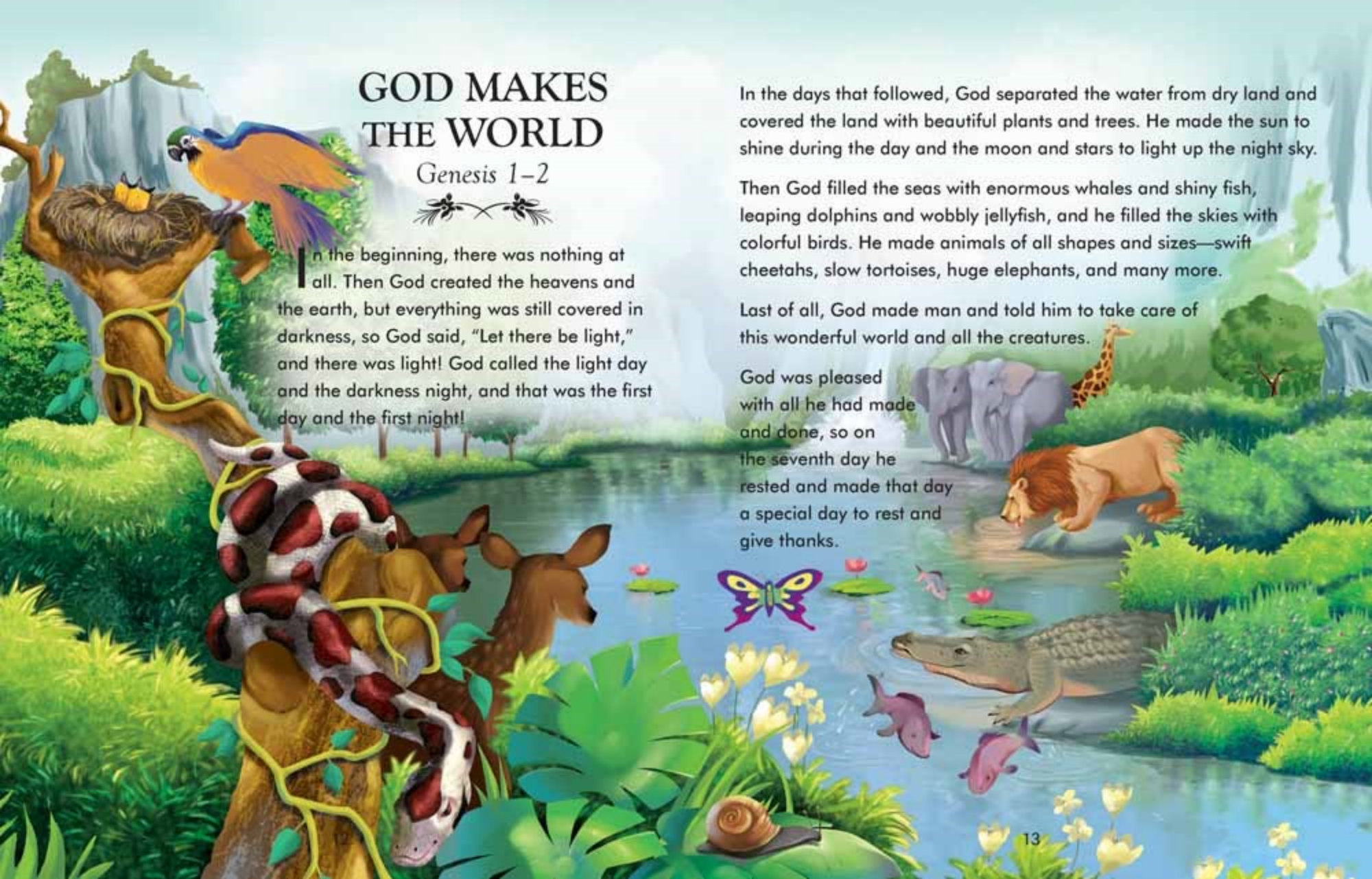
In the beginning, there was nothing at all. Then God created the heavens and the earth, but everything was still covered in darkness, so God said, "Let there be light," and there was light! God called the light day and the darkness night, and that was the first day and the first night!

In the days that followed, God separated the water from dry land and covered the land with beautiful plants and trees. He made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to light up the night sky.

Then God filled the seas with enormous whales and shiny fish, leaping dolphins and wobbly jellyfish, and he filled the skies with colorful birds. He made animals of all shapes and sizes—swift cheetahs, slow tortoises, huge elephants, and many more.

Last of all, God made man and told him to take care of this wonderful world and all the creatures.

God was pleased with all he had made and done, so on the seventh day he rested and made that day a special day to rest and give thanks.





God Makes the World

Have you ever played with a new puppy? Have you ever snuggled its soft fur and been licked by its little pink tongue? Did you know God invented puppies? Warm fur, waggy tails, and puppy breath are all his ideas.

God is the Great Inventor. When he made the world, he had a blank canvas. He could have made anything he wanted—absolutely anything! And the things that spilled out of his heart and mind, such as watercolor-painted sunsets, birds that serenade us every day, and roly-poly puppies—are very, very good. That’s because all God made teaches us one big, beautiful truth about who God is: He is very good.

And guess what? You are God’s invention too! Of all of the options God had—tall or short, freckles or no freckles, talkative or shy—he made you! He thought you up, and then he invented you. You are God’s very own invention, a God-original. And he loves you very much.

Dear God, help me see your good heart in the things you invented. Thank you for this great, good world! **Amen.**

Reflection Questions

1. If you invented something, how would you feel about your invention? Since you are God’s invention, what are some things about you that might make God proud?
2. God invented you because he wants to be your very best friend. What are some things you’d like to tell him as your very best friend?

Action Points

1. Take a walk outside today.
How can you see God’s goodness in nature?
2. Write this on a sticky note and put it on your mirror:
“I am God’s invention, and he is proud of me!”



DISOBEYING GOD

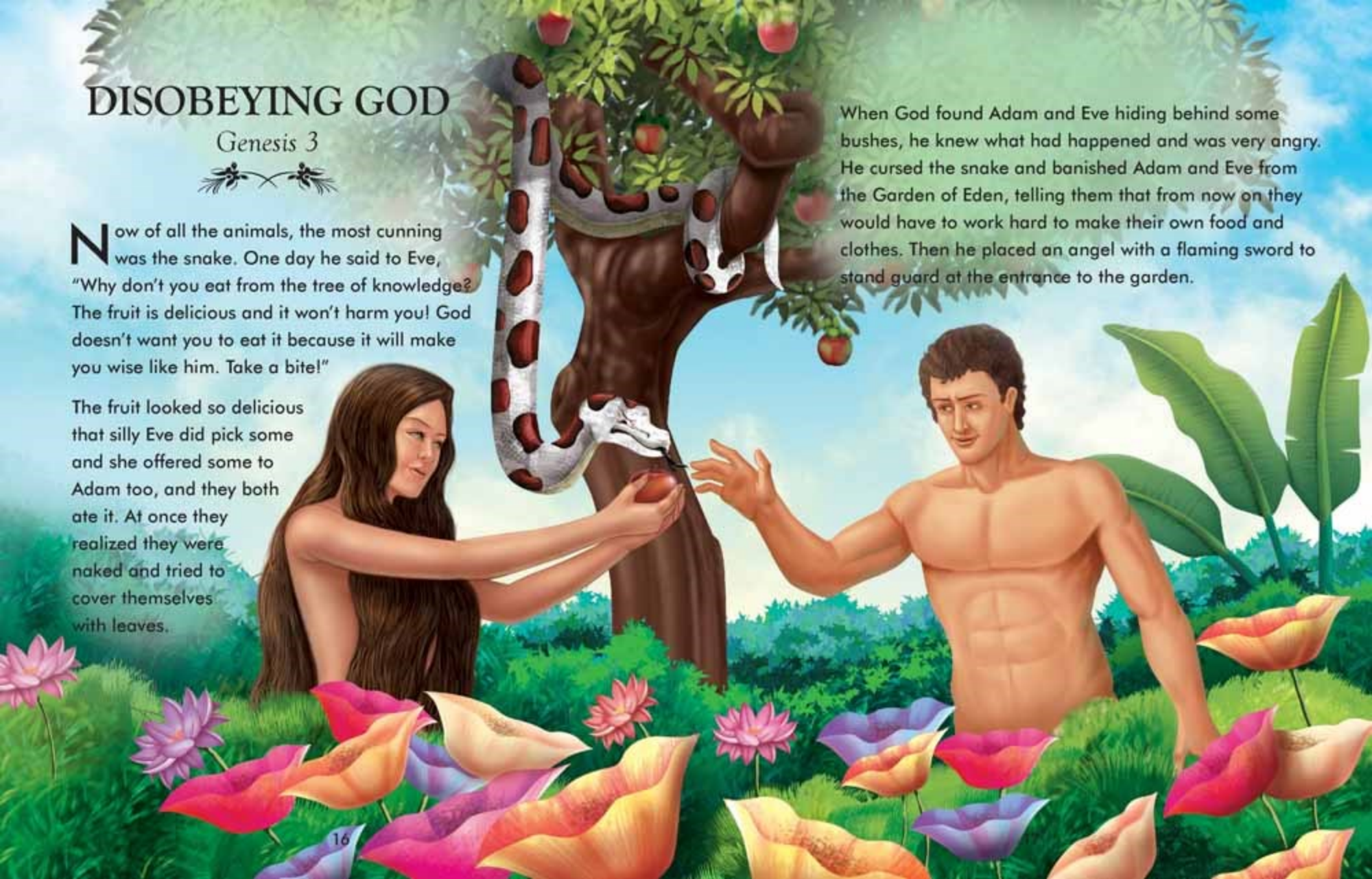
Genesis 3



Now of all the animals, the most cunning was the snake. One day he said to Eve, "Why don't you eat from the tree of knowledge? The fruit is delicious and it won't harm you! God doesn't want you to eat it because it will make you wise like him. Take a bite!"

The fruit looked so delicious that silly Eve did pick some and she offered some to Adam too, and they both ate it. At once they realized they were naked and tried to cover themselves with leaves.

When God found Adam and Eve hiding behind some bushes, he knew what had happened and was very angry. He cursed the snake and banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, telling them that from now on they would have to work hard to make their own food and clothes. Then he placed an angel with a flaming sword to stand guard at the entrance to the garden.





Disobeying God

When God made the world, it shouted one big, beautiful message: “God is good!” But soon after, the snake hissed an awful accusation: “No, he’s not. He’s trying to keep you from something good.” It was an awful lie, but Adam and Eve fell for it. They chose not to trust God, and they disobeyed his one rule.

It broke their friendship with God. Adam and Eve now had sin-stained hearts and could not come close to him anymore. And everyone who was born after Adam and Eve would have sin-stained hearts too.

God was so hurt! But he wouldn’t give up. He promised he would make a way for his friends to come close to him again. After all, that was the very reason why he had made them. And it is the very same reason he made you too!

When something inside of you hints that you shouldn’t obey God, don’t listen to it. Instead, come close to him. He made you to be his good friend forever.

Dear God, help me to trust your good heart. Always. **Amen.**

Reflection Questions

1. Has anyone ever betrayed you? How did it make you feel? Write some feelings you felt below.
2. Adam and Eve betrayed God by disobeying him. Even though he was very hurt, he promised to fix what they had broken. What does that tell you about how God felt about them? Since that is how God treats his friends, how do you think he feels when you disobey him? Write what you think below.

Action Points

1. Using a marker, draw an outline of a heart on a piece of white paper. (You can even use this book if you want.) Then color in the heart with a different color. Now do your best to get the heart white again. You can’t, can you? That’s what happened to us—we had sin-stained hearts we couldn’t get clean. But God promised he would not leave us that way.
2. God gave Adam and Eve one rule because he wanted to protect them. When your parents give you rules, they are trying to protect you too. Obeying their rules is one way you can show them you love them. Do your best today to show you love your parents by obeying the rules they’ve set for you.

THE FLOOD

Genesis 7-9



God warned Noah that a huge flood was coming. He told Noah to build an enormous boat, an ark, so that he and his family might be saved along with two of every living creature. When the ark was finished, Noah loaded it with food for his family and the animals, and then God sent the animals to the ark, two by two, one male and one female of every kind.

When they were all safely in, it began to rain. Water poured down from the skies and covered all the land. Every living creature was drowned. All the towns and cities were washed away. But the ark and its precious cargo floated free on a world of water.

For forty days and forty nights it rained. Then, at last, it stopped. After a while, the floodwaters began to go down. Noah sent out a dove and, when it returned with an olive leaf in its beak, Noah knew that the flood was over, for the trees were growing again.

Then it was time for Noah and the animals to leave the ark. Noah was filled with gratitude, and God promised him that he would never again send such a dreadful flood. He put a beautiful rainbow in the sky to remind him of this promise.





The Flood

Have you ever seen a rainbow? Noah saw the very first one.

Life on earth had gotten so bad that the only thoughts that people had were evil. So God sent a flood and started the world over with his only friend, Noah.

God made his friend a promise: "I will never destroy the earth again with a flood." Then he put a rainbow in the sky as a forever reminder of his promise.

Have you ever seen a bow, like from a bow and arrow? To shoot an arrow, you pull the string, and the bow bends—just like the shape of a rainbow.

You see, even though God had given people a do-over to follow him, he knew their hearts still were not clean. He knew people would still sin. And he knew someone would need to be punished. But God wasn't going to punish people with a flood again. The bow of a rainbow points the arrow toward heaven. God was saying, "This time I'll take the punishment myself." And with Jesus, he did.

Dear God, when I see a rainbow, help me remember you sent Jesus to take the punishment for my sins so I could be your friend forever. Thank you so much! **Amen.**

Reflection Questions

1. Using a pencil, make a list below of some things you have done wrong. When Jesus died for you, he not only paid for your sins but also gave you a clean heart. It was a complete do-over. Now, using an eraser, do your best to completely erase your list.
2. Jesus gave his life to take the punishment for the things you have done wrong, so how must he feel about you? On top of where your list of wrongs used to be, write how God feels about you.

Action Points

1. In the margins of this book, draw and color a rainbow. As you do, thank God for sending Jesus.
2. Do you know someone who needs to know what Jesus has done for them? Talk to God and ask him to help you share Jesus's story with them.