

30 Easily Taught Bible Doctrines



Foreword by
KEN HAM



GOD is REALLY, REALLY REAL

by Jeff
Davenport

OI.

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A Brightly-Illustrated & Rhyming Account of Scripture

Enjoy a quick overview of biblical history from Creation to Christ in the form of fun, rhyming verses you can read each week. *God is Really, Really Real* is designed to help teach children 30 essential biblical doctrines in a creative yet effective way. As children interact with both the picture book and doctrines, they will become better equipped to understand and confront future doubts and challenges to their faith.

Depending on the developmental age of each child, you can use all or some of these helps to communicate the individual truths.

02.

30 Essential Biblical Truths & Tuck-In Questions

Each of the 30 biblical lessons begin with a core concept and its importance; then a short verse and an informational paragraph follows.

- With younger children, it might be a good idea to begin by just talking about a specific doctrine heading such as, “What are some things that God created?”
- For older children, you can read, discuss, and memorize each statement and its meaning such as, “God has always been alive, and He created everything!”

Perfect to personalize for your child, you can use as much or as little of the included information that you feel is needed for your child’s understanding. There are two Tuck-In questions included and space to add one of your own!

03.

Helpful Text for Parents

In the Additional Helps section at the end of the book, you will find extra thoughts and Scriptures for each doctrine. This section is designed to help you dig deeper into God’s Word as you prepare to speak to your child and also to help answer some of the questions they may ask you.



Foreword

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Many parents think that just reading an account from the Bible to their children as a bedtime “story” is teaching them God’s Word. However, children need not only to know what God’s Word says, but also to understand the depth of the content, the doctrines that come out of it, and how to apply it to their lives.

From conception, all of us have a sin nature that is not desirous of God’s Word. The devil can so easily use this sin nature to drag these dear ones the Lord has entrusted to us away from God’s Word. The broad way with its secular education system, media, evolutionary museums, entertainment, and other resources is having catastrophic influences on the coming generations.

That’s why parents need to be so diligent in teaching their children to acquire a taste for the things of the Lord, basically from when they are born. In our modern world, it seems many Christian materials have watered down the teaching of God’s Word to the extent that much of it these days is what I call “fluff and stuff.” Children have an innate God-given incredible ability to learn and comprehend complex matters.

That’s why I love this new book for children entitled *God Is Really, Really Real*. This is an exciting opportunity for parents to teach their children God’s Word and delve into the richness of the content in a way they will remember. Yes, God is really, really real, and parents have a God-commanded responsibility to ensure children are taught the wonderful truths God gives us — and teach them in a way that they will understand and remember. That’s what *God Is Really, Really Real* is all about.

—Ken Ham
President Answers in Genesis,
Creation Museum,
and Ark Encounter

WELCOME!

The fact that you are reading these words probably means you have a child or children in your life that you care a lot about. Like me, you want them to understand who God is and the unique plan He has for them. That unique plan is found in the Bible!

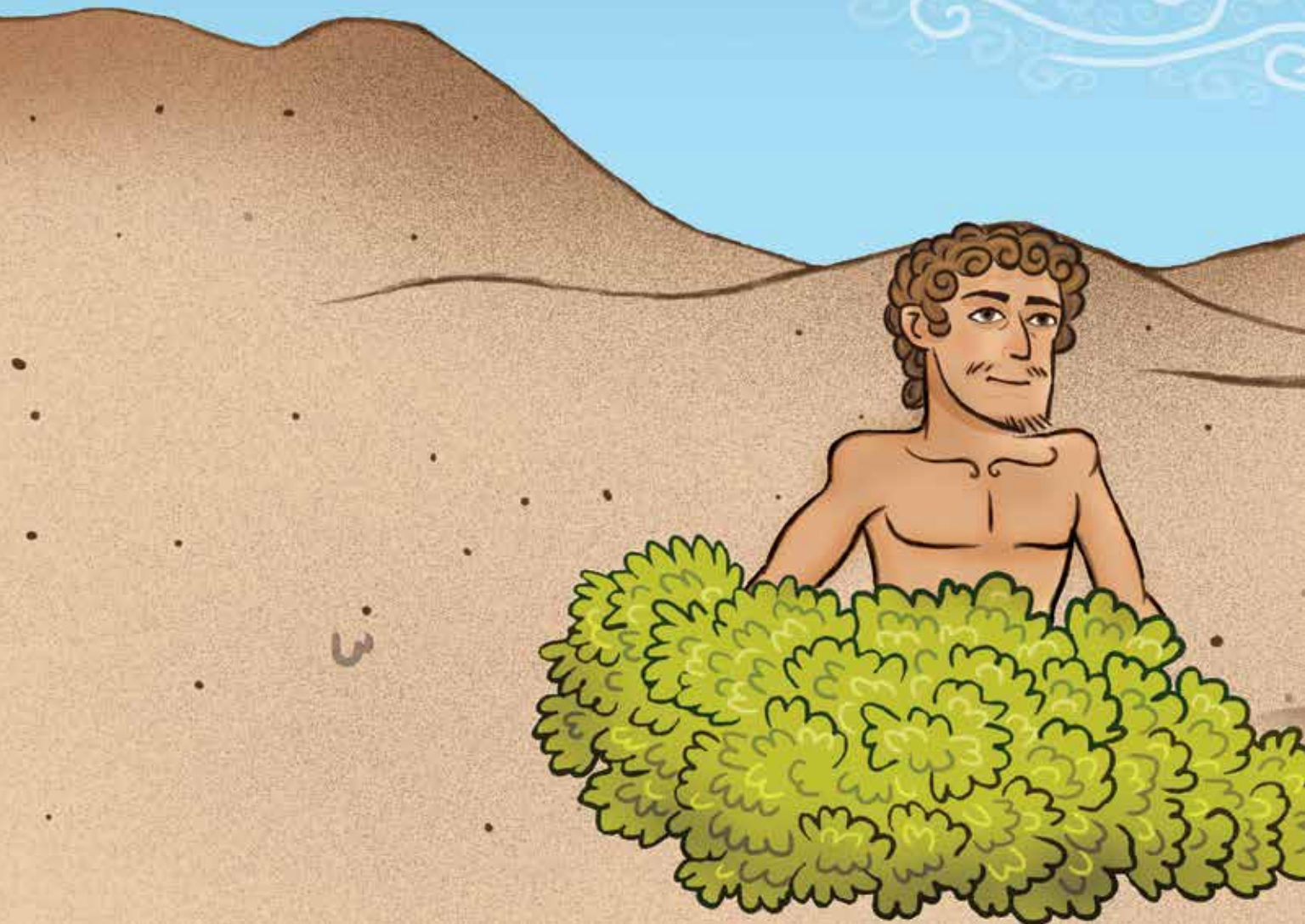
God Is Really, Really Real is designed to help teach children 30 essential biblical doctrines in a creative yet effective way. As children interact with both the picture book and doctrines, they will become better equipped to understand and confront future doubts and challenges to their faith. Much research has proven that we are losing our children while they are still young! One survey reported, “Three out of every five young Christians (59%) disconnect either permanently or for an extended period of time from church life after age 15.” That’s alarming! However, I am confident that *God Is Really, Really Real* will help young people better understand what they believe so they will not so easily be persuaded to walk away from their faith.

As you guide your children in establishing a foundation of biblical truth, you will help them on their way to understanding all that God has in store for them as He reveals it in His Word! *God Is Really, Really Real* will help plant biblical truth into the minds of children, while prayerfully awaiting the day God reveals it to their hearts!

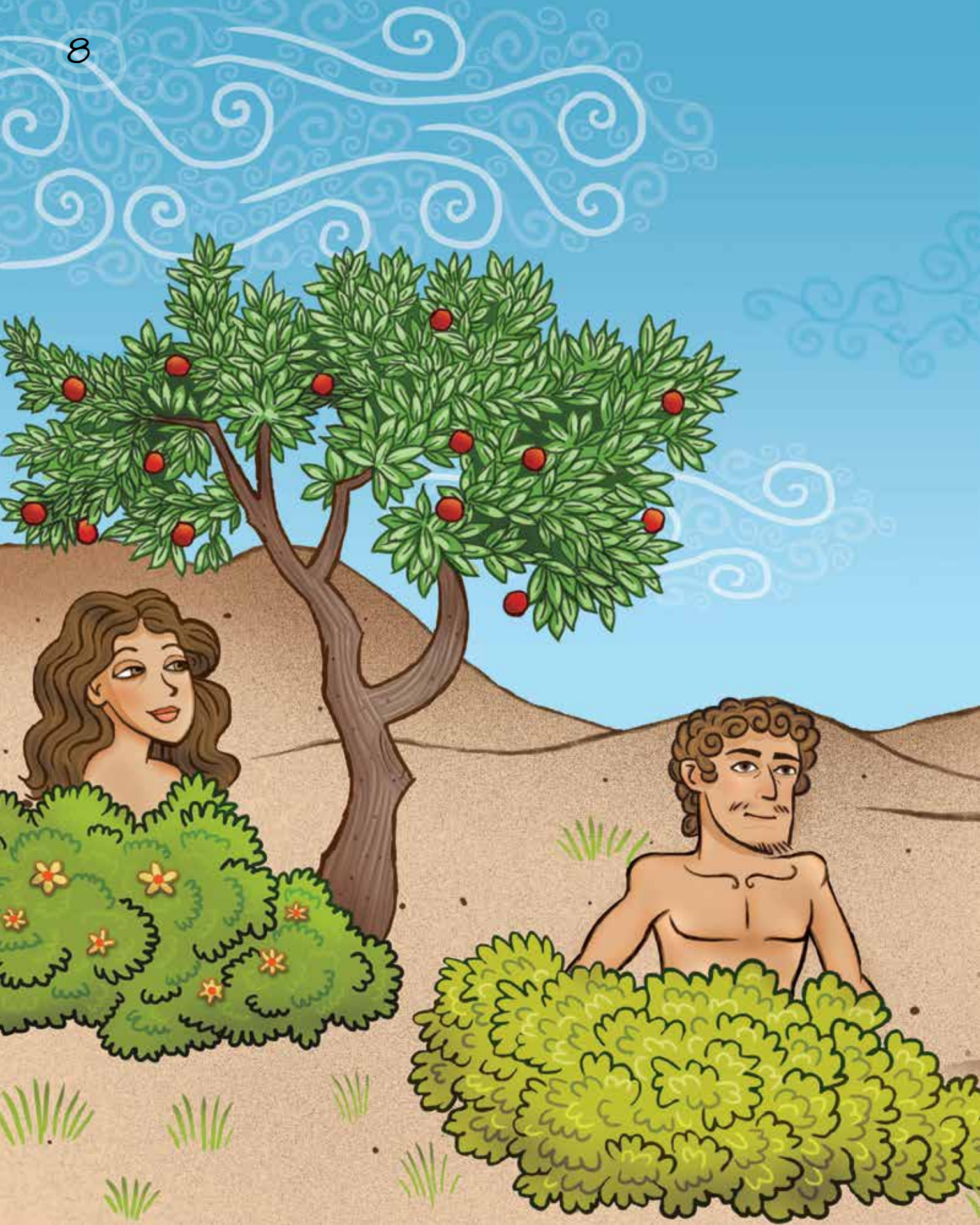
— Jeff Davenport

This book is lovingly dedicated to my precious grandchildren, whom I love deeply and whom God amazingly loves even more!

It's so much fun to learn about God,
Like how He created the clouds and the sod
And then turned some sod into a man,
But didn't stop there with His master plan.







He made a woman from the rib of that guy,
And gave them a garden with a pretty blue sky.
He gave them the earth and He gave it for free,
Except for the fruit on this one special tree.

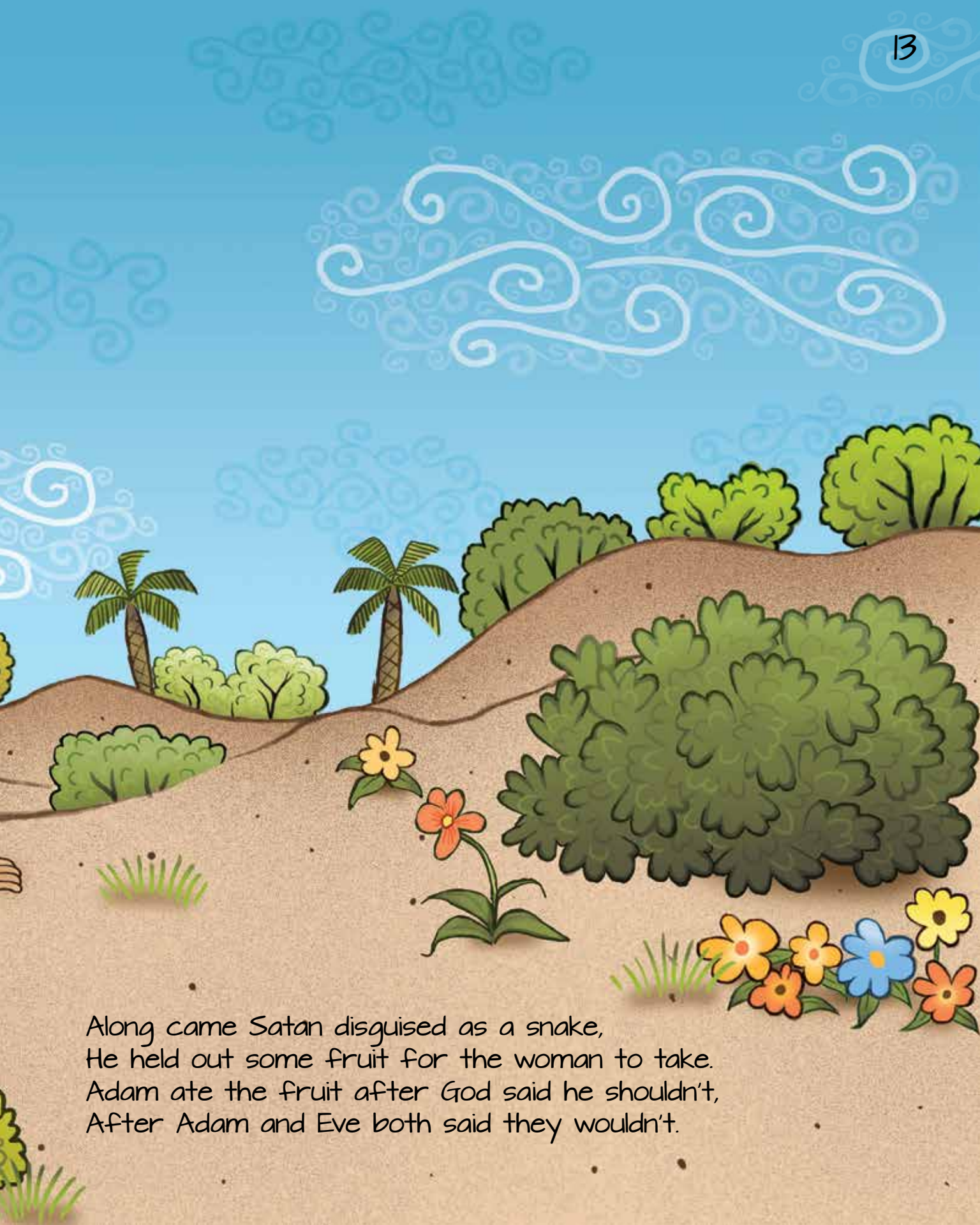


God told them, "Don't eat it or else you will die."
They both said, "Okay" and didn't ask why.
They trusted in God and were having a blast!
They did what He asked, but that didn't last.









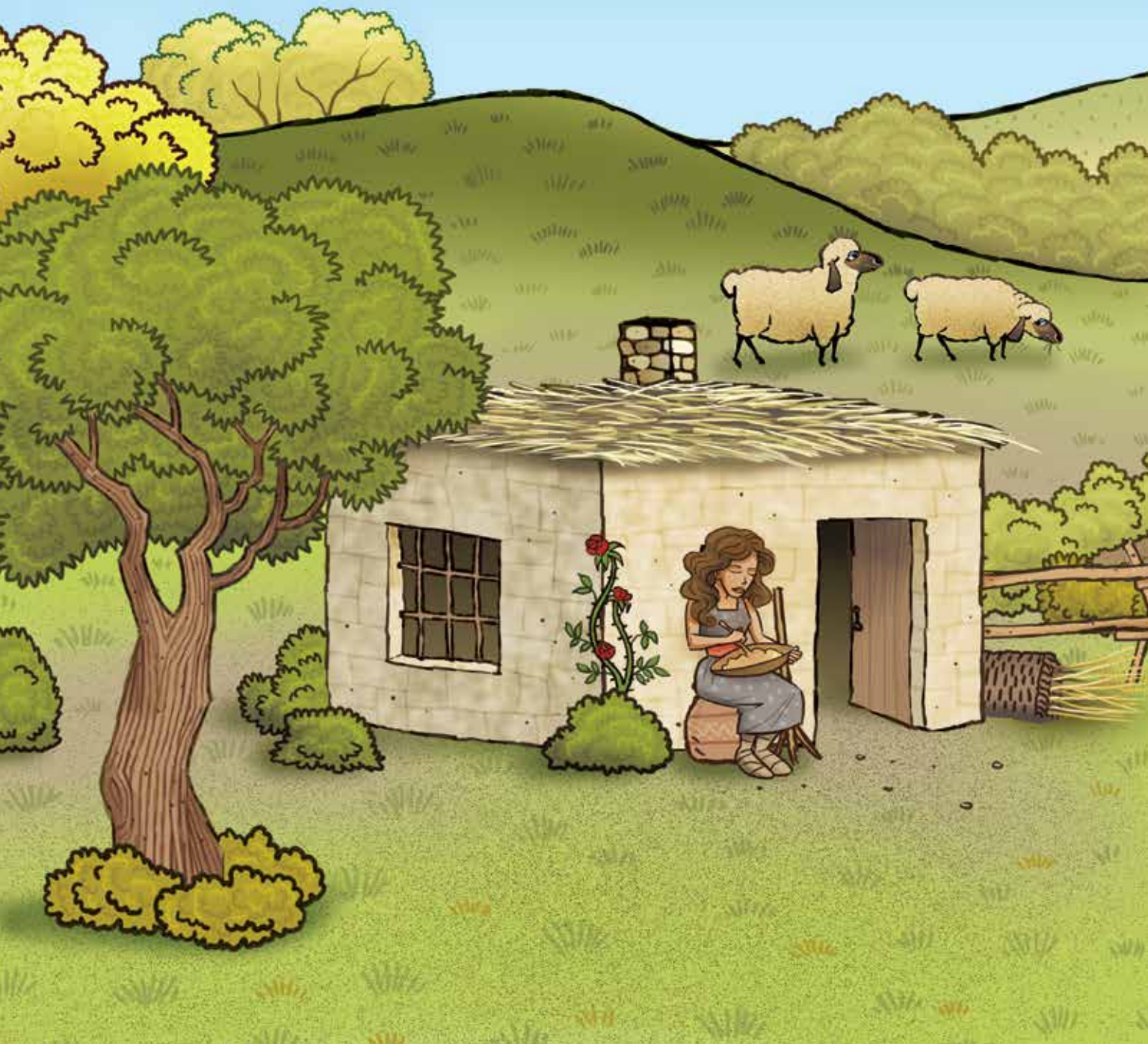
Along came Satan disguised as a snake,
He held out some fruit for the woman to take.
Adam ate the fruit after God said he shouldn't,
After Adam and Eve both said they wouldn't.



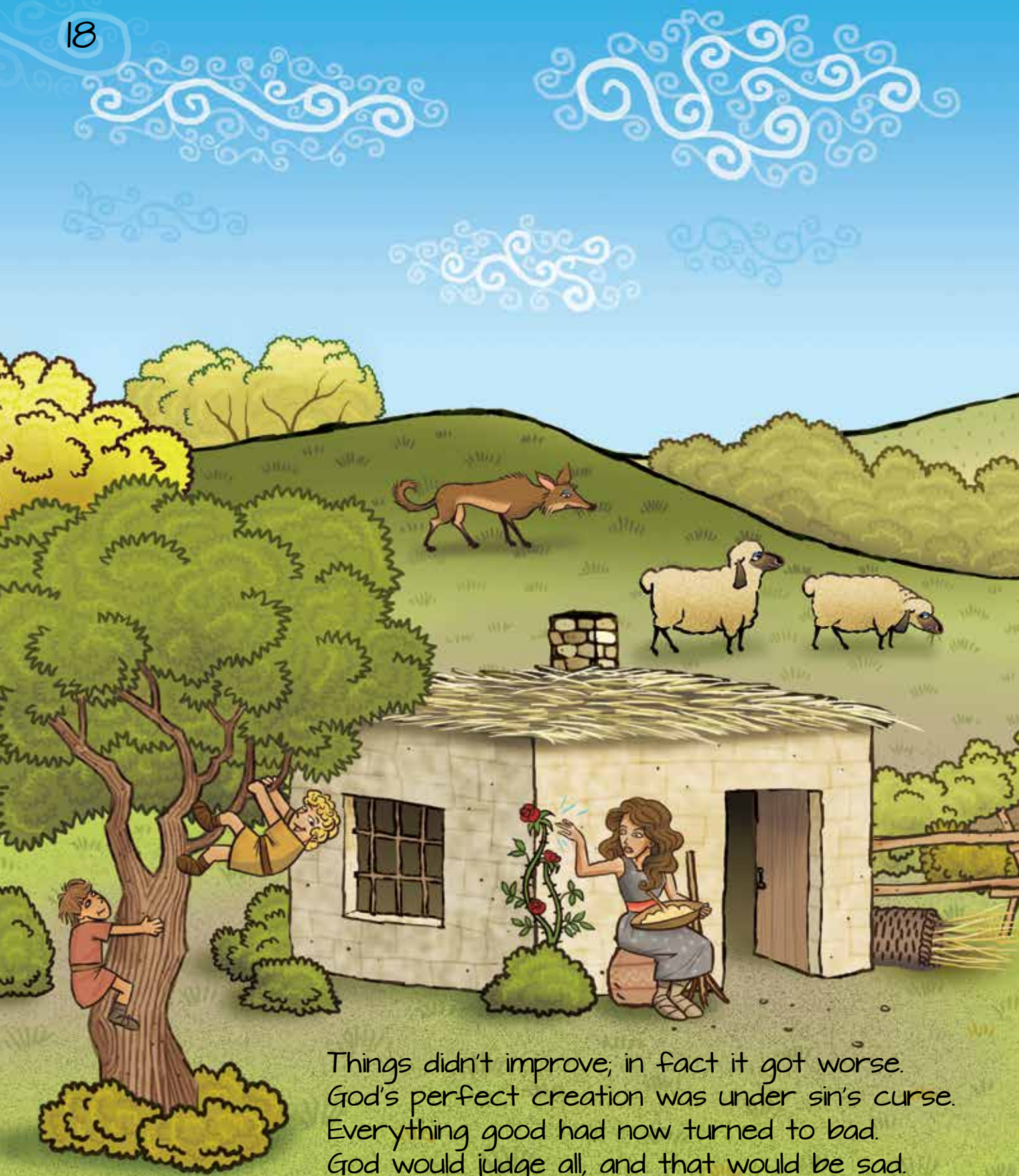
Now they felt naked in front of the Lord,
They looked for some clothes, a leaf or a gourd.
But God killed a beast and gave them its skin,
The start of His plan to cover their sin.



Because they had sinned, God kicked them right out,
They lost all their pets and lost all their clout.
Their sin broke the friendship they once had with God,
And now life was hard, and felt rather odd.







Things didn't improve; in fact it got worse. God's perfect creation was under sin's curse. Everything good had now turned to bad. God would judge all, and that would be sad.



God flooded the earth and brought devastation,
But in Noah's Ark He provided salvation.
Two of each species and Noah's whole crew,
Waited inside till God made things new.





A dove brought the news the rain had subsided,
And high on a mountain the Ark now resided.
God sent Noah to start a new life,
The animals, his kids, and also his wife.





ABOUT GOD

God created everything and is ruler over all.

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

—Revelation 4:11



God has always existed. God has no beginning and no end; He is eternal. God is perfect, He knows all things, He has the power to do all things, and He loves unselfishly. God is the Creator, and He created everything in the heavens and on the earth for His glory. Nothing happened by accident; God designed it all, and He is the Supreme Ruler over all creation. No person is greater than God.

TUCK-IN QUESTIONS

1. Who created everything?
2. Why did God create everything?
3. _____?

Additional Helps (About God) on page 80



Lesson 2

ABOUT THE TRINITY

The Trinity is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

—Matthew 28:19

The word “trinity” means three. There is only one God, but that one God exists as three individual persons. Those three persons are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three are equally God. Each person of the Trinity is separate, yet they make up one eternal God. God is not complete without all three persons of the Trinity. Although there are three persons, we worship them as one complete God.



TUCK-IN QUESTIONS

1. What number do you think of when I say Trinity?
2. Can you name the three persons in God's Trinity?
3. _____?

Additional Helps (About the Trinity) on page 80

1. ABOUT GOD Teaching your children about God will help them better understand how to live for His glory with hope, courage, and confidence (Psalm 19:1). However, we must first understand that God is greater than any human. Because of God's supreme greatness, there are aspects about God that are beyond our ability to fully understand and explain (Exodus 15:11; 1 Corinthians 13:12). We will never fully understand everything about God until we get to Heaven. God is a loving God and He loves everyone (John 3:16). In fact, the Bible tells us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God is also holy, which means that He is without sin, He can do nothing wrong (Leviticus 19:2). The Bible tells us that God is so holy He cannot even look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13). God is also just and righteous (Deuteronomy 32:4; Ezra 9:15), which means He always does what is right and fair. It is because God is just and righteous that He must punish sin. God is the Creator (Genesis 1), and He created everything. God Himself was not created; He has always existed. God is omniscient, which means He knows everything; He doesn't need anyone to teach Him anything (Jeremiah 23:24). God is omnipotent, which means He is all-powerful and can do anything (Luke 1:37). God is also omnipresent, which means He is all-present; He is everywhere (Proverbs 15:3). Learning more about God enables us to trust Him. Trust is important. Trust allows us to have confidence in a person. When we have confidence in someone, we do not only run to them in times of trouble, but even when we just want to spend time together (Psalm 31:1). Finally, teach your child that since God is greater than anyone or anything, we should worship and serve only Him (Matthew 4:10).

2. ABOUT THE TRINITY Teaching and explaining the Trinity to children can be challenging, but it is not impossible! The reality of the Trinity is taught in the Bible. The Trinity is one of the aspects about God that is beyond our ability to fully understand and explain. In teaching children about the Trinity, we must help them understand only what the Bible teaches on the subject. The concept of the Trinity means that there is only one God, but that one God exists as three individual persons. Those three persons are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three are equally God. The Father is God (Philippians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:3), Jesus Christ (the Son) is God (1 Corinthians 8:6), and the Holy Spirit is God (2 Corinthians 13:14; Acts 5:3–4). A good passage that shows all three persons in the Trinity is Matthew 3:13–17. The Trinity works together for our salvation. God requires that those who sin must be punished; that means all of us, because everyone sins (Romans 3:23). The punishment for sin is death and eternal separation from God (spending eternity in Hell — Romans 6:23). However, God required and provided a perfect blood sacrifice to pay for our sins so that we do not have to be separated from Him (Hebrews 9:22). Since we all sin, we could never be perfect; our blood is tainted because of our sin. So, on our own, we could never save ourselves. But because of God's love for us (John 3:16; Romans 5:8), God the Father (the first person of the Trinity) sent Jesus Christ the Son (the second person of the Trinity) to earth as a human (Galatians 4:4), but Jesus never stopped being God when He came to earth. He was born as a baby (Luke 1:30–33, 2:4–7, 21), He grew up (Luke 2:52), and lived as a man, but He never sinned. He was perfect (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus allowed sinful people to crucify Him on the Cross so that He could take the punishment for our sin (Hebrews 9:22). As a man, Jesus died physically. Since Jesus was God and sinless, He alone could provide the perfect blood sacrifice that God required as payment for our sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). After Jesus died on the Cross (Matthew 27:50), He was buried (Matthew 27:58–60), but on the third day He arose from the grave (Matthew 28:6). Many people saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead (Matthew 28:9, 16–17; Luke 24:13–51; 1 Corinthians 15:6). Jesus then returned to Heaven (Luke 24:51). But Jesus didn't want to leave us by ourselves (John 14:16–18), so He asked God the Father to send the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) to live inside believers who accept God's free gift



of salvation by asking Jesus to forgive them of their sin and trusting Him as their Lord and Savior (John 14:16–18; Ephesians 1:13–14). Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we can better understand the mysteries of God's Word, including the concept of the Trinity (1 Corinthians 2:14).

3. ABOUT CREATION Creation is one of the most exciting and teachable doctrines found in the Bible. The very first verse of the Bible, Genesis 1:1, tells us that, “In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth.” God is the Creator. He created everything. In the beginning, God was already there. God was not created; He has always existed. Genesis chapter 1 then tells us that God created the Heavens and the earth, the darkness and light, the sky, water, land, plants, trees, sun, moon, stars, fish, birds, and animals, all from nothing. God is all-knowing and all-powerful, so this was not hard for Him. God then took some dust from the ground (Genesis 2:7) and made a man in His own image and breathed the breath of life into him, and then made the woman from his side (Genesis 2:21–23). God made all of these things in six days and He saw that everything He made was good (Genesis 1:31). When the Bible says God created everything in six days, it means six literal, 24-hour days. Teach your child that the word used for “day” (“yôm ’ehäd”) in Genesis 1:5 actually means a 24-hour day, not millions and millions of years. God can do anything, and creating everything in six days was not difficult for God. Help your child understand that everything created is by God's design (Romans 1:20). God specifically designed animals and plants in such a way as to help them grow and thrive in their environment. As children realize that God created them, we must explain to them that God has a unique design and purpose for their life as well. For more information and teaching ideas on the subject of creation, consider visiting answersingenesis.org and answersingenesis.org/kids.

4. ABOUT MANKIND Many children today are being taught that they are the result of a “big bang,” a random cosmic explosion in outer space! In essence, they are being taught that they are here on earth by accident. It is so important to teach children that they are not an accident, but instead, wonderful creations by God, lovingly designed and created for a unique purpose (Revelation 4:11; Isaiah 43:7). God tells us that each one of us is “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). God knows everything about every one of us (Psalm 139:1–16) because He is the one who “knitted” us together in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13). These are some of the most important truths children can learn about themselves. Understanding about God's unique design for them is foundational because it helps them discover their created purpose in life, which is to bring glory to God (Isaiah 43:7; 1 Peter 2:9). The Bible also teaches that God created woman from man so that man would not be alone (Genesis 2:18). God designed and created man and woman for His glory (Matthew 5:16). Understanding that God created all of mankind, and that He loved us enough to send His only Son to pay for our sins (John 3:16), helps us value other people as God's unique creation as well.

5. ABOUT MARRIAGE The Bible teaches that God created a woman (Eve) from the rib of a man (Adam), and then brought the woman to Adam so that he would not be alone (Genesis 3:20–22). God had a specific creative order so that men and women would complement each other in their created purposes (Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:23–33). This is how marriage came to be. God designed marriage to be between one created man and one created woman (Genesis 2:4). Jesus clearly taught that marriage is between one created man and one





THE AUTHOR

Jeff Davenport is a pastor in Covington, Kentucky, where he enjoys communicating God's Word and encouraging God's people through writing and teaching. He and his wife, Beth, have three adult children and several grandchildren, who call them Poppie and Grammie!

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Bill Looney is a talented artist and musician, educated at the University of Texas at Arlington and the Dallas Art Institute. He entered the arena of professional commercial art and illustration in the early '70s. Most recently, Bill's artwork has been published in such books as *The Flood of Noah*, *Giants: Legends & Lore of Goliaths*, and *Dragons: Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs*.

ENDORSEMENTS

"Great format with great questions to help inculcate God's truths to young, developing minds. Children learn best when information is presented in the context of ideas with which they are familiar. I feel strongly that this book will help children to hide His Word in their hearts so that they will more strongly serve Him."

—W. Mark Posey, PhD.,
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the
University of South Carolina School of Medicine
(Pediatric Psychologist)

