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children's  
BIBLE

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## JANUARY 1—IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning there was nothing. It was dark and empty and shapeless.

“Let there be light!” God said. As soon as he said the words, light came into existence. God saw that the light was good. God divided the light, so that there was day and there was night.

God made the sky and separated it from the waters below.

God brought the waters together into seas and created dry land.

“Let the land produce plants and trees full of seeds and fruits,” God said. Then all varieties of green and leafy plants filled the land, from tall redwood trees to trees bearing olives and oranges, acorns and chestnuts. God saw that all he had made was good.

“Let there be lights in the sky for the night and the day,” God said. “Let them mark times and seasons, days, months, and years.” So the golden sun became the light that shone in the day and the silvery moon the light that beamed in the night sky. God also filled the darkness with stars, and he saw that all he had made was good.

“Let the waters be filled with living creatures and the skies with every kind of winged bird. Let them multiply and increase in number.” Then every kind of fish and sea creature swam and splashed in the seas, and the air above became filled with color and shape and sound. There were dolphins and sea horses, eagles, owls, robins and wrens, buzzing bees, and beautiful butterflies.

“Let there be all sorts of creatures to move on the land,” God said. So there were sheep and goats, elephants and giraffes, lions, tigers, and graceful gazelles.

God looked at everything that he had made and saw that it was good.

Then God made man and woman. He put them in charge of his creation, to care for it and gather food from it. God loved the people he had made, and he saw that everything he had made was very good. Then God rested.

## JANUARY 2—THE PERFECT WORLD

God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in. It was full of plants and trees with fruit they could eat. The garden was watered by a river that ran through it, and Adam and Eve tended the garden and worked in it.

GENESIS 1:1–2:3

*In the beginning  
God created the  
heavens and  
the earth.  
Genesis 1:1*

Adam and Eve were good company for each other. They shared the work, and they lived happily together. Adam gave names to all the creatures that God had made.

God told them that they could eat anything that grew in the garden except the fruit of one tree in the middle of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

GENESIS 2:4-25

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."*

*Genesis 2:18*

## JANUARY 3—GOOD AND EVIL

One of the creatures in the garden was a snake.

He came to Eve and tempted her.

"Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" he asked.

"God told us we can eat from every tree except the tree in the middle of the garden," said Eve. "If we eat from that tree, we will die."

"You will not die," said the snake. "God does not want you to eat from that tree because if you do, you will know good and evil just as God does."

Eve looked at the tree. She saw how lovely its fruit looked and thought about what the snake had said. She took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave it to Adam, and he ate some too.

As soon as they had eaten, Adam and Eve knew what they had done. They realized why God had told them not to eat the fruit. Now they had disobeyed God and it was too late to make things right. They felt guilty and ashamed,

GENESIS 3:1-8

*The woman . . .  
saw that the tree  
was beautiful  
and its fruit  
looked delicious,  
and she wanted  
the wisdom it  
would give her.  
So she took some  
of the fruit and  
ate it. Then she  
gave some to her  
husband . . . and  
he ate it, too.*

*Genesis 3:6*

and when they heard God coming in the garden, they found trees to hide among so he would not see them.

## JANUARY 4—ADAM AND EVE ARE SENT AWAY

God called out to Adam. “Where are you?”

“I was afraid, so I hid,” replied Adam.

“Have you eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?” God asked.

“It wasn’t me,” said Adam. “The woman gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

“What have you done?” God asked Eve.

“It wasn’t my fault,” said Eve. “The snake tricked me, and I ate the fruit.”

God was very sad. He turned to the snake and told him that he would crawl on his belly from that time on. He turned to Eve and told her that she

would have pain as she gave birth to her children. He told Adam that thorns and thistles would choke the plants he grew.

Then God banished Adam and Eve from the garden he had given them. They had chosen to disobey him. They now knew the difference between what was right and what was wrong. They would know suffering and death; they could not be God's friends in the same way anymore.

## JANUARY 5—CAIN AND ABEL

After a time Eve gave birth to a son. They called him Cain. Then Eve had a second child, a son named Abel.

Both boys grew up to be farmers. They knew how much they depended on God to give them sun and rain for the harvests and to help their animals give birth to healthy lambs and baby goats. Cain planted seeds and grew crops while Abel kept the sheep and goats.

One day Cain brought some of his crops as a gift to God, to thank him for the harvest. Abel also brought a gift of the first of his newborn lambs.

God saw not only the gifts that were brought but also the two brothers. He knew that Abel had brought his gift out of faith, because he loved God and knew that all good things come from him. God also knew that Cain had brought his gift because he thought he had to, not because he cared about God. God was pleased with Abel, but he was disappointed with Cain. And Cain knew it.

Cain was jealous.

"Why are you angry, Cain?" asked God. "Do what is right and you will be accepted. But beware of your bad temper. You are not in control of it, and it may destroy you."

Cain knew that God was right. But he wouldn't listen. He could think of nothing except having revenge on his brother.

Cain asked Abel to go out into the field with him. He planned to wait for the right moment—and kill him there.

Later God asked Cain where his brother was.

"How should I know?" lied Cain. "Is it my job to look after him?"

"I warned you about your anger," said God. "Now your brother's death is on your own heart. You will know what it is to feel guilty for doing wrong."

GENESIS 3:9-24

*After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Genesis 3:24

GENESIS 4:1-5:4

*It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts.*

Hebrews 11:4

But God was good to Adam and Eve. He gave them another son, Seth, because Cain had killed his brother, and then other sons and daughters.

## JANUARY 6—NOAH'S ARK

Many years passed, and the land became full of people. But few remembered who God was. They did as they pleased. They took what they wanted from others. They spoiled the world that God had made and thought only of themselves. God knew that the world had become an evil place, full of greed, hatred, and violence. He decided to wash it clean and start all over again.

There was one man who remembered God. His name was Noah. Noah had a wife and three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

### GENESIS 6

*“Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood.”*

*Genesis 6:19*

“Noah!” God said one day. “I am going to end all the evil there is in the world. I want you to build an ark—a huge boat that will float on the floodwaters that I will send to wash the earth clean. I will tell you exactly how to build it so that you and your family and two of every kind of creature will be safe inside the ark.”

God told Noah how to build the ark. He told him how long it was to be, how many decks it should have, and where to put the door. God told Noah to coat the ark with tar to keep water out, and to fill it with food supplies.

Noah set about building the ark. He began to make the huge boat miles

from any sea. It took him many years of his life, and the people around him watched and thought he was crazy.

## JANUARY 7 — THE GREAT FLOOD

The ark was ready.

God told Noah to collect two of every kind of living creature—seven pairs of every kind of bird, and seven pairs of every animal that would be used for sacrifice. The animals came to Noah as if they too knew what God had planned, and Noah took them all on board the ark. Then God shut the door.

Outside the rain began to fall. The rain fell steadily until the streams and rivers were full and burst their banks. The rain fell until underground springs broke through the earth. The rain fell until no dry land could be seen anywhere.

Everything that had lived on the earth was destroyed by the flood. But the ark that God had told Noah to build floated on the waters. God kept Noah, his family, and all the animals safe inside the ark.

GENESIS 7

*The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.*

*Genesis 7:12*

## JANUARY 8 — THE RAINBOW

Inside the ark, Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives worked to care for the animals. Days passed. Weeks passed. And still the rain fell.

Then one day it stopped. The ark floated gently.

Slowly, very slowly, the waters began to go down. The ark rested on the Ararat mountains. More weeks passed, and the tops of the mountains became visible.

Then Noah took hold of a raven and set it free in the air. The bird stretched its wings and flew, but there was nowhere for it to land. It flew back and forth until there was food for it to find on the earth.

Noah waited a little longer, and then he sent out a dove to see if the land was dry yet. But water still covered the ground. The dove returned to the ark.

After seven days, Noah sent out the dove again. This time the bird returned with an olive leaf. Noah knew that the waters were going down.

Another seven days passed, and Noah sent out the dove for the third time.

When the bird did not return, Noah knew that it had found somewhere to rest. But Noah waited until God told him it was time to leave the ark.

Then they came out—Noah, his family, and all the creatures that had been kept safe.

Noah watched as all the animals went to find their homes on the earth. Then he built an altar and sacrificed some of the birds he had brought for that purpose. Noah thanked God for keeping them all safe.

“I will never destroy all the earth with water again,” promised God. “I have put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of my promise.”

GENESIS 8:1–9:17

*“When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.”*

Genesis 9:16

## JANUARY 9—THE TOWER OF BABEL

Noah's sons had children of their own. Their families went on to have families too, and soon people spread out again across the land.

One of Ham's descendants was Nimrod. He was a mighty hunter and built the city of Nineveh.

At that time everyone spoke the same language. They started to build not with stones but with bricks baked in the hot sun. First they built cities; then one group of people decided to build a tower. The tower reached high into the sky so that everyone would know how great they were.

God saw the people as they were building the tower. He saw that once more they thought they were great and powerful and did not need him. God saw that they were proud and soon would be just like the people who had lived before the flood.

So God caused their language to be confused; now they couldn't understand each other.

The tower was abandoned, and the people began to make new groups of people who each shared the same language.

God then scattered them further over all the earth.