

The big story of the Bible



An easy read journey
through God's special book

Jo Acharya

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through God's special book

by Jo Acharya



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You can read this page any time!

About this book



My name is Jo, and I wrote this book. It is for everyone who wants to know more about the Bible.

This book has easy words and helpful pictures. I wrote it this way to help anyone who finds reading hard.

I hope this book will help you see how the Bible fits together into one big story. I hope it will help you get to know God better.



The Bible is full of stories. An old woman has an impossible baby. A man gets swallowed by a whale. A brave queen saves her people.

But the Bible is also one big story. This is God's story. It tells us how the world got broken, and God's plan to fix it. It tells us about God's friendship with people like you and me.

This book is a journey through the Bible. We will meet lots of different people who trusted God. We will uncover God's plan to fix the world. And we will learn how we can be part of God's story too.

How to read this book

You can read this book as fast or slow as you like. You do not have to read a whole chapter. You can read just one page at a time.

→ Main chapters

The main chapters take you on a journey through the Bible.

If you want to understand the big story of the Bible, it is best to read these chapters in order.

But you can also look up any part of the story at any time.

→ Zoom in chapters

The zoom in chapters tell you more about some important things in the Bible. They help you understand what the big story of the Bible means.

Some of the zoom in chapters might take a bit longer to understand. You can read them as you go along, or you can come back to them later.

→ Indexes

At the back of the book there are 3 indexes where you can look up a person, topic or book of the Bible. The indexes tell you where to find those things in this book.

The topic index also tells you the meaning of some important words. If you do not know what a word means, you can look for it there.

→ Symbols and coloured writing

This book uses symbols and coloured writing to help you understand.

At the start of each main chapter is a summary:



Who the people are



Where we are in the Bible



A quick look at what happens in this part of the story.

As you read the rest of the chapter you will find:



Bible verse



Questions



Prayers



At the end, you learn how this chapter fits into the big story.

Bible verses in pink like this (Genesis chapter 2 verses 4-25) tell you where in the Bible you can find out more.

Page numbers in pink like this (Page 72) tell you where in this book you can find out more.

Words in dark blue are words from the Bible.

If you need help

The Bible is a big book. It was written long ago, when life was very different. The Bible also teaches us new things. It takes time to understand these things.

So do not worry if you do not understand everything in this book to start with. You do not need to understand everything to be friends with God.

Even people who have been friends with God for a long time are still learning more about him!



It is a good idea to talk to another Christian about what you are learning. They can help you if you have questions or want to know more. If you like, you can ask them to read the book with you.

You can ask God for help too. God wants you to be his friend. So he will help you get to know him better. He will help you understand the most important things.

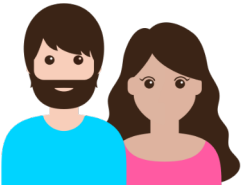
1

God makes the world

God made the world. He made people. Then he rested.



Genesis chapters 1-2



Adam
Eve



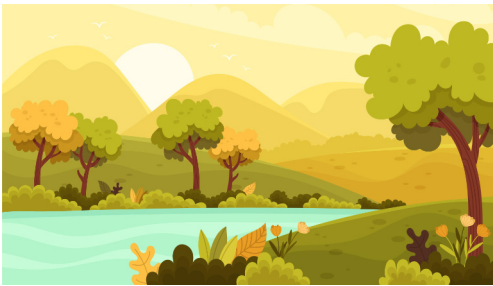
Quick look



God made the world and everything in it.

Everything God made was good.

God made people too. He loves us very much.



God gave his people a garden to live in.

A good world

At the start, there was nothing. Then God made everything.

God made the sun, moon and stars. He made the world. He made water and land. He made plants and animals.



God made people too. He made us to be like him. He made us to be friends with him.

God loves people very much.



What are some good things in the world?

The first people

(Genesis chapter 2 verses 4-25)

God took some dust from the ground. He made a man out of the dust. Then God breathed into the man's nose. The man came to life. God called the man Adam.

Then God said “It is not good for the man to be alone.” (Genesis chapter 2 verse 18, ERV) God wanted to make more people. He wanted people to love and help each other.

So God made Adam fall asleep. He took a bone from Adam's body. He made a woman out of the bone. The woman was called Eve.

Adam woke up and saw the woman. He knew she was the friend he needed. Adam was very happy.



Adam needed other people. I need other people too.

Everyone needs to be loved. And everyone needs help sometimes. We all need good friends.

Think about the people who love and help you. Thank God for each of them.

God rests

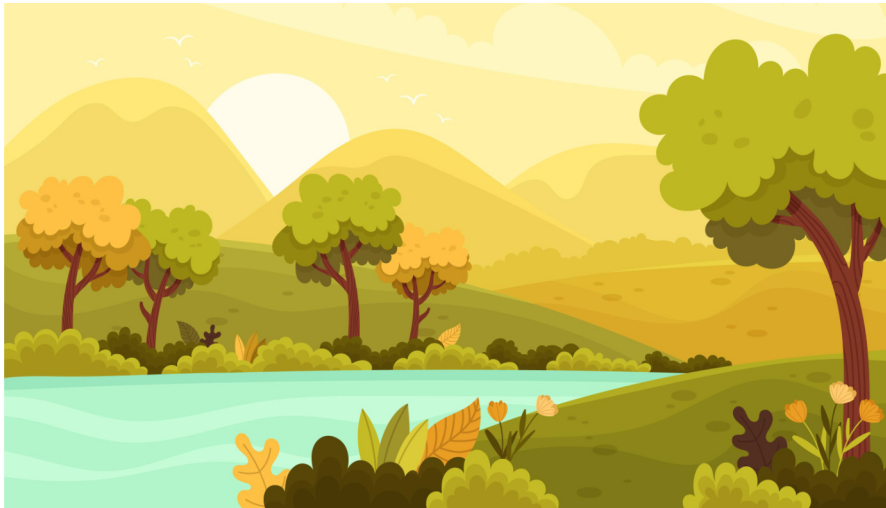
Everything God made was very good. There was nothing bad in the world.

God looked at everything he had made. And he saw that everything was very good.

(Genesis chapter 1 verse 31, ERV)



God was very happy with the world he had made. He gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in.



God told Adam and Eve to have children, and look after the world.



How can you help to look after the world?



God made me the person I am. He decided what I would be like, and what I would be good at.

God made me special. No one else is just like me!

Think of some good things about you. Thank God for making you the person you are.



The big story...

When God made the world, everything was good. There was no pain or sadness.

People were friends with God, and with each other. That is how God wants it to be.

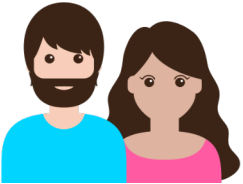
2

People turn away from God

People turned away from God. They did bad things.
This broke the world.



Genesis chapters 3-11



Adam
Eve
Noah



Quick look



God told people the best way to live.

But people turned away from God. They did what God said not to do.



People could not stop doing bad things. Everything was going wrong.

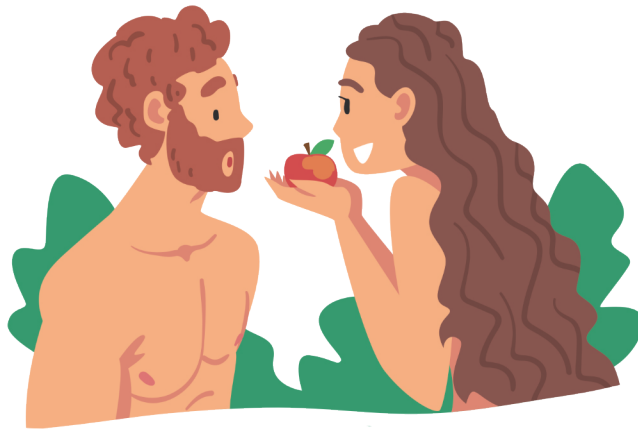
A lying snake

There was a tree in the middle of the garden. God gave Adam and Eve one rule. He said they must not eat any fruit from this tree.

This fruit would make Adam and Eve know what was good and what was bad. God said if they ate it, they would die.

But a snake told lies to Adam and Eve. The snake said God was not good. It said the fruit would make them as clever as God. It said they would not really die if they ate it.

Adam and Eve listened to the snake. They ate the fruit.



God was angry. His people did not trust him. They had broken his one rule. So he sent them out of the garden.



Why do you think Adam and Eve listened to the snake?

Everything goes wrong

Adam and Eve had children. Then their children had children. Soon there were lots of people in the world.

But the people did not trust God. They did very bad things. Everything was going wrong.



The Lord saw that men and women on the earth had become very bad... The Lord was sorry that he had made humans and put them on the earth. He became very upset.

(Genesis chapter 6 verses 5-6, EASY)



Noah and the flood

(Genesis chapter 6 verse 9 - chapter 9 verse 17)

God saw the bad things people were doing. He wanted to get rid of all the bad things and start again.

There was one man who trusted God and tried to live his way. This man's name was Noah.

God decided to send a flood to cover the world. He would save Noah's family. He would start again with them.

God told Noah to build a big boat, called an ark. He told Noah to put animals and birds on the ark. Noah did everything God told him to do.

When the flood came, all the other people and animals died. But the people and animals on the ark were safe.

After the flood, God made a promise. He said, "I will never again destroy every living thing on the earth as I did this time." (Genesis chapter 8 verse 21, ERV)



God wants me to trust him like Noah did. God made me, and he loves me. He knows the best way for me to live.

Ask God to help you trust him. Ask him to help you live his way.

After the flood

Noah kept trying to live God's way. But even Noah did bad things sometimes. In the end, most of Noah's family turned away from God, just like everyone else.

The flood had not fixed the world. There was still good in the world, but there was bad in the world too. This was not how God wanted it to be.



What are some bad things in the world?

How do you think God feels about these things?



The big story...

Everything had gone wrong. People had turned away from God.

But God still loved people. He had a plan to fix the world.

One day, Jesus would come to help us. He would make a way for people to come back to God, and be forgiven.



God wants good things for me. His way is the best way to live.

I do bad things sometimes, like Adam and Eve. But if I say sorry, God always forgives me. He never stops loving me.

Is there anything you need to say sorry to God for today?
Talk to him about it now.



Quick look



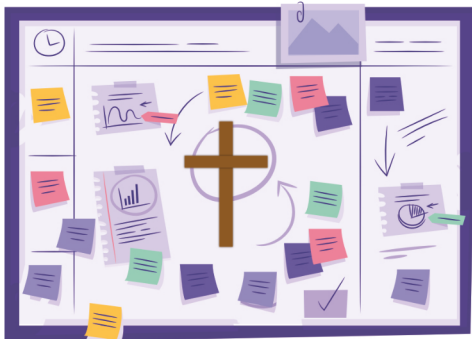
God has an enemy called the devil.

He tries to turn people away from God.



People listened to the devil instead of God. They did what God said not to do. This is called sin.

The world is broken because of sin.



God had a plan to fix the world.

One day, Jesus would beat the devil.

God's enemy

God is good and strong. He is in charge of everything. But God has an enemy called the devil.

The devil is bad. He hates God. He wants people to hate God too.

The devil tells lies to people. He tries to get people to turn away from God.

The snake who lied to Adam and Eve was the devil. (Page xxx) He told them God was not good. He told them to do what God said not to do.

Adam and Eve listened to the devil.



Adam and Eve were made to be God's friends. They were made to trust God and live his way. But they turned away from God. They listened to the devil instead.

Sin and death

→ Goodness comes from God.

God made the world good. He gave good things to people. He told them the best way to live.

But people listened to the devil instead of God. They did what God said not to do. This let sin into the world.

Sin comes from the devil. It is the bad things we do. And it is the thing inside us that makes us do bad things.

→ Life comes from God.

God made people. He gave them life.

But people listened to the devil instead of God. They turned away from God. This let death into the world.

Death comes from the devil. Without God, people cannot live forever. This is why people die.



God → goodness and life



The devil → sin and death

The world is broken

When God made the world, everything was good. The world worked the way God wanted.

But sin and death broke God's good world. Now, the world does not work the way God wanted. That is why bad things happen.

There is still good in the world, but there is bad in the world too. God's good world is broken.



Sin hurts people too. It is inside all of us. Sin stops us from living God's way.

The Bible says there is a fight going on inside each person. We cannot stop doing bad things, even if we try.

Sin rules me as if I were its slave. I don't understand why I act the way I do. I don't do the good I want to do, and I do the evil I hate.

(Romans chapter 7 verses 14-15, ERV)



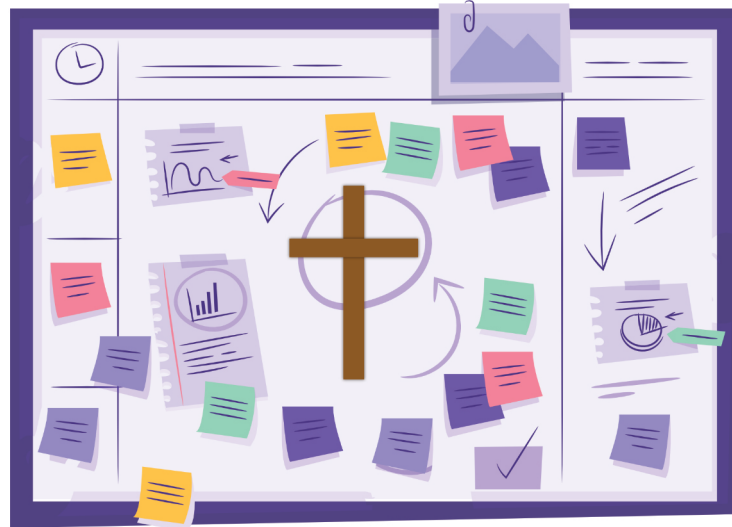
God's plan to fix the world

Sin is a big problem. People cannot fix it. But from the start, God had a plan.

When God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden, he said something to the snake, who was the devil.

God said, “I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. You will bite her child’s foot, but he will crush your head.” (Genesis chapter 3 verse 15, ERV)

God meant that one day, a man from Adam and Eve’s family would fight the devil and beat him. God was talking about Jesus.



The devil would hurt Jesus. But Jesus would beat the devil. This would fix the problem of sin. Then God would fix the world.

The world was broken. But God promised it would not be broken forever. The end of the story would be good.

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