



Stories, Puzzles, Jokes, Readers' Response, Serial and more...

God is a lot of different things and we can never learn too much about God. The best thing about God I reckon is that He is Love. That means He loves us not because of what we can do or say or be, but BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS! That's so cool! How about showing some of that love back to God and His creation today!

Keep praying

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Making the time less traction notif induce of the fibble come utility? info@biblediscovery.org.nz www.biblediscovery.org.nz *Discovery* is a publication of the PSSM Bible Discovery Trust (formerly the Postal Sunday School Movement of NZ Inc.) This is an evangelical, non-denominational, Christian trust. We depend on God to supply our financial needs through the donations of interested individuals and groups All donations are receipted and tax-deductible.

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By Gwenyth Frear 😭

God is Good!

My name is Job and I lived in the Old Testament times of the Bible. God had been very good to me, and I had everything I could wish for. I had herds of cattle, flocks of sheep, droves of asses and donkeys as well as a lot of camels. I felt very blessed, and I thanked God every day for them. But the ones I thanked God for and prayed the most for were my seven sons and their three daughters. God had been so good to me in giving me all these things!

But one day disaster struck! My servants came in from the fields one by one telling me that all my animals had been either destroyed or stolen. But My three friends came to comfort me, but they were shocked when they saw me and had nothing to say. They sat beside me for a whole week saying nothing. Then they started. They told me that only good things happen to good people, and because all these things had happened to me, I must have had some secret sins. I knew this wasn't so, but they wouldn't listen.

A fourth younger friend came along and listened to us talking. He spoke last and said that God knew what He was doing, and that we would never know the reason for it all.

While we were sitting there, a whirlwind started to form and we all heard a Voice. We knew it was the Voice of God. He said, "Where were you all when I made the earth? Did you have any say in it?" He went on to talk about the wild animals, the great fish and

> My three friends came to comfort me, but they were shocked when they saw me and had nothing to say.

the worst news of the lot was that a whirlwind had destroyed my eldest son's house and it killed all my children, who had been having a feast there!"All I could think was that God had given me these things and now He had taken them all away. God must have had a reason for this, and I must take it as from Him.

Soon after this, I started getting boils, and I was soon covered from head to foot with them. I couldn't eat or sleep for the pain, and the only cure I knew was to sit in a pile of ashes and scrape the tops off the boils. My wife wasn't sympathetic, and she couldn't understand why God was allowing this to happen to us. She had lost her children and now I, her husband, was covered with these loathsome sores!

"Why don't you curse God and die?" she cried one day, "How can you say that God is good when all this has happened?"

I said, "We can't always expect good things to come our way, but we are to bless God even when bad things happen too."

the stars in the sky. Then He spoke directly to me, and said, "Are you trying to tell Me what to do?"

At last I could see where my thinking was wrong. I said, "I've got nothing left to say!"

God said a lot more, and I felt ashamed of myself to think I could have questioned Him. I was sorry for my words and apologised with all my heart. After all, I had been feeling pretty mad with my friends as they blamed me for my misfortunes. Now I could see my mistakes.

God told me I had to forgive them, and pray for them when they brought a sacrifice to Him. This wasn't easy to do, but I knew that if I wanted to please God, I had to do this. My friends all brought their sacrifices, and I prayed for them. I felt so much better after doing that. I wasn't mad with them any more.

Then God blessed me in a way then that I could never have imagined, and gave me twice as much as I had had before. I had another seven sons and three more daughters who are the most beautiful girls in the land. How good God is!

Seeing God in the Gyroscope

Gerald! Come see Ron's new gyroscopes!" shouted Mark.

Ron had been given a pack of two gyroscopes for his birthday. Mark, his younger brother was fascinated at the funny looking toys.

"Come on! Try it, Ron." said Gerald, coming around the corner.

"Hmmm. It says I should oil it first, then check if I have two gyroscopes, two strings, and the instruction booklet blah blah blah" said Ron

Mark was could not wait for Ron to spin them and do some of the exciting tricks the instructions showed. Finally, Ron picked up one of the gyroscopes, and Gerald helped him wind it.

"Hole to hub, and back again. The instructions say so." said Ron.

Soon, after lots of misshaps, Ron had it spinning! He first had to wind the string carefully, and hold the frame of the gyroscope, then pull quickly and firmly on the string.

Mark wanted to do it too, but Gerald picked up the other gyroscope and sent it spinning as well. Both gyroscopes could stand on his finger without falling. He balanced one on Mark's toe, and Ron's one stopped spinning after three minutes. Just then, their dad came round to the group of boys.

"What's this then, eh? Ah, some gyroscopic boys, I see!" said Dad "Ron got these from Uncle Joseph!" burst out Mark. "It's amazing!"

Dad sat down to watch. Gerald went away to get a glass, and came back with it and some string. He spun the gyroscope and carefully placed on the lip of that glass. It made a terrible vibrating noise, but it stayed there.

"Boys, do you know that gyroscopes are used for many things like planes, spacecraft, and ships for navigation and other things?" said Dad. "This reminds me of God. God is the gyroscope, and we are the ship. Without the gyroscope, we go to wrong directions and the ship goes anywhere the sea takes it. We don't know where to go without God."

"I have another idea" said Mark. "The string is God, the spinning thing in the middle is our soul and the frame is our body. Without the string to wind us up, our soul can't spin, and our frames become useless."

"Yes" smiled Gerald as the gyroscope balanced on the string. "Like gyroscopes, if we aren't oiled with God's Word every day, we don't go as smoothly."

"Well!" said Dad. "The gyroscopes had better be put away now; here is my present to you, Ron!"

It was a Bible!

"You are old enough for your own Bible, as Gerald got one at his ninth birthday" said Dad. "Happy reading!"





Here is a verse from the Bible. There are 3 letters given. T = 1, H = 4 and E = 22. All of the other numbers match letters and are constant throughout the puzzle. Fill in all the spaces that have 1, 4 and 22 and then see if you can work out the rest of the verse.

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Psalm 136:1 The answer to this puzzle is in the suitcase. Fill in the blanks in each sentence. Use the numbers under each answer to fill in the puzzle on the suitcase. You'll find a verse that tells what we can do.

IT'S IN THE BAC!

► The Challenge

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It was raining and Max was bored. Aware that a bored ten-year- old could be a problem, his mother made a suggestion.

"Why don't you make a start on your new model aeroplane?"

Max thought that was a good idea, so he went off to his bedroom and returned with a box containing all the parts and instructions for the fighter plane he'd been given recently for his birthday.

As Max lifted the lid, he sighed. There were rows and rows of parts all held together by tiny plastic joiners. Some of the body parts were immediately recognizable but there were dozens

of strange, smaller parts in all shapes and sizes, individually numbered on the instruction sheet.

Max spread out some paper on the table and made a start. After an hour or so he had a few parts glued together, but was having difficulty keeping the

glue off the surface of the pieces as it kept sticking to his fingers.

"How's it going son?" asked his father, who had just arrived home from work.

"Frustrating," muttered Max. "I keep getting the glue everywhere and the parts fall to pieces before the glue dries. I wish I could just say the word and the whole thing would come together at once and it would all be finished perfectly."

"That sounds a bit like the way God made the universe," said his father.

"How do you mean?' asked Max.

"Well, according to the book of Genesis in the Bible, God spoke the word and everything came into existence in six days."

"Do you really believe that? asked Max. "My teacher says everything evolved by itself after a big bang of energy billions of years ago."

"Is that so?" replied his father. "That's as likely as believing your well-designed aeroplane could come together after an explosion in a factory. When you think about it, a big bang usually creates nothing but a big mess; but when we study the complexity and the diversity of everything around us, we see the handiwork of an intelligent designer."

"But what about science? Doesn't it prove that everything evolved by chance over billions of years?"

"Not at all Max. I don't believe science had anything to do with the creation of the universe." "How do you work that out?"

Max's father went on to explain that true science requires observation. Then it verifies the observation by repetition. In the case of creation this cannot happen because no one witnessed the

beginning of everything and it cannot be repeated. We have God's account, as recorded in the first chapter of Genesis, and we either believe it or we don't."

"So how did God create everything?" asked Max.

"I believe God brought everything into existence by a series of massive supernatural and miraculous events," said his father. "When we recognize

God for who He really is, then it's not hard to grasp the fact that He could create everything by His power and for His own purpose, in moments of time.

"You see Max, there has to be a reason for the existence of everything. Down the centuries people have always asked the questions, 'Where did we come from and why are we here?' Without a belief in God, there is no answer to these questions and there's no point to anything."

"So my aeroplane is a bit like the universe," said Max. "It's been designed by a creator for a purpose."

"You're right," said his father.

"Oh look! The rain's gone off. Let's leave your project for now, and we'll go outside and enjoy God's wonderful creation."

You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars.

You made the earth and the seas and everything in them.

You preserve and give life to everything, and all the angels of heaven worship you.

Nehemiah 9:6 (New Living Translation)



1 Sikemi Babalola Lisalotte Charles Chinaza Ezeh Andrew Kadiri Warren Kennedy Alex Kinley Sarah McDonnell Lily McLeish Irene Palmer Liam Rauzi Benjamin Seiuli Terna Ugangese Iveren Ugangese Gabrielle Weilert

2 Esther Ball Rowan Clements Lola Dick Angus Jones Tabitha Mitchell Ben Persson Hamish Pook Elijah Symington Helen Thomas

3 Deborah Barkley Kimberlea Brown Esther Horton Joshua Horton Tilly Lewis Mark Linton Sovaia Matalau Azaria Peach Joshua Singh Joel Spurgeon Adam Spurgeon Abigail Tyler Mnena Ugangese Naomi Waenesai

4 Ijeoma Anya

Amarachi Chris-Madu	
Allan Dean	
Sarah Duncan	
Gayleen Hape	
Imelda Kachau	
Joseph Mattocks	
Leonie-Marie Mete	
Keegan Nimo	
Laura Posthuma	
Nathaniel Selway	
Xixi Xian	
Manli Xian	
5 Yena Cho	
Buddy Clist-Newell	
Yiskah Eijeriks	
Steven Emmanuel	
Elise Ford	
Akariva Raveti	
Jasnita Reddy	
Laura Stewart	
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6 Courtney Sinclair	
Carolyn Tanner	
7 Melanie Aldridge	
Lydia Ford	
Marissa Hansen	
Jane Ochiba	
8 Anna Bradley	
Toni Schnuriger	
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Amarachi Chris-Madu

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	7	Sun	Luke	9:28-36	
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	9	Tue	Luke	22:39-46	
	10	Wed	Luke	22:66-71	
	11	Thu	Luke	23:32-38	
•	12	Fri	Luke	5:17-26	
	13	Sat	Luke	4:16-21	
	14	Sun	Luke	7:11-17	
•	15	Mon	Luke	18:31-33	
	16	Tue	Luke	24:25-48	
	17	Wed	Luke	15:1-10	
	18	Thu	Luke	15:11-24	
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	20	Sat	Luke	19:1-10	
	21	Sun	Luke	5:1-11	
	22	Mon	Luke	5:27-32	
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5	26	Fri	Luke	18:15-17	
5	27	Sat	Luke	7:36-50	
6	28	Sun	Luke	19:29-38	
5	29	Mon 	Luke	22:7-13	
-	30	Tue	Luke	10:38-42	
	31	Wed	Luke	7:18-23	

Readers' Response

Email: info@biblediscovery.org.nz or write to us: 888 New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 "Hey kids - this is YOUR page - so send in (original materials) your favourite joke, one of your own poems or prayers, a letter or a question about being a Christian and it might end up here!!"

God is SUFFicient

1	God says: "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)
2	You say: "I'm too tired." God says: "I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28-30)
3	You say: "Nobody really loves me." God says: "I love you." (John 3:16 & John 3:34)
ł	You say: "I can't go on ." God says: "My grace is sufficient." (2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
5	You say: "I can't figure things out." God says: "I will direct your steps." (Proverbs 3:5-6)
5	You say: "I can't do it." God says: "You can do all things." (Philippians 4:13)
1	You say: "I'm not able." God says:: "I am able." (2 Corinthians 9:8)
8	You say: "It's not worth it." God says: "It will be worth it" (Roman 8:28)
)	You say: "I can't forgive myself." God says: "I forgive you." (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
	You say: "I can't manage." God says: "I will supply all your needs." (Philippians 4:19)
1	You say: "I'm afraid." God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear." (2 Timothy 1:7)
2	You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated." God says: "Cast all your cares on me." (1 Peter 5:7)
3	You say: "I'm not smart enough." God says: "I give you wisdom." (1 Corinthians 1:30)
H	You say: "I feel all alone." God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)





By Gwenyth Frear 😭

Moses was out in the desert looking after the sheep. This was his job as there were no fences to keep the sheep safe, and he never knew when a lion or a bear would come running up and grab a sheep to eat. Moses had done this job for many years and he knew the desert better than anyone else.

He hadn't always looked after sheep. He used to live in the king's palace once, and even before that when he was a very small boy, he could remember his mother telling him stories about the areat God in heaven. But once he went to live in the palace, he never heard anything about God. Yet he never forgot that God was watching what he did. Now that he was in the desert on his own with the sheep all day, he often thought about God. Was God still watching him? he wondered. Somehow he knew that He was. This particular day, these thoughts were still with him as he took his sheep a bit further along the desert road. As he went, he heard something crackling. He looked around, and there was a large bush on fire. He watched it for a while, and then went to have a closer look. It didn't seem to be burning away. How strange,

he thought. Suddenly he heard a loud voice that seemed to be coming from the bush. "Moses, Moses", it called. "I'm here", said Moses going closer to look. "Don't come any nearer", the Voice said "Take your shoes off your feet because you are standing on holy ground". Moses looked around.

He couldn't see any holes in the ground! Then the Voice said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob".

Moses became very afraid when he heard that, and he covered his face with his arms. Now he knew what the Voice meant when He said that Moses was on "holy" ground. He knew that God was far too great and mighty to look at, even if he could have seen Him. But although God was so great and good, He still had a job for

No matter how little we feel ourselves to be, God can still use those who come to Him... But although God was so great and good, He still had a job for Moses to do. Moses tried to make excuses to not do it, but God showed him that He would be with him. Moses went on to do it, and with God's help

he became a mighty man in history.

God is still the same today. No matter how little we feel ourselves to be, God can still use those who come to Him. He has promised that He will be with all those who confess their sins to Him, and then He will be able to use them to do His work.

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Sarah lay in bed sobbing quietly to

herself. Life would never be the same again. Her beloved father had been killed in an accident last week, and the whole family was very upset. Mum was wrapped in her own tears, and her older sister Hayley wasn't able to talk without dissolving into more tears. It was a very sad household at that time. The little ones kept asking questions, and her aunt Sue didn't seem to have the answers. The whole house was in a turmoil with people coming and going.

It just didn't seem right. Everything had been going along so nicely, and they were all excited about going away for the summer holidays in a week or two, and now it was all over. There would be no more boat trips, or tramps into the bush. It didn't matter that there were other girls at school who seemed to manage alright without their Dads. Sarah's Dad was a special dad, he was so big and strong. Who would tell them Bible stories at night before they went to sleep? Mum was always busy with the two little ones at that time of the night. Where was God now? Why had He let this happen to them? It just didn't seem fair! How could God be a God of love when He let things

like this happen? Her dad always said that God loved them. He said that God loved them so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for them. Sarah

got to thinking about this. It must have hurt God an awful lot to part with His only Son. Maybe He did know what she was feeling like now. Then she remembered something else her dad had said. He said that God always knows what is best for us. She thought of her dad right then being with Jesus in heaven. That was surely the best thing for him wasn't it!

If God had taken him to be with Himself, then surely God would look after them too. Sarah stopped sobbing as she thought about that. Dad wouldn't want them to be sad and crying all the time. Not when God was able to look after them. She sighed as she thought of how much she would miss him though.

Then she remembered that her Aunty Sue had said that they could all go to stay at her place for the holidays in a little while. That would be fun. She turned over and snuggled down giving a half sob as she drifted off to sleep. She would try her best to always remember that God did love them all and that He would look after them.

By Annaliese Smith

In a few Words

Brayden loved going to Boy's Rally.

All his mates went, well, most of them. They got to do all sorts of way out stuff that his Mum thought was too dangerous, but his Dad thought was great. It really was a guy's thing, too rough and hard for mum's to understand. So far this year they had played fire soccer, shorn a sheep, which is actually a lot harder than it sounds.

and won first place in the raft race against heaps of other Rally teams. He even loved the half an hour at the end of each night when they threw themselves into the bean bags, or lounged over a dozen chairs and listened to the leaders talk about God. It was real cool that God, who is so amazing and powerful, worked out a

plan so each and every person could ask for forgiveness of their mistakes and sins and be clean in God's sight and become part of his family.

He loved everything about Rally except now he wasn't quite sure how he was going to get out of this one. Writing a speech! Ok, well, it wasn't really an speech, but it might as well be. By next Friday night he had to write down what God meant to him and then talk to all the guys at Rally about it during their devotion time. The leader had picked him, "because all the boys respect you and we thought that we would choose you to be the first one to speak because you are so confident." Brayden had just looked and nodded, "smile and wave boys, smile and wave," but now he gave a snort as he

What does God mean to you?

remembered the leader's words. Confident! Yeah, maybe with a ball and bat, at a computer, and even with the sheep and awkward shearing machine, but anything with a pen and paper, doubt it. More than doubt it, he knew it. He had dyslexia, which meant that reading and writing seemed almost impossible. Impossible. A verse flickered through his mind; 'but with God all things are possible'-Matt 19:26. He smiled in spite of the frustration that had been flowing through his veins only a second

> before. Amazing how God always seemed to have something from His Word to help. The Bible was filled will some pretty cool verses. 'I can do all things through Him who gives me strength'- Phil 4:13- see, there was another one! He grabbed a bit of paper and a pencil and tapped the lead up and down as he thought. At least the topic that the leaders had given him was easy. "What does God mean to you?"

Out of habit he printed, 'Brayden Kennedy' at the top of the page- that was the easy bit. Then he wrote 'God...'

Over the next few days he used the dictionary and his Bible to write a rough copy of a page of notes that he would use for his talk. There were lots of things he wanted to say, but it was so hard to write it down and then read it from the page. It would be easy to talk once he got up the front, but what notes could he write to help him remember?

Brayden was still breathing hard after a great game of indoor hockey when it was time for him to talk to the guys. He had his piece of paper, but it didn't contain an essay, not even close. It had only one word on it: **Everything**.

By Carol Duffy

Below is part of what God told Moses about Himself.

To crack the code replace each letter with **either** the letter before **or** after it in the alphabet, so 'b' would be 'a' or 'c', and 'x' would be 'w' or 'y'.



God is bnnobrtjpmbsd boc fsbbhpvr,

tknx sp bmffs,

bantochof jo knwf bme gbjuievkoftr.

When you have worked it out (or if you get stuck) read all of what God said in *Exodus 34:5-7*



By Carol McKay

pierre milked the goat in the barn doorway. Nearby, Allain split firewood. Spring had come to the high valleys of the Italian Alps where the Waldensian people lived.

Allain looked at the one-roomed, stone cottage surrounded with snow, in the small village of Pra Del Torno. "Robert was asleep at his desk. The fire on the hearth was out, the lamp too. He must've worked late."

"Will he finish the Bible translation this year?"

"Of course," said Allain. "Robert wants the French people to have the Bible in their own language. The villagers can't read the Latin Bible."

"We're blessed to have God's Word in our own dialect," said Pierre, and Allain agreed.

"You've heard Robert's nickname?" asked Pierre.

"Yes, Robert the Olivetan. That's because he burns olive oil in his lamp." Allain stamped his feet. "Let's get inside."

Robert was glad Pierre and Allain did his chores while he worked day after day and often at night. Hebrew and Greek books covered his desk.

"Robert, we've helped in making this Bible too, haven't we?" Pierre and Allain asked.

"Sure," said Robert, "and none of us know whereabouts in the world this Bible will go."

Every day after cooking Robert's dinner, building up the fire and filling the lamp, the boys returned to their families. Spring came round again. Pierre and Alain watched the pile of papers on Robert's desk grow higher and higher. In 1534 came the day they'd waited for. The Bible was finished. Robert added notes from famous preachers too.

"I want to go with Robert to the city to have the Bible printed. I haven't been out of this valley," said Pierre, spreading clean straw in the barn.

"Me too," said Allain.

Inside the cottage Robert put his papers into a small, leather trunk.

Robert shook his head. "Sorry boys. I'll be away for months."

"Months?" asked Allain.

"Yes. It takes that long for the printers to cut the printing blocks and make the first proof copy. I'll bring you one."

Robert locked the door and tied the trunk to his donkey's back. Taking the halter, he led the donkey down the steep, mountain track. At the first bend he turned and waved to the boys.

"We'll have to get another job," said Pierre, waving back. "It won't be as exciting as

helping a Bible translator," said Allain.

The French Bible was named the Olivetan Bible after Robert. Years later when the French Christians were scattered to many European countries, they took their Bibles with them.

In 1560 Englishmen in Geneva, Switzerland found a copy of the Olivetan Bible. They liked Robert's notes and added them to the new English translation called the Geneva Bible. How amazed Robert, Pierre and Allain would be to know that their work even went to America with the Pilgrim Fathers. God is Faithful to spread His word. You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve and give life to everything, and all the angels of heaven worship You.

> Nehemiah 9:6 (New Living Translation)