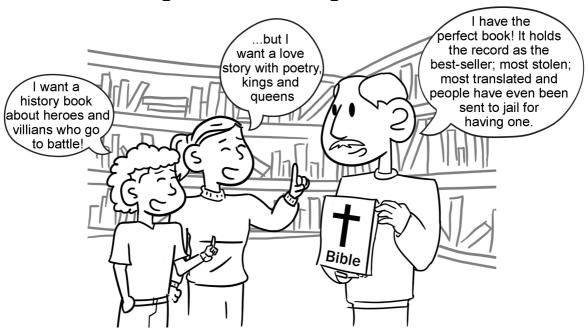


## Introducing the Bible

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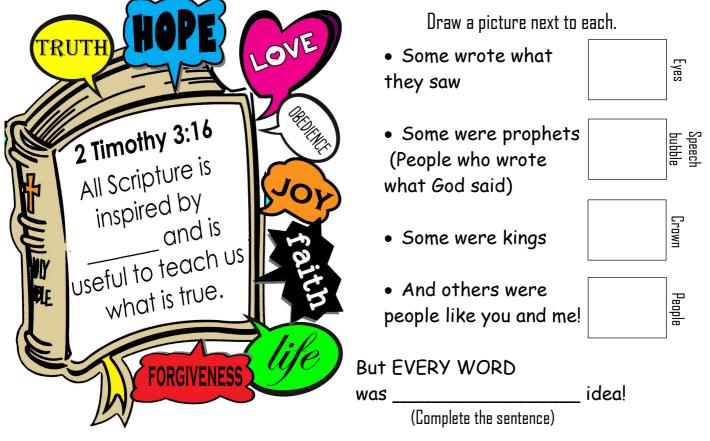
## A guide to reading the Bible



The Bible is God's perfect true story. Every page tells us how GREAT God is, it shows us the EVERLASTING love of Jesus and the POWER of the Holy Spirit. When you read the Bible you will see God's perfect plan and how He has chosen you to be part of it. Let's get started.

#### Who wrote the Bible?

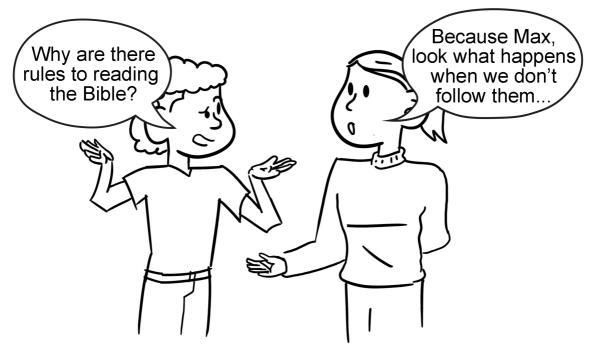
God used many people to write parts of the Bible over hundreds of years.



# There are two rules we should follow when reading the Bible. Can you work out what they are?

Put a tick next to the ones you think are true and a cross next to the ones you think are false: 💌 💌

Only old people can read & understand the Bible.	Be careful when reading any verse on its own.
Do not add anything or take anything away from the words in the Bible.	Only holy people are allowed to own and read a Bible.
Keep your Bible on the top shelf	You can only read the Bible at church.



If even one word was different the whole sentence could mean something completely different. What should the verse say?

Whoever the Son has eternal life. (John 3:30			
talks to	believes in	works hard for	pays

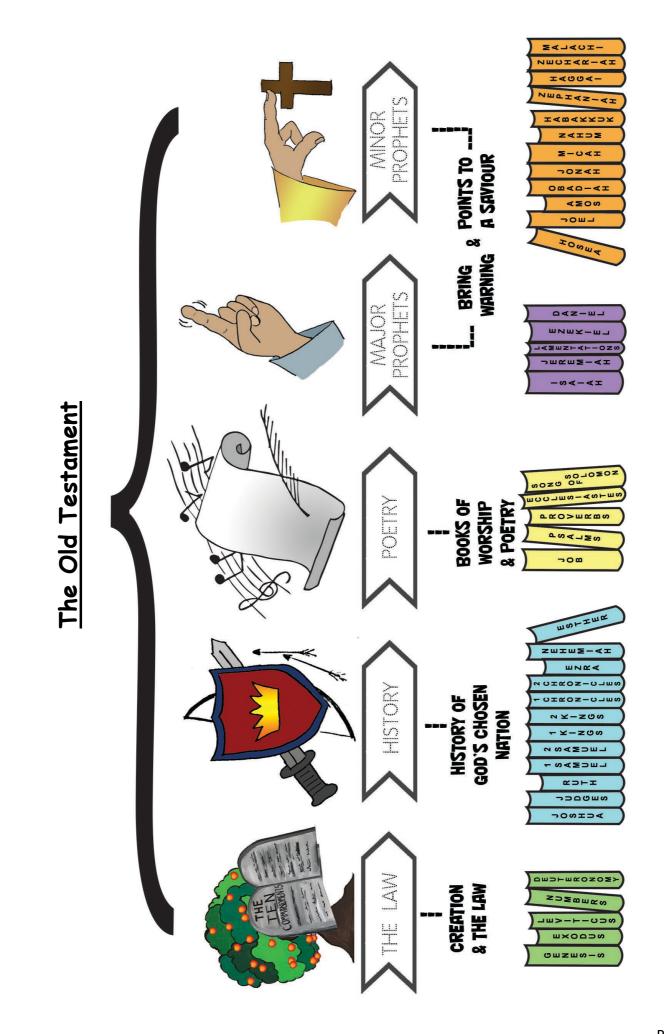
Reading a verse, or just parts of a verse on its own and not the whole chapter can give us a very confusing idea of what God is trying to tell us. Psalm 14:1 tells us that there is no God, or does it?

"THERE IS NO GOD"

(Read Psalm 14:1 to fill in what God really said)

To make it easier to read, the Bible has been divided into books, chapters and verses. To find a specific verse or story in the Bible this is how it is written.

book verse John 3:16 / chapter	The book is: The chapter is: The verse is:			
	Looking up a verse is as easy as 1,2,3!		book in the content In to that page num	
	<u>7</u> 2	Find the o	chapter by looking BIG numbers	at the
Open your Bible	and give it a try.	Find the ve numbers	erse by looking at t	he small
1. John 3:16 "For this is how	God _, so that everyor		He gave His one and in Him will	
2. Philippians 4. "For I can do	th	rough	who gives m	е
3. Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the			, do not depen	d on
4. Hebrews 13: "Jesus Christ is t		, t	oday, and	
	to the Lor		! His fa	ithful
6. 1 John 4:19 "We	each other be	ecause He	us first.	, <b>1</b> 1

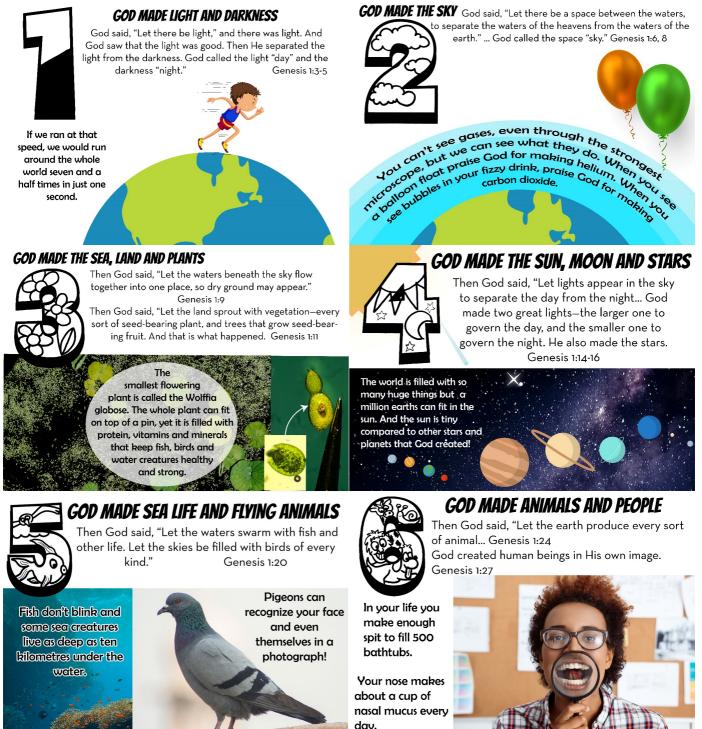




What is the first book of the Bible?

Read chapter 1:2 and fill in the missing words to see what it was like in the beginning. The earth was \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and darkness covered the deep waters.

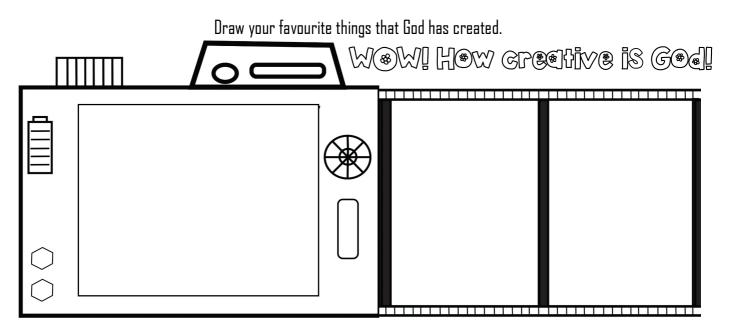
#### But then God **spoke** and in just **six** days the world was filled!



Wow! How great and awesome is God that He could do all this in six days and by just speaking! Look around you. What can you see that God created?

Sometimes we look at the things around us like walls, stationery, toys, cars, TVs, phones and so much more and we think but people made those not God. But look a little closer at your pencil. If we took away the wood God made, the lead God made, the colours God made, what would be left?

What about the clothes you are wearing? Cotton comes from a plant and wool from a sheep and so without God creating plants and animals you would open up your cupboard to get dressed and there would be \_\_\_\_\_



Without God we would have nothing. Everything we see, hear, touch, taste, smell or experience should make us go "WOW, how great are you God". The word "W.O.W" can remind us that God is <u>W</u>orthy <u>O</u>f <u>W</u>orship.

When we worship God, we choose to **make Him the most important** part of our lives and we show Him how much we love Him through our actions, thoughts, choices and everything we do.

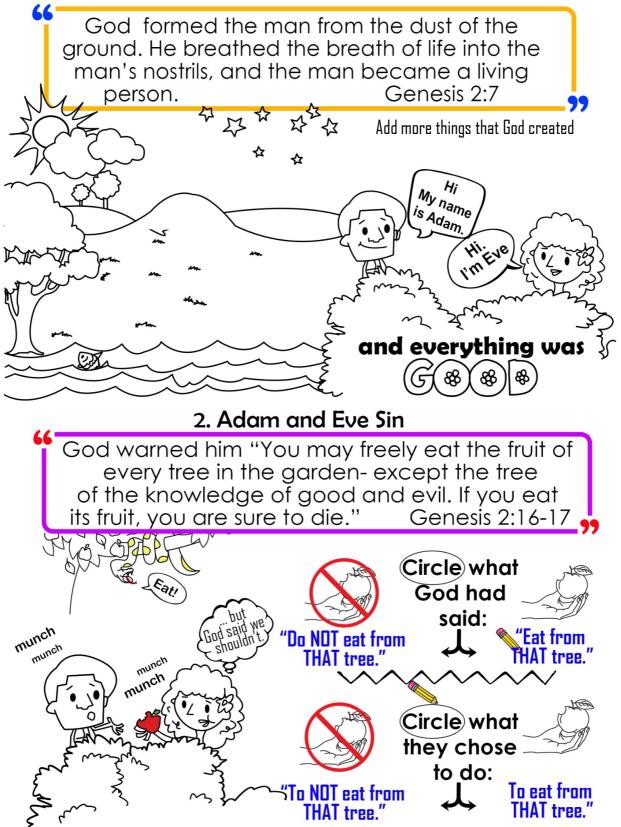


Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for He is God.

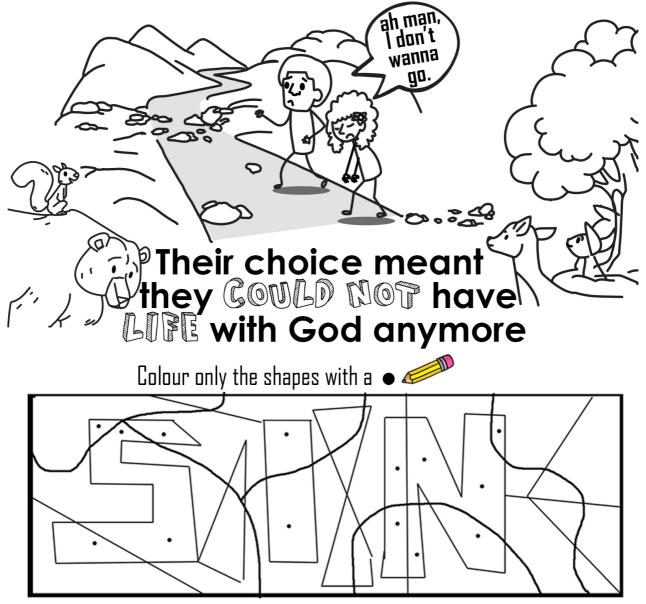
## <u>The first sin</u>

The Bible starts with God's perfect creation and shows us how much God deserves to be worshipped. But the first people, Adam and Eve, had to make a choice. Let's read their story and see if they made the right one.





### 3. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden



What entered the world?

This was the first sin, but it would not be the last. All people would be separated from God. All would need saving from their sin.

4. God promised to send a Saviour He will strike your head, and you will strike His heel. Genesis 3:15 Immediately God promised to send a Saviour. Do you know who that is?

## God set His people free

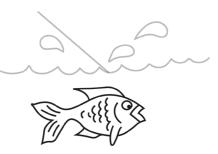
The Israelite people were made slaves by the Egyptians. The kings, or pharaohs, treated them very badly. They forced them to work hard, they whipped them and threatened their lives. The Israelites cried out to God for help. God sent Moses and Aaron with a message for Pharaoh "Let My people go!".

Pharaoh replied "Who is the LORD? Why should I listen to Him and let Israel go? I don't know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go." Exodus 5:2 So God sent ten plagues. Each one showed that He is the only ONE TRUE GOD.

Complete the pictures to show the plague that God sent.

#### 1) Water to blood

God turned all the water to blood. There was nothing for them to drink for seven days! And God said: "I will show you that I am the LORD." Exodus 7:17





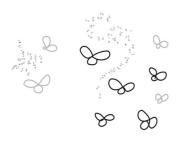
### 2) Frogs

God sent frogs everywhere and Pharaoh pleaded for God to take the frogs away. God did and reminded them "then you will know that there is no one like the Lord our God." Exodus 8:10

#### 3) Gnats

God turned the dust to gnats. Pharaoh's magicians tried to do this too to prove that they were also powerful but they couldn't! They said, "This is the finger of God". Exodus 8:19





#### 4) Flies

God warned Pharaoh "I will make a clear distinction between My people and your people." Exodus 8:23. When Pharaoh did not listen, God sent swarms of flies everywhere but where His people lived. Pharaoh then pleaded for Aaron and Moses to ask God to take away the flies and God did.

#### 5) Dead animals

The next plague killed all of the Egyptians' animals. God told Pharaoh to check the Israelites' animals. "Pharaoh sent his officials to investigate, and they discovered that the Israelites had not lost a single animal! Exodus 9:7





#### 6) Boils

Without warning, God made the Egyptians be covered with boils. Even the magicians were unable to stand before Moses, because the boils had broken out on them and all the Egyptians. Exodus 9:11

## 7) Hail

God reminded Pharaoh that He could have wiped them out and said "But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you My power and to spread My fame throughout the earth. Exodus 9:16.



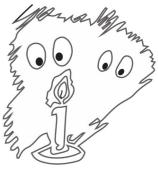


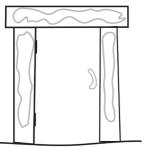
## 8) Locusts

God sent locusts to destroy everything that was left. The Egyptians begged Pharaoh saying, "Let the men go to worship the LORD their God! Don't you realize that Egypt lies in ruins?" Exodus 10:7

#### 9) Darkness

God brought darkness on Egypt "But there was light as usual where the people of Israel lived." Exodus 10:23. Pharaoh tried to bargain saying they could leave if they left the animals that they used to worship God. But Moses said "No!"





#### 10) Death of the first-born son

The final plague was the death of every first-born son. Only the sons of those who did as God said and put the blood of a perfect lamb on their doorposts, did not die. When Pharaoh's son also died he saw that God really is the only true God.

Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Get out!" he ordered. "Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the LORD as you have requested. Exodus 12:31

a) Why did God send the plagues? (Exodus 7:17; Exodus 8:10)

b) Why did God spare the Egyptians? (Exodus 9:16)

c) Do you think the plagues showed that God is the one and only true God?

## God gave His people laws

#### These are some verses from the book of Exodus in the Old Testament.

God said... "When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will **worship God** at this very mountain." Exodus 3:12

Now if you will **<u>obey Me and keep My covenant</u>**, you will be My own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to Me. Exodus 19:5

And all the people responded together, "We will do **everything** the LORD has commanded." Exodus 19:8

Then Moses went down to the people and repeated all the instructions and regulations the LORD had given him. All the people answered with one voice, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded." Exodus 24:3.

Then Moses took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded. **We will obey.**" Exodus 24:7

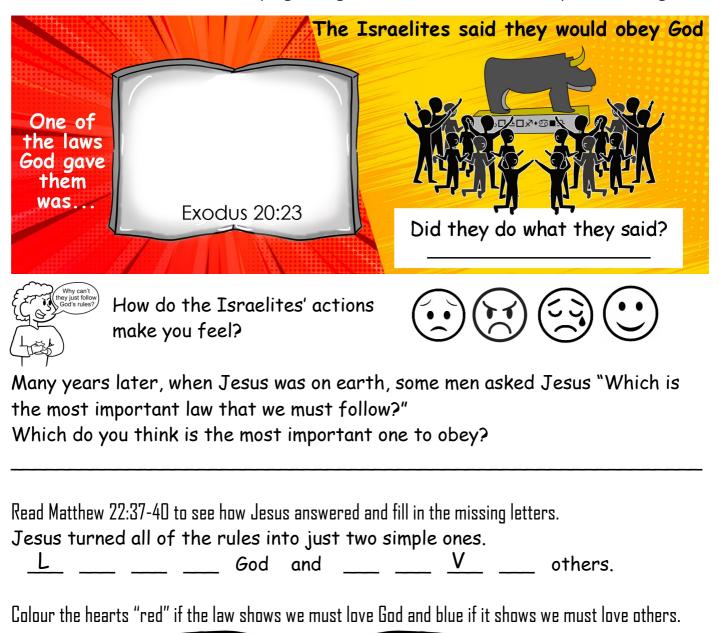
Remember, **you must not make any idols** of silver or gold to rival Me. Exodus 20:23

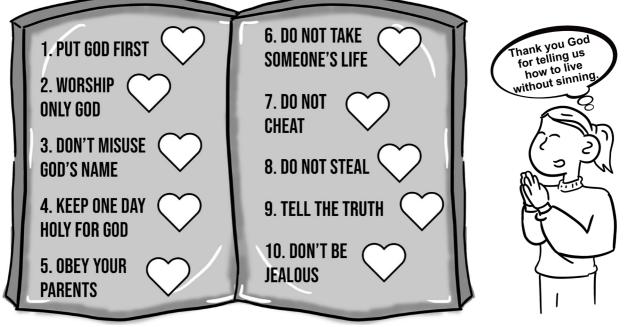
Add the underlined parts of the verses to the pictures and complete the Israelites' story.





What the Israelites were saying was good but look at what they were doing.





## God gave His people a way to be with Him

Do you know that God is HOLY? That means that He is unlike anyone else because He is PERFECT in all ways and has NEVER done anything wrong. Because of God's holiness no one can come into His presence if they have \_\_\_\_\_. Read Isaiah 59:2 to fill in the answer





Isaiah 59:2 <sup>2</sup> It is your sins that have cut you off from God.

But God wants us to be in His presence. He loves us and made us to live with Him. We learnt how God told His people the laws to follow so they could live lives without sin.

God even made a way for their sins to be taken away. There were certain things they had to do. They had to build a place they could worship God, called a tabernacle. They had to say thank you to God by offering their grain. And every time they sinned, an animal had to die (be sacrificed) for their sins. Only priests could meet with God in the Holy of Holies and they would give God these offerings and sacrifices on the people's behalf.



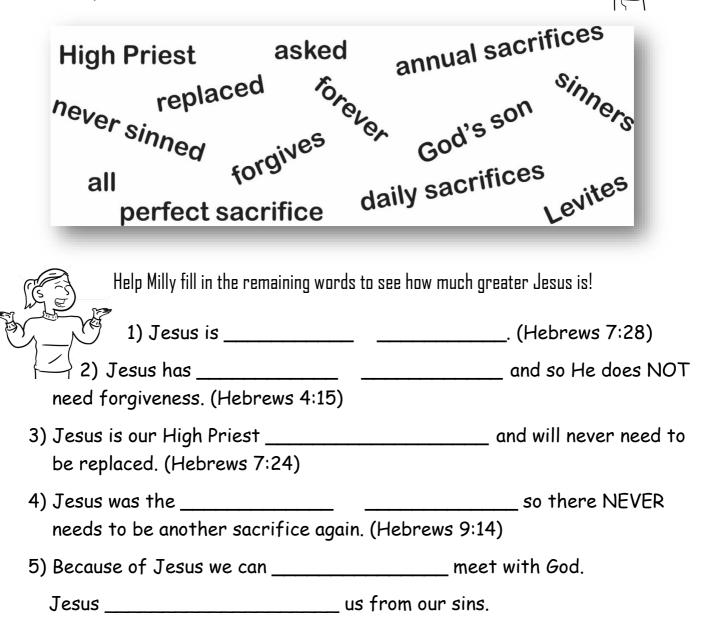
Can you match the rule to its meaning?

- TO SAY SORRY TO GOD
- A MEETING PLACE FOR WORSHIP
- TO SAY THANK YOU TO GOD
- MEN WHO MET WITH GOD ON THE PEOPLE'S BEHALF
- THE ROOM WHERE GOD'S PRESENCE WOULD BE

The Bible tells us about the priests...

- They were Levites, men from the tribe of Levi.
- They were sinners and first needed to ask God to forgive them.
- They were **<u>replaced</u>** every time the old priest died.
- They made daily sacrifices on behalf of the people.
- Annual sacrifices were made by the High Priest.
- The <u>High Priest</u> was the only one that could meet with God in the Holy of Holies.
- They **<u>asked</u>** God to forgive the people.

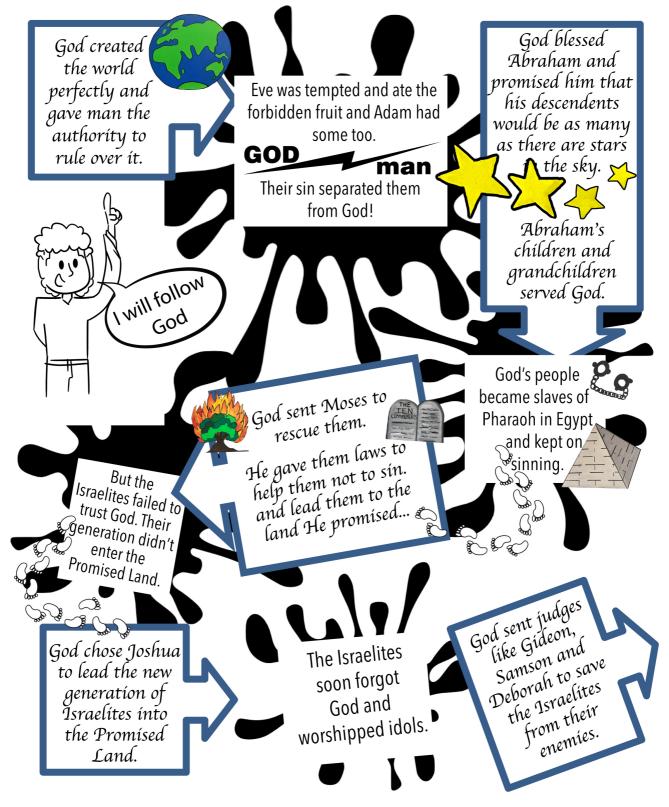
Help Max cross out all of these underlined words in the box below

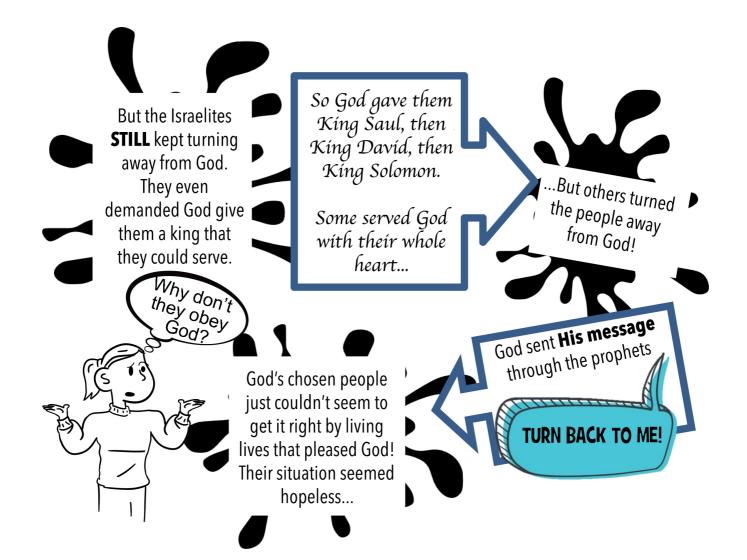


### The need for a Saviour

# The stories in the Old Testament are like a pattern of people repeatedly being saved by God and then returning to their sinful ways that God hated.

The story of the Old Testament is like a pattern of man repeatedly being SAVED by God and then returning to their **sinful** ways that God hated.





God sent many messages and warnings to His people telling them to stop sinning and to follow Him. But they did not listen. Even those that loved and obeyed God sinned too.

The Old Testament shows us that

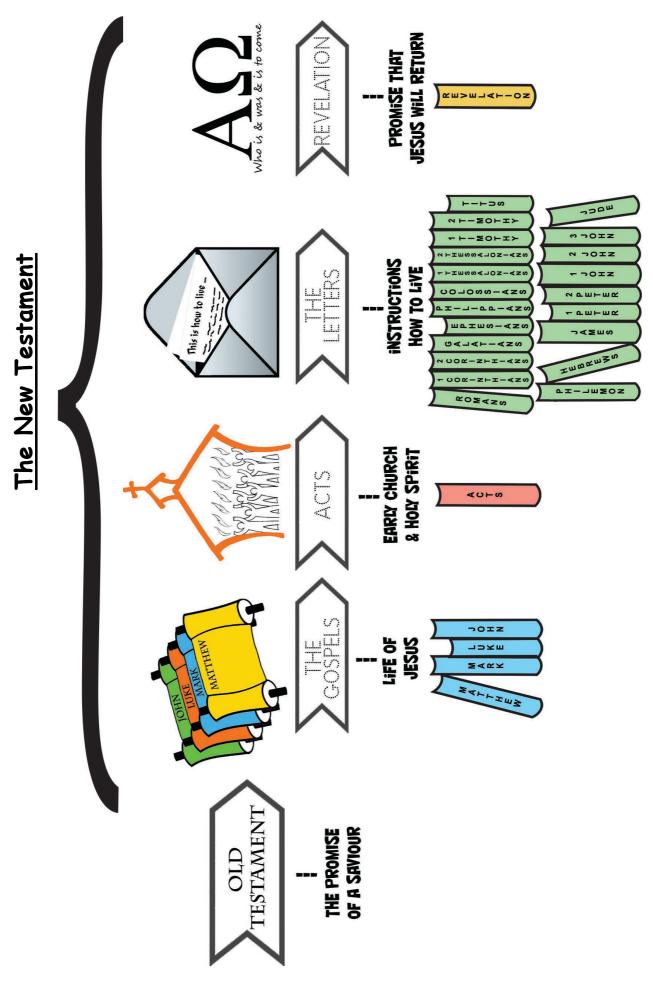


Do you think God will send one like He promised?



To make sure that we knew who the Saviour was, God also sent many messages telling us exactly what He would be like. The Old Testament shows us that we don't just need anyone...







Acts tells us about the early church and the

# The book before Colossians is

There are books in the New Testament

is the last book of the New Testament

tell us about the life of Jesus

The 4

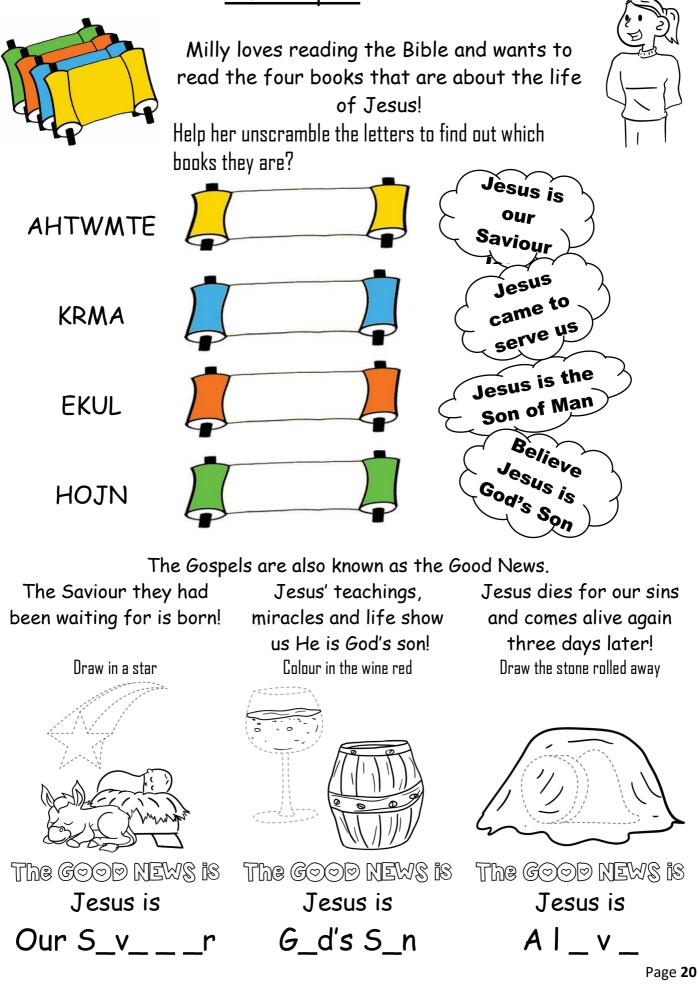
# is the first book of the New Testament

The letters are written to .....

11. Ashell, Ashe Laterties .

The 🗐 Bible |

## The Gospels



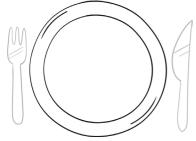
#### Read Luke 19:1-10

Draw in more bags of money

Zacchaeus was a tax collector and he had become very rich taking more money than he should have.



Draw what you think they ate



When Jesus came to his town, Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus and so he climbed up into a tree to have a look. As Jesus walked by, He called Zacchaeus **by name** and told him He was coming to his house for a meal.

Some people grumbled that Jesus was spending time with a sinner like Zacchaeus. But Jesus' kindness changed Zacchaeus' heart. He gave half his money to the poor and paid back the people four times more than he had stolen!



Use the shapes of the leaves to re-write the verse in the correct order.



Zacchaeus wasn't **lost** because he was up in a tree. He was lost because he was living a sinful life that did not please God. Once Zacchaeus **repented** and believed in Jesus, Jesus said "**Salvation** has come to this place."

Saved from the punishment due for his sins by believing in Jesus. He was forgiven by Jesus.



Changed how he lived as he now wanted to live a life that pleased God.

## <u>Acts</u> <u>The Holy Spirit is sent</u>

Can you imagine the joy the believers must have felt when Jesus came back to life? But forty days later Jesus went back to Heaven because He said it was better for Him to go! Read John 16:7 and write down why.

Use the verses from the Bible to stick the co	rrect picture by what happened.
On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Acts 2:1	
a) Who was meeting together?	
Suddenly there was a sound from Heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm and it filled the house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2	
b) Did the verse say there was a windstorm or it sounded like a roaring wind?	
Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. Acts 2:3	
c) Did the verse say there were flames or it looked like flames?	
And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Acts 2:4	
d) Who was filled with the Holy Spirit?	
	Page 22

"We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" The devout Jews stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. Acts 2:11-12

e) How would you feel if this happened to you?

#### Peter stood up and said,

"God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now He is exalted to the place of highest honour in Heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as He had promised, gave Him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. Acts 2:32-33

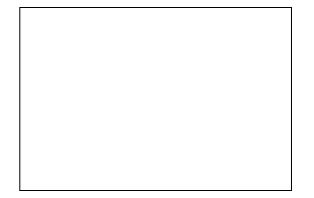
The Bible says Peter's words pierced their hearts and they asked what they must do?

Peter replied, "Each of you must <u>repent of your sins</u> and <u>turn to God</u>, and <u>be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ</u> for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

#### That day 3000 people believed and chose to love Jesus.

Cut out the pictures and stick them next to what happened on the day of Pentecost. Use the Bible to help you.





The life of Jesus shows us how we should live. Everything Jesus did, we should do too. But Jesus knew it would be impossible for us to do this on our own and so He sent the Holy Spirit to help us.

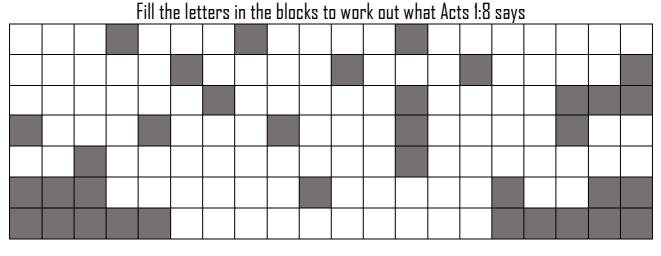
Write a prayer thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit. Ask Him for how you need help to be more likes Jesus.

Page 24

## God builds His church

If you believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him then you are part of His church. And He has chosen you to help others know, love and believe in Him too. God promised many years before that He would send the Holy Spirit to help us do this.

#### BUTYOUWILLRECEIVEPOWERWHENTHEHOLYSPIRITCOMESUPONYOUANDYOUWIL LBEMYWITNESSESTELLINGPEOPLEABOUTMEEVERYWHERE





Peter and John saw a lame man begging at the temple gates. Peter said "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, get up and walk!" Acts 3:6

Then Peter helped the man up. He was instantly healed! He jumped up and went walking, leaping, and praising God into the Temple with them.

The people who saw this were amazed! Peter asked them "What is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness?" Acts 3:12. Peter then told them "Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes." Acts 3:16.

Then he told them how Jesus had died and come alive again so they could have eternal life. 5000 people believed in Jesus! (Acts 4:4). But the council of Sadducees didn't want Peter and John to talk about the eternal life that Jesus gives us. So they had them arrested.

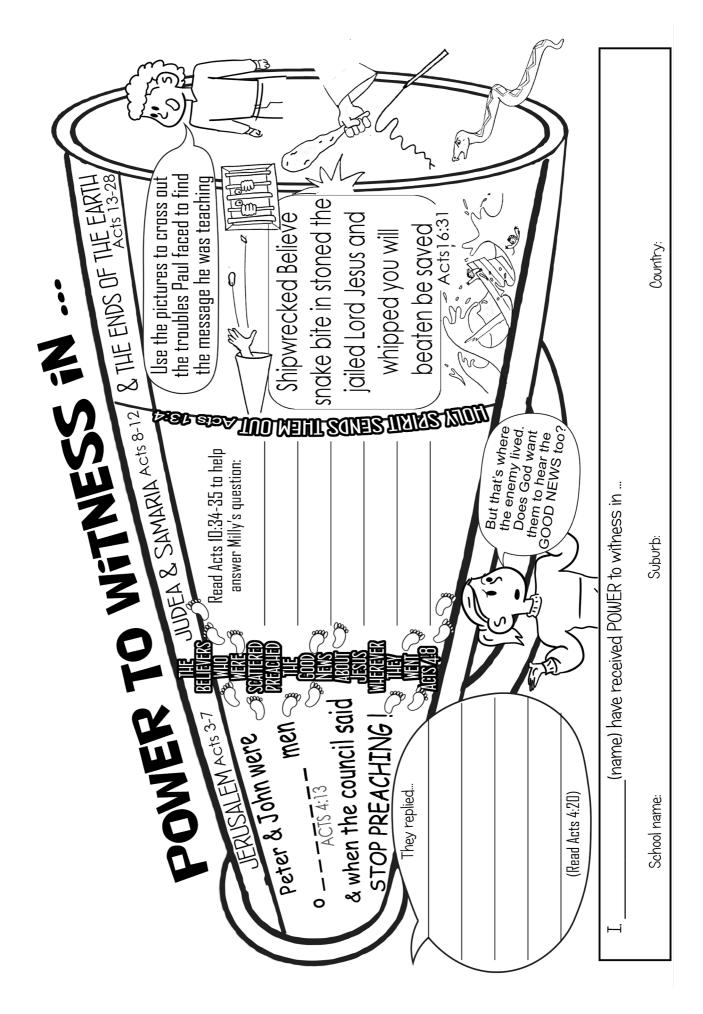
When the council questioned them, "Peter, filled with the <u>Holy Spirit</u>, said to them." Acts 4:8. "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under Heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

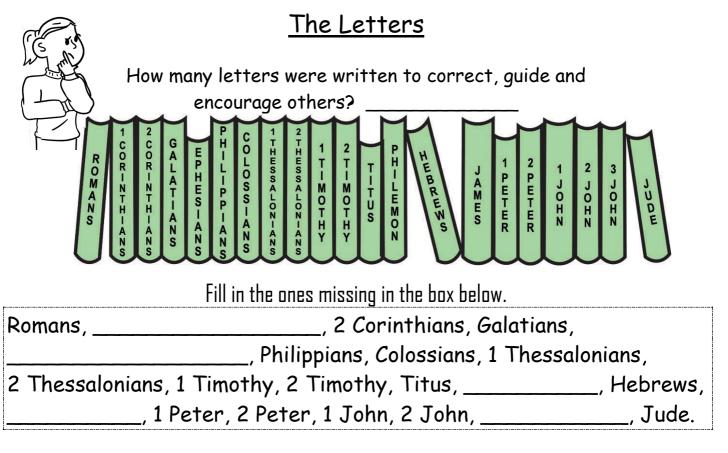
The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

The council ordered them to stop telling others about Jesus but Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20

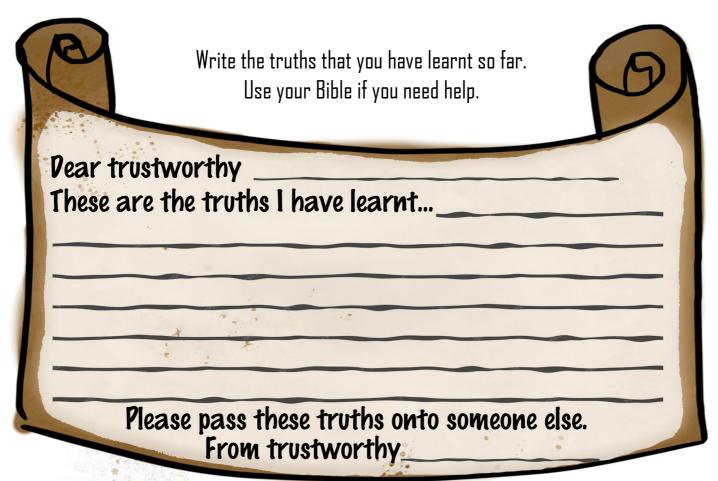
Use the Bible verses in the story to choose the correct answer:

The man was healed by (Acts 3:16)	When Peter told them about
a) Peter and John's power	Jesus (Acts 4:4)
b) The power of Jesus' name	a) 5000 people believed
c) Vitamin C	b) No one believed
	c) Some believed
Peter was filled with (Acts 4:8)	When the council said stop telling
a) Excitement	others about Jesus (Acts 4:19-20)
b) The Holy Spirit	a) Peter and John did
c) Fear	b) Peter and John laughed
	c) Peter and John said they couldn't
	Page <b>26</b>





In one of the letters Paul says, "Now <u>teach</u> these <u>truths</u> to other trustworthy people who will be able to <u>pass them on to</u> others." 2 Timothy 2:2





The letters are filled with encouragement as they teach us how to live.

Use your Bible to look up the verses and complete what these letters say.



1 Timothy 4:12 <sup>12</sup> Don't let anyone think less of you because you are \_\_\_\_\_\_. Be an example to all believers in what you \_\_\_\_\_\_, in the way you \_\_\_\_\_, in your love, your faith, and your purity.



Philippians 2:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress \_\_\_\_\_\_. Be humble, thinking of \_\_\_\_\_\_as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in \_\_\_\_\_\_, too.



Romans 8:28

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of those who \_\_\_\_\_\_ God and are called according to His purpose for them.



1 Peter 5:7

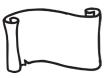
<sup>7</sup> Give all your \_\_\_\_\_\_ and cares to God, for He cares about you.



## Hearing and doing the Word

The book of James is a letter he wrote to people who believed in Jesus but where not doing what the Bible says. Let's see what we can learn from it.

James 1:19-27 <sup>19</sup> Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. <sup>20</sup> Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. <sup>21</sup> So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But don't just *listen* to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.<sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the **perfect law** that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. <sup>26</sup> If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.



The **perfect** or **royal law** that James mentions in verse 25 is talking about the Gospel message or the Good News. It is the freedom from sin that we receive when we believe Jesus died and rose for the forgiveness of our sins.



As believers of this Good News, what has God plended in our heards? (Verse 21) \_\_\_\_\_.

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If you have ever looked in the mirror you will know that your hair is

\_\_\_\_\_, your eyes are \_\_\_\_\_\_ your eyes are \_\_\_\_\_\_ your nose is \_\_\_\_\_\_and your teeth are \_\_\_\_\_\_.

James 1:22-24 teaches us that if we are not doing what God has planted in our hearts it is as foolish as looking in the mirror and forgetting what you look like when you walk away. James 3:1-12

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

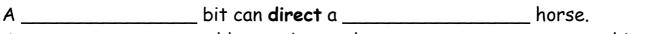
<sup>3</sup> We can make a **large** horse go wherever we want by means of a **small** bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a **small** rudder makes a **huge** ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a **small** thing that makes **grand** speeches.

But a **tiny** spark can set a **great** forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness,

corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

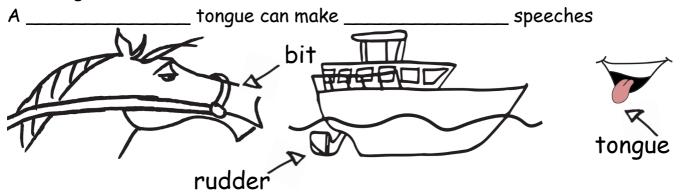
<sup>7</sup> People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. <sup>10</sup> And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! <sup>11</sup> Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? <sup>12</sup> Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

Read the passage to complete the sentences by adding in either "BIG" or "small" to make them true.



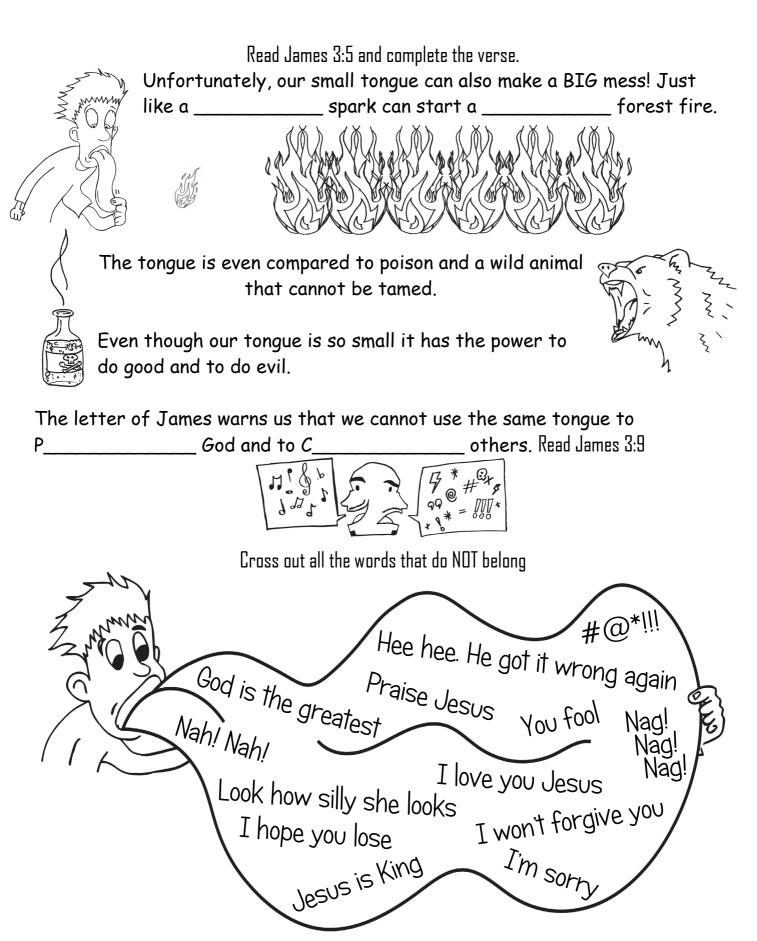
A \_\_\_\_\_\_ rudder can be used to **turn** a \_\_\_\_\_\_ ship, even

in strong winds.



James 3:3-5 is teaching us that something SMALL can make a impact.

In the same ways our tongues can be used to do good things that make a BIG difference. The things we say can help **direct** people towards loving God and **turn** them away from things that do not please Him.



It is important to remember that our tongues have the power to lead any conversation we are in. Let's use them to show people how much we love Jesus and to bring them closer to loving Him too.

### Revelation



The last book of the Bible is the **GRAND FINALE.** 

Help Max crack the code to find out the name of the last book of the Bible:

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Complete the verse Revelation 1:8

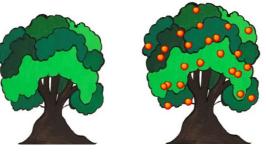
"I am the Alpha and Omega – the beginning and the end "says the Lord God

He is the same from beginning

God doesn't depend on anything to exist. **Genesis** tells us that God, Jesus and Holy Spirit were there even before creation. There has never been a time without Them.  $\mathbf{\Omega}$ 

Nothing can come against God. He is the most powerful of all. **Revelation** tells us that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit will create a new Heaven and Earth reminding us that there will never be a time without Them. Use the Bible verses provided to complete the activities below. Heaven is a very beautiful city where the streets are made of . (Revelation 21:21)

There is a <u>clear & sparkling /murky & polluted</u> river in the city and on each side of it grows trees that look like this all-year round... (Revelation 22:1) (Cross out the incorrect words and circle correct tree)





How beautiful the foundations must look as they are compared to sparkling green, red, blue, purple and yellow precious stones. (Revelation 21:19-20)



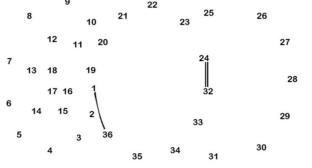
(Colour the foundation stones)



The city of Heaven has 6+2+4= \_\_\_\_\_ gates and each is compared to a \_\_\_\_\_. (Revelation 21:21)

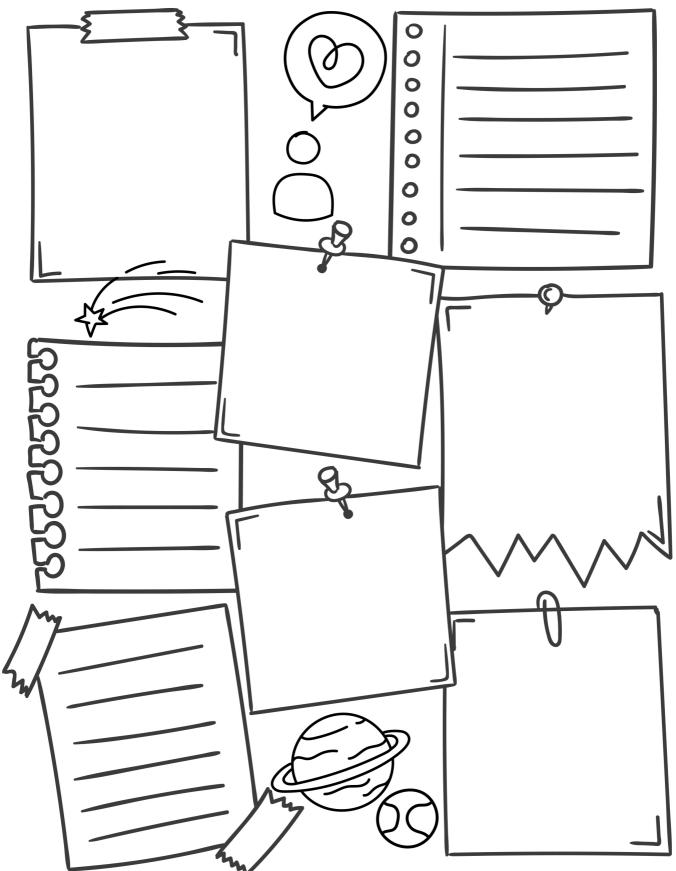
There is no more death, \_\_\_\_\_ (rowsor), crying or \_\_\_\_\_(apin). All these things are gone forever! (Revelation 21:4) There is only JOY!

(Revelation 21:23) It is never dark in Heaven because



is light and on His right hand side Jesus sits on His throne. And most importantly there is a book there with \_\_\_\_\_\_ in it. (Revelation 21:2<sup>%)ur name</sup>

The Bible is given to you by God. He wants you to read it so you can know that He loves you and so that you can get to know Him more. Use this page to remind yourself of all the things you have loved learning about from the Bible.



Why not share what you have learnt with someone else.