

THE  
PROMISES OF GOD  
STORYBOOK BIBLE

THE STORY  
OF GOD'S  
UNSTOPPABLE  
LOVE

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## *A Note to the Grown-Ups*

*Hello!*

I trust you have a child you love in your life, one you hope will learn to know more about God and His love. You might be a parent who is going to use this resource at family devotion time, a grandparent who will read the stories any chance you get, an aunt or uncle who wants to help disciple the kids you love to spoil, or (like me) a Sunday School teacher who is looking for an additional resource to use with the kiddos you get to teach each week.

For nearly two decades, I have taught the Bible to adults, teenagers, preteens, and preschoolers. Without exception, the preschoolers learn the most but require the most preparation to teach. When they have the material synthesized for them through a lens they can understand, with context that is concrete for them, they can then learn the great Truths that are certain from God and accept what is yet a mystery about this same God.

That is what I've tried to accomplish in this book. I've learned that the thread of the promises of God is sticky for kids and easy for them to understand. It weaves together the stories from creation to the new heaven and earth, all while making the stories personal. This thread, coupled with a way of teaching that either uses words children know or defines important words they may not know, makes the most complex of biblical stories comprehensible to children as young as three, but fully engaging for children as old as nine or ten.

God has given us all that is needed for children to understand the gospel, the grand narrative of the Bible, and the promises that are ultimately fulfilled in God's people as heirs alongside a reigning Jesus in the new earth. I've written these stories to be read aloud, and I hope that you'll quickly catch the tone that is emotive, sometimes funny, always clear, and imaginative when biblically appropriate.

I pray that every child who is read this book will finish it with a heart that is softer toward the God who created him or her. And I pray that you, the reader, will find the same for your own heart. That by reading these simply profound truths to the little ones you love, you'll remember how deeply you are loved by our great God, who establishes and keeps His promises for His people.

He is good.

And He always keeps His promises.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*Jennifer Lyell*



This doesn't make sense if you think about God like we think about people, because one person can only ever be one person. But God isn't like people. He can be and do whatever He chooses. So, the one God can have three different persons that are each by themselves totally God, but the three persons are also all the same one God. That's kind of confusing, isn't it? Well, it's confusing for grown-ups too, because some things about God are a mystery to us. But we get to understand enough to know Him and to know that He keeps His promises, which is what we're going to learn about in this book.

Now keep those ears open because there's one more big grown-up thing you should know about God: He has always known every single thing that was going to happen, and nothing ever happens without His permission. That means when we hear about something that happened in the Bible, where someone disobeyed God or it *seems* like God's plans were messed up, God's plans were never ever messed up. He knows everything about us before we are born, and He knows all the things that haven't even happened yet!

But guess what? Since God told us some of those things in the Bible and this is a *Bible* storybook, you're going to get to know about them too!

—FROM PSALM 90, 135

## Questions

- \* How many Gods are there?
- \* How many persons is the one God?
- \* What are the names of the persons of God?
- \* Does God get surprised or confused about things that happen in the world?


GOD PROMISES TO ALWAYS PROVIDE FOR HIS PEOPLE.

## *The First Promise*

Once upon a time, there actually wasn't time. There was only God. He has been God since before there was time. In fact, He made time! He made everything. It happened like this. . . .

God was good, and He knew what would be good. He knew how to create and how to make living things that would enjoy Him and that He could enjoy. So that's what He did.

At first all was dark and full of nothing. So God said, "Let there be light!" And guess what? There was light. That is all it took to make light in the whole universe. God said so, and it happened. Because He said it. Now, we don't really know how He said those words . . . if He shouted or if He whispered . . . if He talked with His inside voice or His outside voice. But we know that God is so powerful and so good that He can make the best of worlds with the softest of words. His power doesn't have to be shouted to work, and His promises don't have to be loud to be true.



Once He had made the light, He called it “day” and the darkness He called “night.” It was good to have day, and it was good to have night. But He is a creative God, and He wanted more than day and night for the world He would love. He wanted land and seas and stars and fish and birds and beasts. And He wanted people.

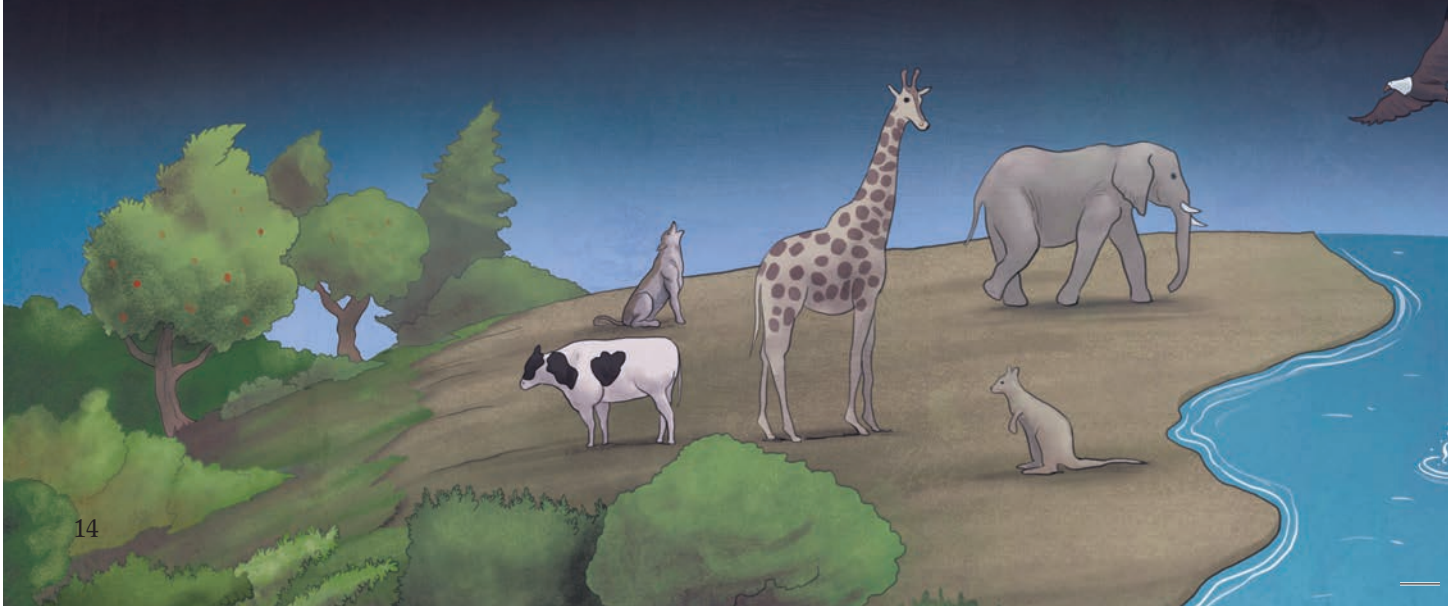
God made all these things by speaking. He put the oceans in just the right spots to give the earth water but not too much water. He told the oceans where to stay, and that is where they stayed, obeying God’s words.

After He had made day and night and the sky, God called for the waters to move back and for dry land to show, and they did, making the land and the sea. He then called for the ground to grow vegetables and fruit, and it did. He knew that He was about to make living creatures who would need land to walk on and food to eat.

So now there was ground and a sky. The ground had plants and vegetables, but the skies were empty . . . until God made stars to fill the skies! He also made two special lights—one to rule over the day and one to rule over the night.

God filled the water with fish and animals that swim! Big fish and little fish. They were all created in one second because He said they should exist.

Just as He had filled the water, He filled the air. With His word there were birds of all kinds flying around! Big birds and little birds . . . and it was all good.



Then it was time for God to fill the land with animals. He called for the ground to be filled with living creatures of all kinds and sizes—cows and giraffes and dogs and ants and wallabies and pandas and gorillas and cats and mice and more! God spoke the word, and all these animals were alive, and it was good.

God looked around and knew that all He had created was good—the land and the seas, the heavens and the earth, the stars in the sky, the fish and the birds, and the animals on the ground. But He wasn't done making the world. One very special part of the world was missing.



Do you know what it was? What had God still not created? It's something He made in His image, which means it's a bit like Him. It was people! First, He made a man. But after God made the man, He realized that it wasn't good that there was only a man. Someone was still missing. It was a woman! So God made woman too. And it was so good.

The man's name was Adam, and the woman's name was Eve. God loved them so much. They were His very most absolute favoritest thing He had made! He loved them, and He made them promises right from the beginning. He told them that He had put them in charge of all the things on the earth, and they would always have the food they needed. He promised He would take care of them. He gave them hearts that knew Him. And it was good!

—FROM *GENESIS 1-2*



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## Questions

- ✦ What are your favorite things God made?
- ✦ How did God make things?
- ✦ What was God's favorite thing He made?
- ✦ What did God promise Adam and Eve?