

Do you want to read the Bible but find it's a bit too BIG and too hard to understand sometimes?

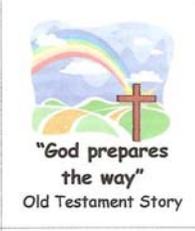


I think we could all admit to answering "Yes" to this at some time in our lives, especially as children! That's why it is good to be able to go to Sunday School at church or a special children's program, where we can learn from an adult what the Bible says. But since the Bible is actually God's SPECIAL BOOK written to us to help us get to know Jesus and God, Our Heavenly Father, and to learn how to please and serve Him, it's important that we do read it for ourselves too! In North America and much of Europe, the Bible is available in several modern translations (meaning it's been translated into the language of TODAY rather than the English of 500 years ago!).



Around the world, the Bible is now available in hundreds of different languages - in fact you can find it in over 250 languages on the Internet and there are audio gospel tracts in over 5,000 languages! But did you know that in many countries of the world it STILL hasn't been translated into the language of the local people? In MANY countries, schooling is poor and many people cannot read well, and so books and even bibles are very hard to find; also, of course, in most poor countries the people could not afford to buy a bible even if they wanted one!

In past years, like many ministries, we have sent bibles and scripture tracts overseas to churches and Christians who cannot get them. But it is expensive to buy the bibles; costs a lot to send them by mail (and sometimes they get lost along the way!), and then in some countries the recipients have to pay customs tax before they can receive them! So we have been working on other ways to send useful scripture portions to our ministry partners around the world. This month, I want to share with you an exciting new little book that you can put together yourself to read about the Old Testament story in the Bible. We're calling this little mini-book "God prepares the way", because it tells the story of how God created the world and mankind, and then chose a man, and then a family, then a tribe and finally a nation, to teach them how to worship, obey and even KNOW God - preparing the way for God to send His son, Jesus, to the world.



This little book has 40 pages (even with pictures!) and tells about the main stories and bible characters in the Old Testament, to help understand God's plan to send Jesus. (We hope to prepare two more mini-books in the future, about the New Testament and Salvation). The exciting thing is that the whole book is printed out on both sides of only ONE sheet of paper! So we can send the "master copy sheet" through the Internet (we plan to add it soon to our website) and then anyone around the world can print it out, cut, fold and put it together! Our ministry friends in Africa and India are already excited about it and are planning to soon translate it into their local language so it can be printed and shared with hundreds of children (and adults!). So instead of paying to print them here and then ship them, we can just send the money so our friends can do it themselves overseas as printing is often much less expensive there - as little as \$100 US in India will pay for about 4,000 copies of the mini-book!

So this month the PAL project is truly a project - and maybe something you can enjoy when school is out! You can find as an attachment here the "master copy sheet" of this first mini-book. All you have to do is print it out and follow the instructions to make your OWN mini-book to learn about the Old Testament. Maybe you could make several and give them to your friends! Maybe you would like to show it to your relatives and neighbors and collect money to send so that our ministry partners in Africa and India can print them and give them to lots of children overseas who cannot get a bible! That would be a great project to do for Jesus this summer!

'Til next time,
love from your friend, Shirley