

Genesis is the first book in the Bible and tells us how in the beginning there was only chaos and darkness but then God SPOKE and He created light; then the earth with seas, rivers, mountains, trees and all kinds of plants; and then the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day, God created the fish and creatures in the seas, and all kinds of birds in the sky.

1a

Every evening God met and talked with Adam and Eve in the beautiful Garden of Eden where they lived. Everything was perfect and they had only ONE rule to obey – not to eat the fruit of a certain tree.



2a

From that day on there was a barrier between Man and God because of sin. But God already had a plan to restore the relationship with Man – even though it would take thousands of years!

Adam and Eve had children but sin remained – their son CAIN even killed his own brother, ABEL!

3a

Finally there was SO much sin that EVERYONE in the world was wicked except for one man – NOAH. He listened and believed in God and so when God told him how to be prepared and not die with the rest, he obeyed. For 100 years Noah worked hard to build a huge boat, and stock it with food for his family and for all the animals that God sent to be in the Ark with him (two of every kind).

4a

Noah's family and all the animals multiplied, and spread over the earth, but many people forgot God and began to worship idols instead – such as the sun, or trees or statues.



5a

Through the years God continued to speak to many men, called prophets, who passed on God's Words to the people. He warned them not to forget the ways of God and He told them He would send the MESSIAH who would come to restore them to God and establish God's Kingdom over all the nations forever.

19b

Then the priest Ezra returned with more people to Jerusalem to restore the worship and obedience to the Law again. He read the Scriptures and showed the Jews how they were sinning against God's Word and should repent – and all the people did, and asked God's forgiveness. Some years later, Nehemiah returned with more Jews and rebuilt the walls around the city again to make it strong.

18b

SHADRACH, MESHACH and ABEDNEGO were three Jews who refused to worship a golden statue and were sent into a fiery furnace – but God sent an angel to protect them and brought them out alive! DANIEL was thrown into a den of lions for praying to God, but God protected him! ESTHER risked her life when she went to the king to ask mercy for her people, the Jews, and God blessed her.

17b

First the Assyrians defeated the Northern Kingdom of Israel and took the people away captive. Then some years later, Judah was also defeated by Nebuchadnezzar, who took the people captive to Babylon, and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.



16b

God sent fire down from heaven to prove to all Israel that He is greater than any other gods; and He took Elijah up to Heaven in a chariot of fire!



15b

But because of Abram's faithfulness, God promised to give him and Sarah a son, even though they were both old. They believed God even though it was another 20 years before their son, ISAAC, was born – when Abram (later called ABRAHAM by God) was 100 yrs old and Sarah was 90! Isaac was the first of a great nation that God promised would come from Abraham.

6a

Isaac was also obedient to God like his father, and he married REBEKAH. They had twin boys called JACOB and ESAU. Esau was the elder but did not follow God, so Jacob became the leader of the tribe.



7a

Jacob's wife, RACHEL, could not have a child for many years, but finally her son, JOSEPH, was born. He was his father's favorite but was also chosen by God to be the leader of his older brothers, so they became jealous of him.



8a

God showed Joseph there would be great famine for 7 years so he helped Egypt store food. When the famine came, even Joseph's family came to Egypt to get food. They were afraid when they saw Joseph but he forgave them for harming him as a boy, and helped the whole family (70 people) move to Egypt, where they were given the best land to live on with their herds. The story continues in **Exodus**.

9a

The Pharaoh even had all the Israelites' baby boys killed, but God had a plan to deliver His people. A baby boy named MOSES, was hidden by his mother on the river Nile, and was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, who raised him as her son, to be a prince.



10a

David was a good king and won many victories for Israel so the kingdom grew very big. He also sinned but then repented, and received God's forgiveness. We can read some of his writings in the book of **Psalms**. His son, SOLOMON, was a very wise king and blessed greatly by God. He built a beautiful temple to worship God in and wrote several books including **Proverbs**.

14b

There are exciting stories about leaders like DEBORAH, GIDEON and SAMSON, and how God did miracles to help His people. The last of the judges was called SAMUEL, and he was chosen as a baby to serve God. He always obeyed God and was a prophet who passed on God's messages to the people. When the people wanted a king, Samuel anointed SAUL as the first king, and later, DAVID.

13b

The first battle was at Jericho which had very strong walls and seemed impossible. But Joshua obeyed God and made the people walk around the walls for 7 days, then when they shouted and blew their horns, God did a miracle and the walls fell down flat, so they took the city. They went on and took back the Promise Land and began to live there again – but God warned them not to forget His ways.

12b



God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as rules for the people to live by, and also taught them many other things about how to obey and worship Him. He punished the wicked but took care of those who were faithful.

11b

When Moses became a man, he knew he was an Israelite and fled into the desert after he killed an Egyptian for beating a slave. There God spoke to him and told him he was to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses returned and asked Pharaoh to let the people return to the Promise Land that God had given them. When Pharaoh refused, God sent 10 terrible plagues on Egypt to change Pharaoh's mind.

10b

After that there was much fighting, and Israel split into two kingdoms - ISRAEL and JUDAH. The people forgot God and many of the kings were evil, leading the people to worship idols and other gods. God sent the prophets ELIJAH and ELISHA to remind the people of God's ways. God sent a famine on the land as punishment, but did miracles to help some of the faithful people.

15a

1,2 Samuel; 1,2 Kings and 1,2 Chronicles tell many stories of the different kings of the Israelites. The most famous was DAVID who was faithful to God even as a boy, when he killed the giant, GOLIATH.



14a

We can read in the books of **Joshua, Judges and Ruth** about how God gave special leaders to rule over the people and correct them when they started to worship other gods.



13a

God led the Israelites back to the Promise Land but they had to fight the inhabitants to obtain it. Moses died and JOSHUA took over as leader. He was faithful and obeyed God and so God blessed him with victory.



12a

Finally the Israelites left Egypt and went into the desert where it seemed impossible for so many people to survive (about 2-3 million of them!). But God did miracles like sending them "manna" to eat every day. In **Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy** we read of the many miracles and things that happened during the 40 years they spent in the desert being taught by God.

11a

There were many different tribes, but God chose one man specially to be the head of a new tribe and to learn about God. His name was ABRAM and God told him to leave his home and travel far away to another land that God promised to give him. Abram obeyed and along the way God blessed him and made him and his wife, SARAH, very rich, but they could not have any children.

5b

When Isaac was a young man, God wanted to test Abraham's faith and prove that God blesses obedience. He told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on an altar to God. Abraham didn't understand but believed that God would not destroy his precious son – and at the last minute an angel brought a ram to sacrifice instead.



6b

Jacob sometimes did things his own way rather than God's way, and he suffered because of it. He deceived others and he was also deceived, but finally he struggled all night with an angel because he wanted God's blessing and God changed his name to ISRAEL. He had twelve sons and so they became known as the Children of Israel – or the ISRAELITES.

7b

They put Joseph into a pit and then sold him to be a slave in Egypt, and told their father he was dead! But even so, because he always trusted in God, God took care of Joseph.

God gave him the ability to interpret dreams and after many years in Egypt, where he was even sent to prison though he was innocent, he was made the Pharaoh's chief man!

8b

As the years passed, the Children of Israel multiplied into a great nation. Finally a new Pharaoh became afraid they would take over the land and so made them all slaves, so they cried out for God to help them.



9b



Read more in the next booklet
"God sends Jesus"

Read how YOU can know
Jesus in the booklet
"God loves YOU!"

The Jews began again to build up their nation, and priests studied the scriptures to help the people know better how to obey and please God.



19a

Finally God raised up special men like NEHEMIAH and EZRA, who went to the King of Babylon and asked for the Jews to be able to return to Jerusalem. ZERUBBABEL returned first with a group to rebuild the temple.



18a

The Israelites spent over 70 years as captives in Babylon but God did not forget them. The books of **Daniel and Esther** tell many stories of God's miraculous protection of His faithful people.



17a

Through the years there were some good kings, such as ASA, JEHOASHAPHAT, and JOSIAH, but many of the kings were wicked. God sent many prophets to warn the people to repent and return to Him but they would not. Finally God spoke to them, through ISAIAH and JEREMIAH, of punishment that was coming upon them all – they would be captured and taken far away by enemies.

16a

Introduction

Throughout the Old Testament we learn about God – how He created the earth and Man, and developed a personal relationship with mankind. We see He started with certain individuals and began to reveal Himself and His plan first to a family, then a tribe and then a nation. He also prepared them to receive His only Son so that ALL could be saved.



On the sixth day He created all kinds of animals and creatures to live on the land – and He said it was all good. Then he created MAN to rule over the earth and all the creatures, and God made MAN in His own image – the man ADAM and the woman EVE.

1b

One day the devil, SATAN, came in the form of a snake, and told Eve if she ate that fruit she could know everything and be like God. She believed him rather than what God had told her, and so she and Adam both disobeyed God and ate the fruit. This was the first sin and broke the friendship they had with God. He had to punish them for disobeying, and sent them to live outside the Garden of Eden.

2b



Mankind continued to multiply and they began to forget God and there was more and more sin in the world.

3b



So when it rained for 40 days and nights and a huge flood killed all the people and animals on the earth, Noah's family and the animals were saved. Afterwards God sent a rainbow as a sign it would never happen again.

4b

Instructions for assembly of Mini Books

1. Print Page 1 and then Page 2 on the back of it
2. Trim top and bottom borders
3. Cut vertically in half
4. Cut horizontally along lines
5. Lay out page 1a/19b on table, then place on top in order 2a/18b, then 3a/17b and so on
6. Fold in half*
7. Add colored cover and staple. Trim edges even.

*(It is best to fold each little double page in half separately before you staple it as sometimes the printing is not quite even and part of the words could be lost. At the end after you've put on the cover and stapled it all together you can just trim off the extra on the outside edge of the pages to make them even.)

Here are some of the other mini-books planned:

