

God's Special Plan

FOR CHILDREN



God is the Creator.

GOD MADE THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT.
CAN YOU NAME SOME THINGS GOD MADE?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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God created the world to show how amazing He is.

The crashing ocean waves show us God's power. Colorful flowers show us God's beauty. Playful puppies show us God's joy. But God made one creature to show His greatness more than anything else. Can you guess which of God's creations that is?



People!

THE BIBLE SAYS GOD MADE PEOPLE DIFFERENT
THAN EVERYTHING ELSE HE MADE.

God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female. (Genesis 1:27)

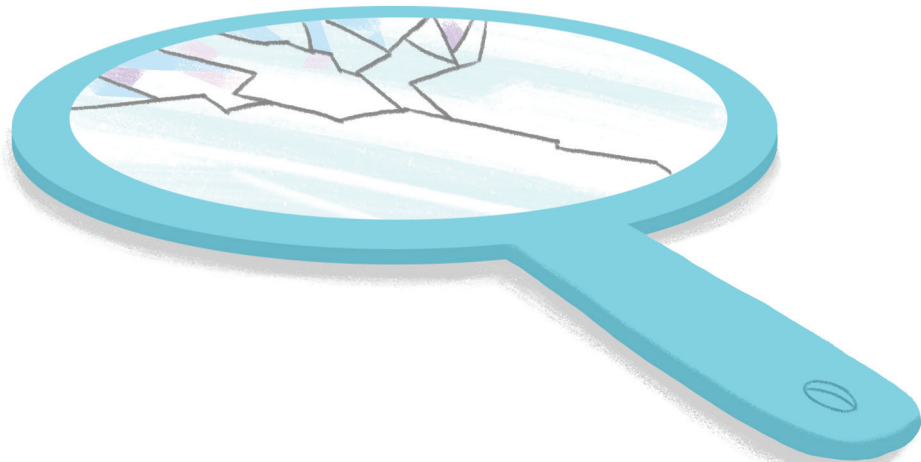
God made people in His image or His likeness. When you look in a mirror you see your reflection. What you see in the mirror is not you. It is an image that looks like you. We are not God, but God made us so that when the world looks at us, they see a little of what God is like. God created people to show His greatness or His glory. God made amazing you to show the world how amazing He is.



SINCE GOD MADE THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT, HE KNOWS HOW LIFE WORKS BEST.

God gave people rules for how to live in this world He made. God's rules show that He is a loving, good, and wise God. When we obey God's rules, we live joyful lives doing what God created us to do—show His glory.

But people do not obey God's rules. We often do the things God tells us not to do, and we do not do the things God tells us to do. We disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Write the word "sin" on the blank line below.



For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

All of us sin.

We do not show God's glory like He created us to do. Can you think of ways that you sin and disobey God?

Sin is a big problem, not only because it keeps us from doing what God created us to do but because sin must be punished.

For the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23a)

We deserve to be punished for our sin, and the punishment we deserve is death—being separated from God forever.



God loves people.

He knew people would sin before He even created them, and He had a plan to rescue them. God's plan is Jesus!

Jesus is God's one and only Son. Jesus came to earth as a person. While Jesus lived on earth, He never sinned—not one time. Jesus showed the world what God is like more than anyone who has ever lived because He is God.



Jesus showed God's love to the world by taking the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross.

**But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:8)**

Jesus did not stay dead. God raised Jesus from the dead, and He is alive today. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God made the way to give us life.



Have you ever made a trade? Maybe you traded toys with a friend or traded snacks with a classmate? Through His death and resurrection, Jesus made a trade with people. He took people's sin on Himself and gave them His righteousness. Because of Jesus, God will forgive our sin, and when He looks at us, He will not see our sin anymore. Instead, He will see the perfect sinless life of His Son.

*He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*



How can we have this life with God that Jesus earned for us and God wants to give us? By believing in Jesus!

For God loved the world in this way:
He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him
will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Life with God is not something we can earn. It is a gift. All we bring to Jesus is our need. We show we believe in Jesus as we turn away from our sin and turn to Him.

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23b)



Have you ever put your trust in Jesus to save you from your sin? Do you have any questions about what we have been talking about? Do you think you may be ready to trust in Jesus now?

Why don't you talk to God about this? We talk to God through prayer. You can pray out loud or quietly in your head. Just tell God what is going on in your heart right now. Do not worry about saying the right thing. You may want to write out part of your prayer on the blank lines.

YOU CAN WRITE YOUR PRAYER HERE!

Welcome to God's Family!

If you decided to turn from your sin and trust in Jesus to save you, you are now a Christian! Becoming a Christian is the most important decision you will make in your life. As a Christian, you get the forgiveness of sin, Jesus' help in your daily life, and the eternal life that God promises. But God gives you even more!

You are now a child of God.

See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are!
(1 John 3:1a)

The Holy Spirit of God now lives in you to help you live for Him.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you. (John 14:26)

Nothing can separate you from God's love.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)



AS A REMINDER OF THIS TIME, WRITE YOUR NAME AND THE DATE BELOW. THIS WILL BE YOUR SPIRITUAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

I, _____

NAME

accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior

on _____

DATE

The Bible says,

**“I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God
so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)**

WILL JESUS EVER LEAVE YOU?

NO! He has promised He will always be with us. Jesus says in the Bible, “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20b)

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE A CHRISTIAN?

FOREVER! The Bible says, “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) How long is eternal life? It is forever! When God saves you, you belong to Him forever! Jesus says of those who trust in Him, “No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (John 10:28b-29)

WILL YOU EVER SIN AGAIN?

YES, YOU WILL. God saves Christians from the punishment for sin, but we are still sinners. Sinful people sin. But Christians have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us see our sin and be sad about it. All God wants us to do when we sin is admit it, tell Him we are sorry, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us not sin. The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

As soon as you become a Christian, God begins the process of making you more and more like Jesus. We get to join God in this work He is doing in us by doing things that help us grow in love for Him. Here are some things you can do to help you love God more.

1. READ THE BIBLE

God gives us His words in the Bible. All of God's words are true. Begin by reading just a few verses or one chapter a day. The Book of Mark is a great place to start.

2. PRAY

Prayer is simply talking to God. We can talk to God about anything and at any time. He wants to hear from you!

3. BE PART OF A CHURCH

God knows being a Christian in this sinful world is not easy. He gives us other people who believe in Jesus to help us. In church, we learn more about God, we are reminded about what is true, and we can ask other believers to pray for us when we sin or have other problems.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18a)

FOR THE CHILD MAKING A STEP TOWARD GOD

God loves you very much! He is helping you understand things about Himself and His Son Jesus, and He wants you to learn more. Keep seeking Him. Pray and read the Bible. Go to church. As you do, God will teach you more and more. You have made a step toward God today, and He will let you know when you are ready for the next step. As you have more questions, ask your parents, a pastor, your teacher at church, or another Christian so we can answer them for you. Let's pray and ask God to keep working in you and teaching you about Himself.



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