

DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 1: GENESIS, MARK, 1 & 2 KINGS, JONAH

1

Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2

Find a place where you can be quiet and think



4

Ask God to help you understand what you read



3

Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



5

Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



6

Pray about what you have read and learned



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read Genesis 1 v 1

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Genesis begins on. Turn to that page.

"Genesis 1 v 1" means you need to go to chapter 1 of Genesis, and then find verse 1 of chapter 1 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

WEIRD WORDS

Sprongle

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.



Think!

This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.



Action!

Challenges you to put what you've read into action.



Wow!

This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.



Pray!

Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



Coming up in Issue 1...

Genesis: Big beginnings

Let's start right at the beginning — the very beginning — in the book of beginnings. The name "Genesis" means "beginnings", and we'll soon see why.

Ever wondered why we're here? Or how life fits together? Or if it matters anyway? Genesis tells us that God was there right at the beginning. In fact, He was there *before* the beginning. And God Himself has always existed, so **He** never even had a beginning!

Confused? You won't be! Just blown away by our amazing God and the incredible plans He has for you.

Mark: All about Jesus

The Gospel of Mark is all about beginnings too. That word "Gospel" means "good news", and Mark tells us in his very first verse that he is writing about "the beginning of the good news about Jesus".

Mark is the shortest of the four life stories of Jesus. (In case you're wondering, the other three Gospels are by Matthew, Luke and John.) Mark races through his story, but packs loads in. He wants us to know just *who* Jesus is and *why* He came. It's gripping stuff!

Elijah: Fiery prophet

We jump into the books of 1 & 2 Kings to meet one of the Bible's most famous prophets: Elijah. A prophet was one of God's special messengers, and Elijah had some epic ways of getting his message across.

Expect battles, soak-the-wood-then-set-it-on-fire competitions and flying chariots! But the message was always the same: God is the one real God, and King of everything — so make sure you listen to Him!

Jonah: The runaway

Imagine being given a special job by God. He has chosen YOU to do it; told you where to go and how to get there; and explained what to say when you arrive. Sounds great? Really exciting? Would you go for it?

Jonah didn't. He took one look at the job in hand, and ran away.

The story of how God dealt with His runaway prophet is exciting, surprising and just a bit scary. Because the heart of the story is how God deals with *everyone* who turns away from Him — and that includes you and me. The heart of it is **grace** — the love and forgiveness God offers to everyone who turns back to Him (even those horrid Ninevites that Jonah didn't want to help in the first place).

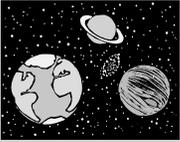
Sounds exciting?

Let's dive right in...

Genesis: Big beginnings

Genesis

1 v 1



This is the beginning of Issue One of Discover.

So we're going to start with the very beginning of the Bible — Genesis.

It's the beginning of the awesome story of the universe that God created.

We'll find out how He did it and how we fit into it!

GENESIS FACTS

- 1 Genesis means "beginnings"
- 2 It tells us about the beginning of the universe
- 3 ...and the beginning of human beings
- 4 ...and the beginning of sin in the world
- 5 ...and the beginning of God's special people — the Israelites.

Read Genesis 1 v 1

Before anything else existed, someone was already there. It's hard to understand that God had no beginning. Unlike us puny humans, He has always existed!

What did God do? Go back one letter (B=A, C=B, D=C) to find out.

— — —
H P E

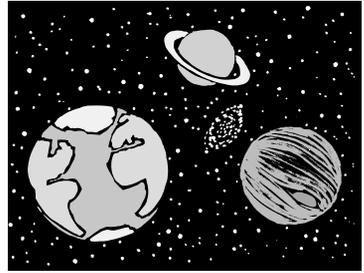
— — — — —
D S F B U F E

— — —
U I F

— — — — —
I F B W F O T

— — — — —
B O E U I F

— — — — —
F B S U I



That means God created

EVERYTHING! He created the whole universe from nothing. And He is in total control of it.

What does this tell us about God? Add your own thoughts to the bottom two answers.

God is great

God is powerful

God is _____

God is _____

Pray!



On scrap paper, write down a list of some of the things God has created. Now spend time praising Him for everything He has made.

Light switch

Genesis 1 v 2-13



Close your eyes
and cover your
ears, then silently
count to ten.

Imagine a world
like that —
empty, dark and
silent.

WEIRD WORDS

Formless

Had no shape

Spirit of God

The Holy Spirit.
He was around at
the beginning, and
He's around now,
helping Christians
to live for God.

Vault

Gap or space

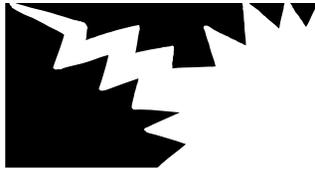
Now read Genesis 1 v 2

What was the earth like at the very
beginning?

colourful
empty
like it is now
totally dark
formless
full of stuff

The world was totally dark and
empty. Then God spoke...

DAY 1



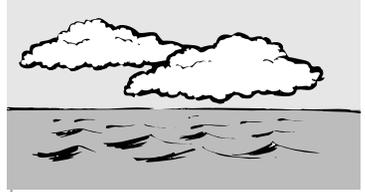
Read verses 3-5

and fill in the vowels (aeiou) to
reveal what God said.

L__t th__r__
b__ l__ght (v3)

It was the very first day in the
history of the world! God spoke.
Just a few words from Him was
enough to make light burst into an
empty world.

DAY 2



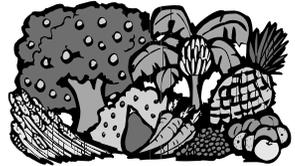
Read verses 6-8

L__t th__r__ b__ a
vault to s__p__r__t__
th__ w__t__rs (v6).

God created the sky. Just like that!

DAY 3

Read verses 9-13



On the 3rd day, God created

l__nd and s__ (v10),
pl__nts and tr__s giving
us fr__t and
v__g__t__bl__s (v11). God
made all of this and was
pleased with it (v12).

Pray!



Praise and thank God for
the world He has made.

Genesis 1 v 14-23



We're way back at the beginning of the universe.

So far God has made the world, giving it light, land, sea and plants.

It's time for Him to make some bigger stuff...

WEIRD WORDS

Sacred times

Special times/seasons set aside for God

Blessed

Given a special job by God

Be fruitful

Have lots of babies!

Stars, starfish & starlings

DAY 4



Read Genesis 1 v 14-19

Think how **tiny** you are compared with the moon and the sun and all the millions of stars out there in space.

God made the sun, moon and stars. Think how **awesome and powerful** He must be! And yet we can personally know this incredible God!

Unjumble the anagrams to reveal what the sun, moon and stars control (v14).

S _____ times,

A D S R E C

D _____ and

S A D Y

Y _____

R A S E Y

Astronomers have discovered that there is a pattern to where the sun, moon and stars are in relation to the earth. And that's how we work out the length of days, months and years. God made them and controls their movements!

DAY 5



Read verses 20-23

*On spare paper, write a list of all the fish and animals you can think of that live in the **sea**. Now write down another list of all the different **birds** you can think of.*

God created all of those creatures and thousands more! They didn't come into existence by accident. God planned it, and what He made is great!

If you have time, check out **Psalm 8**. It's a song King David wrote, praising God for all the amazing things He created.

Pray!



When you pray, you're talking to God who created everything! Think of some of your favourite things in the universe. Stars? Snakes? Snow? Strawberries? Sea horses? Thank God for making them. You could use Psalm 8 as a prayer to God.

God's masterpiece

Genesis 1 v 24-31



It's day 6 of creation, and it's time for God to create animals: cats, bats, rats, gnats, frogs, dogs, elephants, anteaters, duck-billed platypi, lions, tigers, monkeys, and yes, even slugs.

WEIRD WORDS

Livestock

Animals used either for work or food (like sheep, camels, horses)

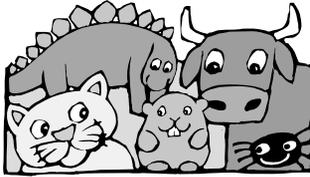
Be fruitful

Have loads of children!

Subdue

Rule over

DAY 6



Read Genesis 1 v 24-25

God made every kind of animal. And now everything was ready for the most important part of creation... God's masterpiece — us!

Read verses 26-27

and cross out all the Xs to discover an amazing fact.

XGOXXDCREXXAXTE

XDMENANXDWOXXMEXX

NINXXHIXSIXMAXGEXX

G _____



Wow!

We're created to be a picture of what God is like! How awesome is that?! YOU show something of what God is like! And that's not all...



Read verses 28-31

What task did God give to humans? (v28)

XXRUXLEXXOXVEXRA

LLLLXIVXINXXGCREXX

AXTUXREXSXX

R _____

Think!

God has put us in charge of His world! To look after it and enjoy it. We are God's chosen rulers of this world.



What can you do to look after God's world? Drop less litter, recycle, plant trees?

Pray!

Thank God that you're so special to Him; that He made you to be like Him; and that He's given you a world to look after.



Time to relax

Genesis 2 v 1-3



God has finished creating the whole universe.

So what will He do next?

In the wordsearch, find 14 things God created (they can all be found in Genesis chapter 1).

A Y U T R E E S C J
Z N X W S L S K H L
L I I N V B T Y Z A
Y G Q M E K F G P N
W H U M A N S U L D
M T X J M L R F A P
O C T M F E S U N O
O S D R I B E I T G
N D P B S T A R S N
V R H Q H O A D A Y

Read Genesis 2 v 1-3

God didn't rest because He was tired! But because He had made everything that could possibly need making, and He saw that it was all **very good!**



God rested on the seventh day, and He made it a special holy day (v3). Many Christians have Sunday as their holy day, when they rest from work.

Go forward 3 letters to reveal what God did on the seventh day.

God _ _ _ _ _
O B P Q B A

That's why, on Sundays, many Christians take a break from all the work they do.

God made it _ _ _ _ _
E L I V

That's why many Christians keep Sunday for God. Do you take extra time out to talk to God and read the Bible?

Wow!

But God doesn't promise us a rest just one day a week.



For everyone who trusts in Jesus, He's promised a much longer rest — with Him, for ever, in eternal life!

Action!

Do you make sure you rest one day a week?



It's good to set aside a day where you don't do school work or other busy things. You can use it to enjoy God's creation and give Him more of your time. How can you change your Sunday so that it's holy — set apart for God?

WEIRD WORDS

Vast array

Their hugeness and all their different parts

Blessed

Made special

Holy

Set apart for God

Dust for starters

Genesis 2 v 4-7



Human beings are incredibly complicated things.

We can see, feel, breathe, talk, walk — do loads of amazing things and it's no problem to us.

WEIRD WORDS

Account
Report

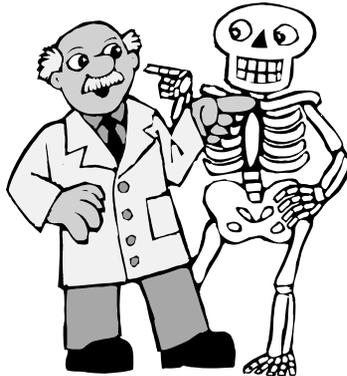
The heavens and the earth
All things. God made everything!

Shrub
Small plant

Yet we're made up of thousands of complicated parts.

Let's see how well you know your body. Draw lines to match up the body parts with what they do.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Heart | A. Helps you to talk |
| 2. Lungs | B. Help you to breathe |
| 3. Larynx (voicebox) | C. Help you to walk |
| 4. Liver | D. Pumps blood around your body |
| 5. Stomach | E. Cleans your blood |
| 6. Tibia & fibula | F. Stores food & breaks it down |



Answers: 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-E, 5-F, 6-C

So how did God make something as complicated as a human?

Read Genesis 2 v 4-7

**God made man from the
d_____ of the ground!**

You've probably learned in science lessons a bit about the amazing way our bodies work. But **God** could create all this complicated stuff out of **dust**!

God designed each tiny part of our bodies and, with no trouble at all, created the whole human race! It's mind-blowing!

Read verse 7 again

Wow!

Just as Adam needed God to breathe life into him, we depend on God for our every breath. Without Him we couldn't exist!



Pray!

Thank God for giving you life. Praise Him for three top things your body allows you to do.



Garden of freedom

Genesis 2 v 8-17



*Do you like sitting
in the garden in
summer?*

*Or do you find
gardens really
boring?*

*Today we look
at a garden that
anyone would
love to hang out
in.*

WEIRD WORDS

Headwaters

Upper parts of the rivers

Aromatic resin

Perfume

Onyx

Precious stone

Read Genesis 2 v 8-14

God made a beautiful garden filled with wonderful plants, refreshing rivers and trees producing tasty fruit. Paradise! And he let Adam live in it. Perfect.

Use the code to show which two trees are given a specific mention.

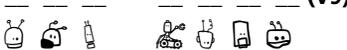
The tree of _____ (v9)



God gave Adam the tree of life showing that his friendship with God could last for ever.



The tree of the



(v9)



If Adam ate the fruit of this tree, he would decide for himself what's right and wrong. But that's God's job!

Read verse 15

God put Adam in the garden to work in it and take care of it. He gave Adam an important job — protecting God's wonderful creation.

Read verses 16-17

God made a rule to protect Adam: "Don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil". God gave Adam a choice:

Obey God and live with Him for ever

OR

Disobey God, eat from the tree, and die



Think & pray!

We can turn our backs on God and live our own way. Or, through Jesus, we can live to please God. Ask Him to help you make the right choice.

A C D E F G I K L N O R T V W



Spare rib

Genesis 2 v 18-25



The first man, Adam, was living in God's perfect garden.

But something was missing...

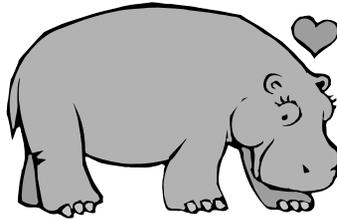
Read Genesis 2 v 18

and fill in what God said.

It is n _____
g _____ for the
m _____ to be
a _____.

Read verses 19-20

Can you imagine that? Having to name all of those creatures, looking to see if any of them could be your "mate"! Fancy marrying a skunk? Or a hippo?!

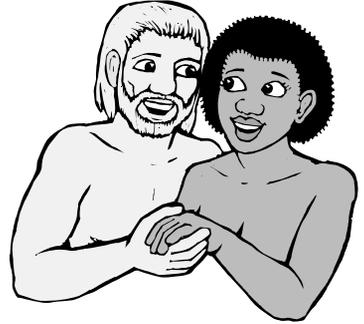


Unsurprisingly, Adam's search for a partner was unsuccessful. God had made the animals completely different from the man, so none of them could be Adam's companion. Only the man was made in **God's** image.

Now read verses 21-25 for God's great solution.

God made a

w _____ from
Adam's r _____ (v22)



The woman (Eve) was just what Adam wanted! Someone like him, an equal, so she understood him. Yet she wasn't exactly the same as Adam, and added to his life. The perfect companion.

Adam's wife was very special to him, because she came from his own body.

Wow!

God says all marriages are very special. Two people come together and form one partnership (v24).



Pray!

Thank God for creating both men and women. Thank Him for His gift of marriage. And pray for people you know who are married. That God will help them to serve Him together.



WEIRD WORDS

Livestock

Animals used either for work or food (like sheep, camels, horses)

Snake charmer

Genesis

3 v 1-7



God made Eve, the perfect partner for Adam.

They lived together in God's garden, looking after His creation.

They only had one rule to obey — don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

WEIRD WORDS

Crafty
Sneaky

Today's missing words are written **backwards**, so you'll have to unjumble them first.

ton tiurf tae
yllaer evag ekans
madA eert lliw
uoY eid nedrag

Read Genesis 3 v 1

The snake said "Did God
r _____ say you can't
e _____ from any t _____
in the g _____?"

The snake was the devil in disguise! He tricked Eve into doubting what God had said.



Wow!

The devil tricks us into doubting what God says in the Bible. "Has God really forgiven me?" "Is that sin really wrong?" He uses all sorts of tricks to get us doubting God. It might be what friends or family say to us, or stuff we watch or read. If you're unsure about something, check out what the Bible says about it. God doesn't lie!

"Am I really a Christian?" "How can God love me when I keep sinning?" If you have doubts like these, ask for the free leaflet on DEALING WITH DOUBTS. Email us at discover@thegoodbook.co.uk

Read verses 2-5

The s _____ said "Y _____
w _____ n _____ d _____"

The devil lied to Eve, suggesting that God was tricking her! And that if she ate the fruit she could be as powerful as God! All lies.



Read verses 6-7

Eve ate the f _____, then
g _____ some to A _____.

Adam and Eve **disobeyed** God, breaking His only rule. Eating fruit from that tree meant they were deciding for themselves what was right or wrong. But that's God's job. They wanted to **be God**. They wanted to live their own way, instead of God's way. That's called **sin**.

Pray!



Ask God to help you not to listen to the devil's lies. And to obey God, living His way instead of living your own way.

Genesis 3 v 8-19



Get your brain in gear, because God's got loads to teach us today.

Fill in the blanks with vowels (aeiou), then read the facts.

WEIRD WORDS

Enmity

Hatred

Offspring

Children

Childbearing

Having babies

Toil

Hard work

From bad to curse

Read Genesis 3 v 8-13

1. Ad_m _nd Ev_
h_d fr_m G_d

They knew they'd disobeyed God, so they tried to hide from Him. Then they tried blaming each other and the snake for their sin.

When we do wrong, we often think we can get away with it. Or we try blaming other people. But we can't hide anything from God. And we can't blame anyone else for our sin.

Right from the beginning, God punished those who sinned against Him...

Read verses 14-15

2. G_d c_rs_d
th_ sn_k_

The snake would be hated by people and made to crawl.

Read verse 16

3. G_d p_n_sh_d
v

Because Eve disobeyed God, women suffer pain in giving birth. And Eve would have tough times with her husband.



Read verses 17-19

4. G_d p_n_sh_d
_d_m

Men would have to work hard to grow enough food to eat.

But it's not all bad news...

Read verse 15 again

5. Eve's _ffspr_ng w_ll
cr_sh th_ sn_k_'s
h__d!

It sounds weird, but God promised that one of Eve's family would one day beat the devil (the snake)! This promise is all about JESUS, who would come to earth to beat sin and the devil for ever!

Pray!



Ask God to help you not to listen to the devil's lies. And to obey God, living His way instead of living your own way.