

My Catholic Children's BIBLE

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LIVING WITH THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible is God's Word. It's His love letter to us. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write down what God wanted us to know. It's the real story of God with His people, and it helps us know God better so we can love Him more. Jesus wants his Word to reach you and everyone. He came to save each one of us.

Did you know the Bible is not one book? It's actually a collection of seventy-three books with different types of writing. Some are history, telling us what really happened. Some are stories or parables that teach us lessons. Some are poetry to inspire us and help open our hearts to God.

The Bible has two parts. The Old Testament is about the time before Jesus was born. The New Testament tells us about the life of Jesus and the growth of the Catholic Church. Jesus shows us the perfect example of how to live as Christians.

Take time to read God's Word often. As you grow older, you'll find more meaning in the same stories. We can explore the Bible our whole life and still have more to discover.

Pray to the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind and show you what He wants you to know about Him.

Holy Spirit, fill my mind and heart as I read about your Holy Word. Show me what you want me to understand and help me grow in love for you. Amen.







THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS UNIVERSAL

The Catholic Church is God's family for every child, in every country in the world. You are part of that family of God.

All around the world, children like you are learning about Jesus and receiving God's grace through the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Baby Caden in Africa is baptized. In Japan, Sachi receives Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. In Mexico, Angela goes to first Reconciliation. On the tiny island of Hawaii, Sabrina receives the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. In every country, children are reading Bible stories. They are learning about God's love for His people, from the beginning of creation to when Jesus came to save us.

Each day, invite Jesus into your heart. Reading about Him will help you love Him more. He loves you more than you can ever know. As you read, ask yourself:

- What would you have done if you were one of the people in the story?
- Which people in the stories are you like? In what ways?
- Which people do you think God wants you to be more like?

THE OLD TESTAMENT



THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. All was dark, and deep water covered the land. God's Spirit hovered over the water. Then God said, "Let there be Light!"

At once bright rays of light shone down gently on the earth. God saw that this was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. He called the light 'day', and the darkness 'night'. This was the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a sky to separate the waters, so that water is above the sky and below the sky." And it was so. Night fell, and a new morning dawned. This was the second day.

(Genesis 1:1-8)



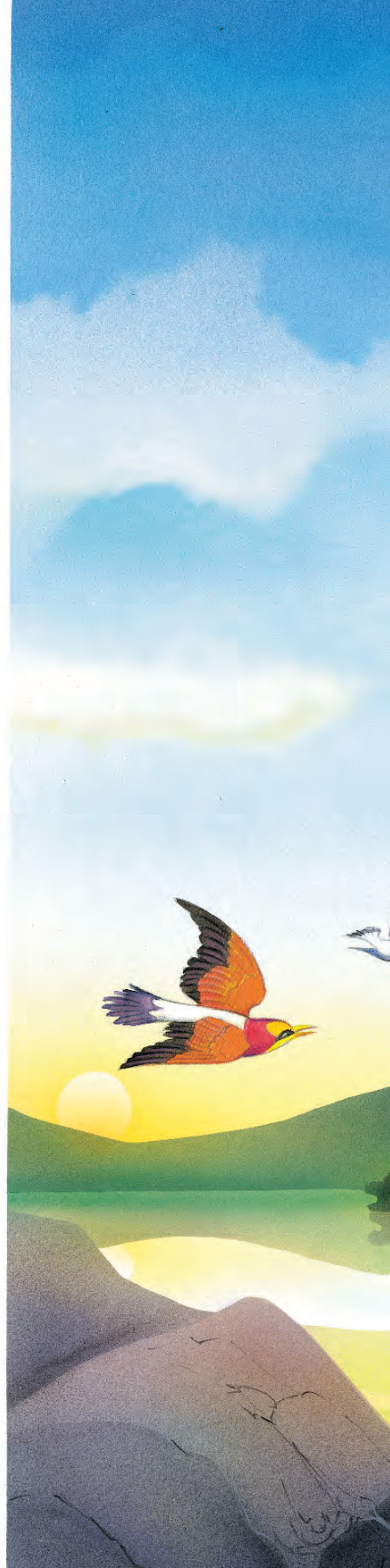
On the third day God said, “Let the waters below the sky gather together and let dry ground appear.”

God called this dry ground ‘land’ and the waters ‘sea’. And at God’s command grass and plants grew across the earth. Flowers blossomed and trees bearing rich fruit burst toward the sky.

On the fourth day God placed the sun in the sky to bring warmth and light to the earth. Night fell and God created the stars and the moon to fill the darkness above the earth.

On the fifth day God said, “All kinds of fish shall fill the oceans, and birds shall fill the sky.” And so the birds and the fish were the first creatures to live on the earth.

(Genesis 1:9–23)







On the sixth day God said, "Now the earth shall be filled with life." From the greatest animal to the smallest insect, God made each creature and sent them to live in all four corners of the earth. "Now I will create a being in My own image," He said.

Then God created man in His image. He created both male and female. "You have power over all living things in the sky, on the earth, and in the sea," God told them.

God stopped and looked at all He had created. He said it was very good.

On the seventh day God finished His work. He made this day holy, for this was the day He rested from His work.

(Genesis 1:24-31; 2:1-3)



ADAM AND EVE

God had planted on earth a beautiful garden, a place called Eden. He had created the garden for Adam, and here He placed the most wonderful plants and creatures.

Looking at the man He had created, God thought, “It is not right that Adam should be alone.” So while Adam slept, God took one of his ribs. From this rib He made the first woman, Eve.

God set Adam and Eve in the garden and said: “Everything in this garden is yours. Enjoy it and be happy. Only one thing is forbidden to you. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil grows in this garden. You must never eat any of the fruit from this tree. If you do, you will die.”

Adam and Eve were naked, but they were not ashamed, for this is how God had created them.

(Genesis 2:4–25)





Of all the animals that lived in the garden of Eden, the serpent was the most crafty.

“Wouldn’t you like to know the secret of this fruit?” he whispered to Eve. “It will give you the knowledge of good and evil, which only God knows. That is why He does not want you to eat it, for then you could be as powerful as He!”

Adam and Eve knew that God had forbidden them to eat the fruit. But Eve thought about the wisdom that could be theirs if they ate the fruit, and she was tempted.


Finally Eve picked one of the forbidden fruits and tasted it. Then she took some to Adam, who also ate the forbidden fruit.

(Genesis 3:1–6)









At once their eyes were opened. They saw that they were naked, and for the first time they felt ashamed. They sewed fig leaves together to cover their bodies. When God saw them, He asked them, “Who told you that you were naked?”

“Eve gave me the fruit, and I ate it!” said Adam, and Eve cried, “The serpent tricked me!”

God placed a curse on the serpent. “From now on you will crawl on the ground,” He said. Then God turned to Adam and Eve. “From now on your life will be full of suffering,” He said. “You have disobeyed me, and from this moment the garden of Eden is forbidden to you.”

God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden. God placed an angel with a flaming sword at the entrance to the garden to stop them from ever returning.

(Genesis 3:7-24)

