



SAMPLER

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HOW TO USE YOUR



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Welcome to your Spark Bible! You just started a journey through God's word that will last a lifetime. To make it your best trip ever, we want you to **MAKE THIS BIBLE YOUR OWN!**

GET TO KNOW GOD by using this Bible. The more you use it, the more interesting it gets.

Use every tool available to **MAKE THIS BIBLE WORK FOR YOU.**
You can **USE ANY OF THESE TOOLS** whenever you read your Bible:
**Stickers • Pens • Pencils • Colored Pencils • Markers • Highlighters • Ruler
Sticky Notes**

The next pages will help you start understanding that the Bible story is your story, too. **HAVE FUN**, and let people know how it's going. It's your Bible. **MAKE THE MOST OF IT.**

SPARK BIBLE

New Revised Standard Version

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USE EVERYTHING IN THE SPARK BIBLE!

You'll always know what book of the Bible you're in.

GENESIS 1:1

SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

1 In the beginning when God created^a the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^b swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Genesis 1:31

KNOW IT! What did God make on each day of creation?

THINK ABOUT IT! Everything God makes is good. How does this change what you think about mosquitoes?

TRY IT! Go outside. Watch a bug for two minutes. Finish your time with your buggy friend by saying, "And it was good!"

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

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²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind^c in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^d and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humankind^c in his image, in the image of God he created them;^e male and female he created them.

^a Or when God began to create or In the beginning God created ^b Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind ^c Heb adam ^d Syr: Heb and over all the earth ^e Heb him

2 • PENTATEUCH

You'll always know what section of the Bible you're in.

Key Verses are highlighted all over this Bible. Try to figure out why they're important. You can highlight some Key Verses of your own.

Get to know some of the Bible words that matter most.

GENESIS 2:17

EDEN The beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived.

The garden will come back for a final encore. God will renew all of creation. Read about it in Revelation 21:9–22:7.

LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground,^b and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION

In the day that the LORD^a God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the

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Genesis 2:7

KNOW IT! How did God make the first human?

THINK ABOUT IT! What good does dirt do in your life?

TRY IT! Grab a handful of dirt. Get it wet and let it ooze between your fingers.

Explore more about some of the people, places, things, and events in the Bible stories you're reading.

DID YOU KNOW? SCIENCE AND CREATION

People in Bible times were curious about how the world worked, so the Bible writers used thoughtful stories to explain creation. The six days God used to create the world could be literal. Or they could be a poetic way the writer of Genesis symbolized great spans of time.

God is delighted when you learn about the world. Creation praises God too! Check out Psalm 148.

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PENTATEUCH • 3

MARK UP YOUR SPARK BIBLE!

GENESIS 1:1

September 6

Write the date that you read the story.

Underline stuff you want to remember later.

SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

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Circle words that are confusing, interesting, or gross.

Color or highlight parts you really like.

^a Or when God began to create or In the beginning God created
^b Heb adam ^c Syr: Heb and over all the earth ^d Heb him

^e Or while the spirit of God or while a mighty wind

2 • PENTATEUCH

Attach a sticky note so you can find this page again.

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GENESIS 2:17

Genesis 2:10 **EDEN:** The beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived.

The garden will come back for a final encore. God will renew all of creation. Read about it in Revelation 21:9—22:7.

Jot notes in the margin.

Dirt is good!

Put a sticker near places you read, remember, or want to know more about. (See the back of your Bible for more about stickers.)

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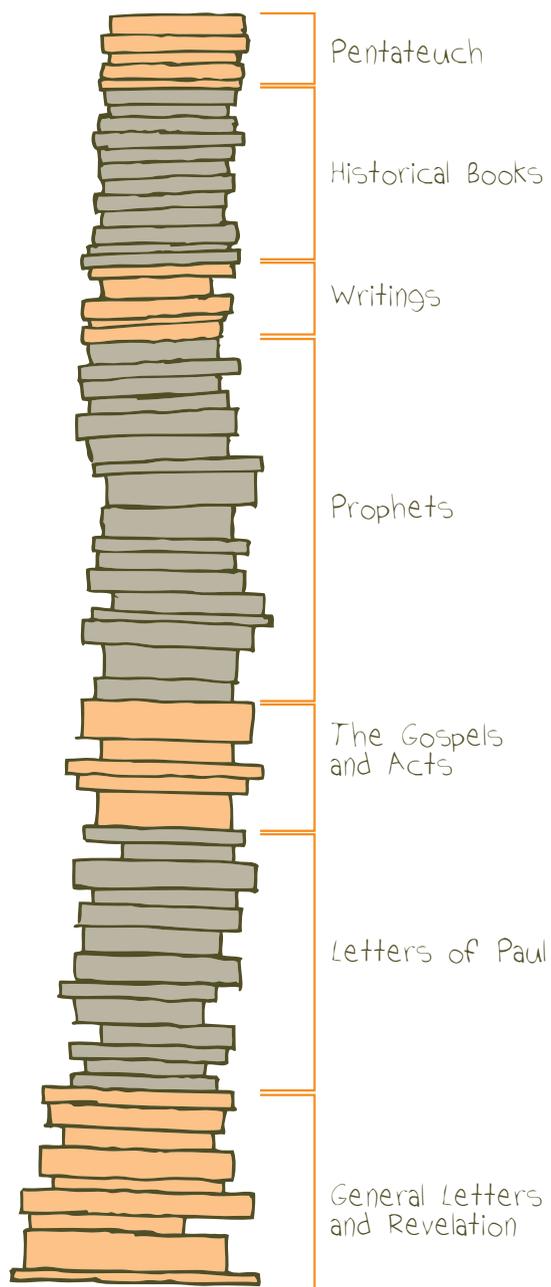
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PENTATEUCH • 3

MAKE YOUR SPARK BIBLE SMALLER!



Did you know that the Bible isn't really one book? It's actually 66 books all bound together. Some of the books are only a page long.

The 66 books can be divided into seven sections: Pentateuch, Historical Books, Writings, Prophets, The Gospels and Acts, Letters of Paul, and General Letters and Revelation.

The Bible also divides into two testaments, called the Old Testament and the New Testament. You can remember this and how many books each has by using the simple formula of 39.

3 letters in OLD 9 letters in TESTAMENT

OLD TESTAMENT

3 NEXT TO 9 = 39 BOOKS

3 letters in NEW 9 letters in TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

3 x 9 = 27 BOOKS

Here's a tip to help you find each section. Use highlighter pens in seven different colors (or at least rotate through a minimum of two). Highlight the edges of your Bible based on these sections. Keep your Bible closed while you do it.



JOHN

The Gospel of John doesn't include Jesus' birth story, but you will find some long speeches and long prayers and long descriptions. John's Gospel gets you thinking. In the end (see Chapter 20:30-31), John wants you to believe in Jesus. Everything in this book can help you live a life as a believer. Knowing this, you can read the signs in this book that direct you toward belief in Jesus.

Some signs to watch for

Changing water to wine. From the first night out in his ministry, Jesus demonstrated amazing power. Chapter 2:1-12

Healing a royal official's son. Jesus didn't only work miracles on his faithful followers. Chapter 4:43-54

Healing a paralyzed man. Jesus could just say the word, and the man stood up and walked. Chapter 5:1-15

Feeding 5000 (or more). They were hungry, and Jesus fed them. Chapter 6:1-15

Walking on water. Jesus presented evidence of power over all things when he walked on water. Chapter 6:16-24

Healing a man born blind. Some people wanted to blame a man's blindness on sin. Jesus made him see so that everyone would know God's power beats sin any day. Chapter 9:1-12

Raising Lazarus from the dead. But this sign also inspired religious leaders to plot to kill Jesus. Chapter 11:1-53

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"^a 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir?"^b Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord,"^b I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

10 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it

John 10:16

KNOW IT! How many flocks will there be?

THINK ABOUT IT! Why do you think there are so many different kinds of churches?

TRY IT! Visit a different church with a friend who is a member there.

up again. 18 No one takes^c it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

19 Again the Jews were divided because of these words. 20 Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" 21 Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

JESUS IS REJECTED BY THE JEWS

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah,^d tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify

^a Other ancient authorities read *the Son of God* ^b *Sir* and *Lord* translate the same Greek word ^c Other ancient authorities read *has taken* ^d *Or the Christ*