

The Very  
**BAD**



**News &**

the Very

**GOOD**

**News**



**The Gospel Story  
for Young Children**

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## A Note to Parents:

Children need to understand the big picture story of the Bible. Many children come to believe that the Bible is a collection of disconnected stories that have little relation to each other—Noah and the ark, Moses and the burning bush, David and Goliath, and so on. The Bible itself does not present its teaching to us as disconnected stories, but rather tells us a unified and interconnected story that stretches from the very beginning of creation to a new heaven and a new earth.

There are wise reasons to refrain from rushing to Jesus and the cross when teaching children the story of the Bible, even though Jesus' work of redemption is central to Scripture's unified message. Children need to appreciate the significance of the one true God and His work of creation. They need to contemplate the pervasive impact of the fall upon the hearts and lives of men. Scripture's logical manner of unfolding truths should impact how we present Scripture's teaching to children. Scriptural teaching to children should be systematic and build chronologically and conceptually upon itself, precept upon precept.

Within the pages of this book we cannot give your child the full understanding he would gain from being taught the whole counsel of God, but we can acquaint your child with the four major narrative points or plot movements of the Bible—creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. This will serve as a framework on which your child can begin to build an understanding of the parts of the Bible.

These truths are presented in very simple ways for young children ages five through seven. As your child matures, Truth 78 has taken these same concepts and expanded the explanation and depth in *The World Created, Fallen, Redeemed, and Restored: The Gospel Plan of God*.

### Here are a few suggestions to consider as you read this book:

- Read at your child's pace. This may require reading the book in more than one sitting, depending on your child's ability to concentrate, understand, and be engaged.
- Dialogue with your child as you read.
- Reinforce the four major themes of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.
- You may want to sing the "Genesis 1:1 (In the Beginning)" song toward the end of this book.
- Verses requiring varying cognitive ability are referenced to explain each of the major themes. You may want to read all or part of the verses. It may be necessary to explain words your child does not understand.
- Consider memorizing some of the verses. Even though your young child will not understand some of the words or concepts, he will grow into understanding them.
- Pray that God will open his eyes and heart as you read the book with your child.

*May your child see the beauty and majesty of God, the reality and horror of his sin, the amazing grace of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and the sure hope of eternal life and indestructible joy in God.*





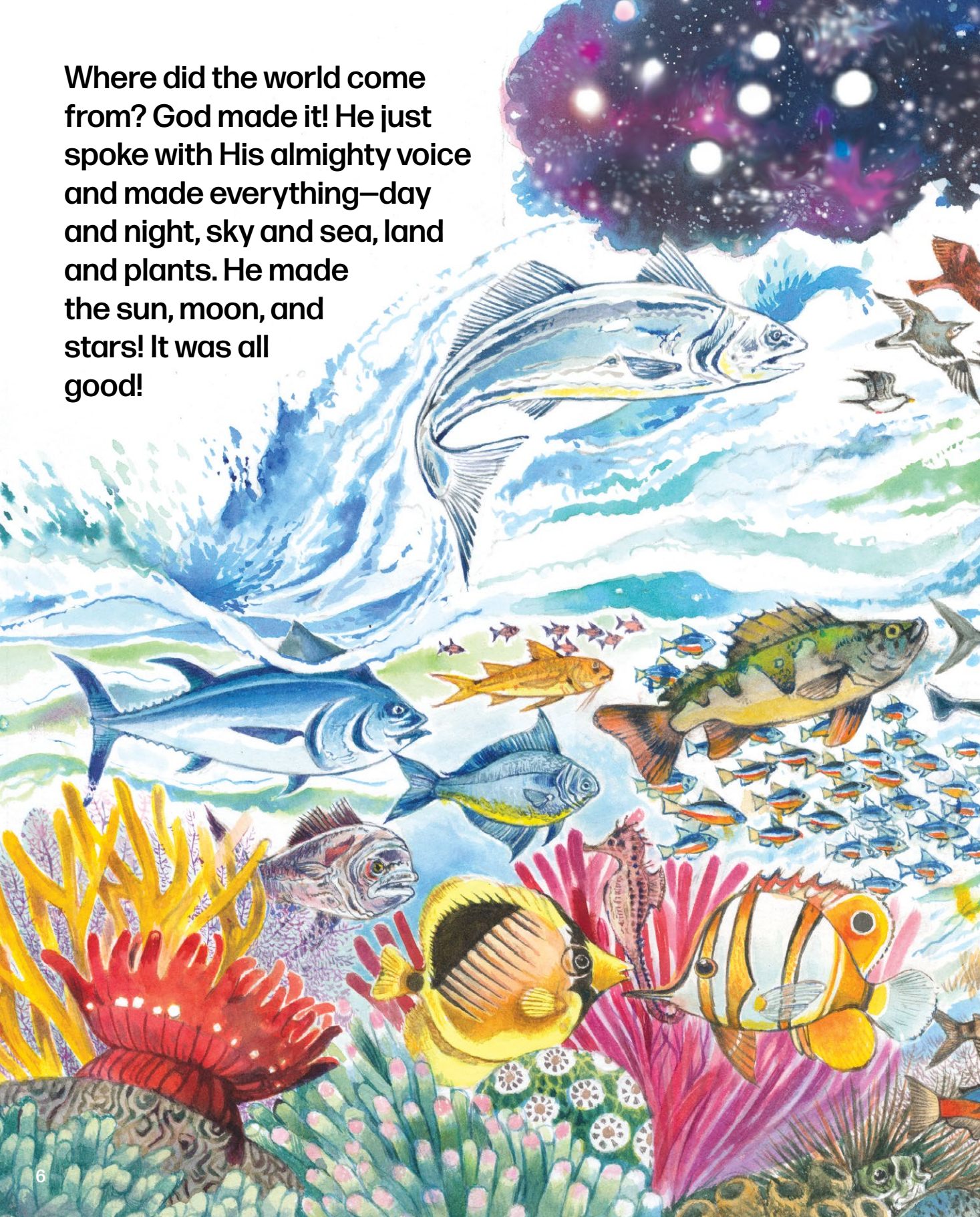
# CREATION

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth . . . And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.*

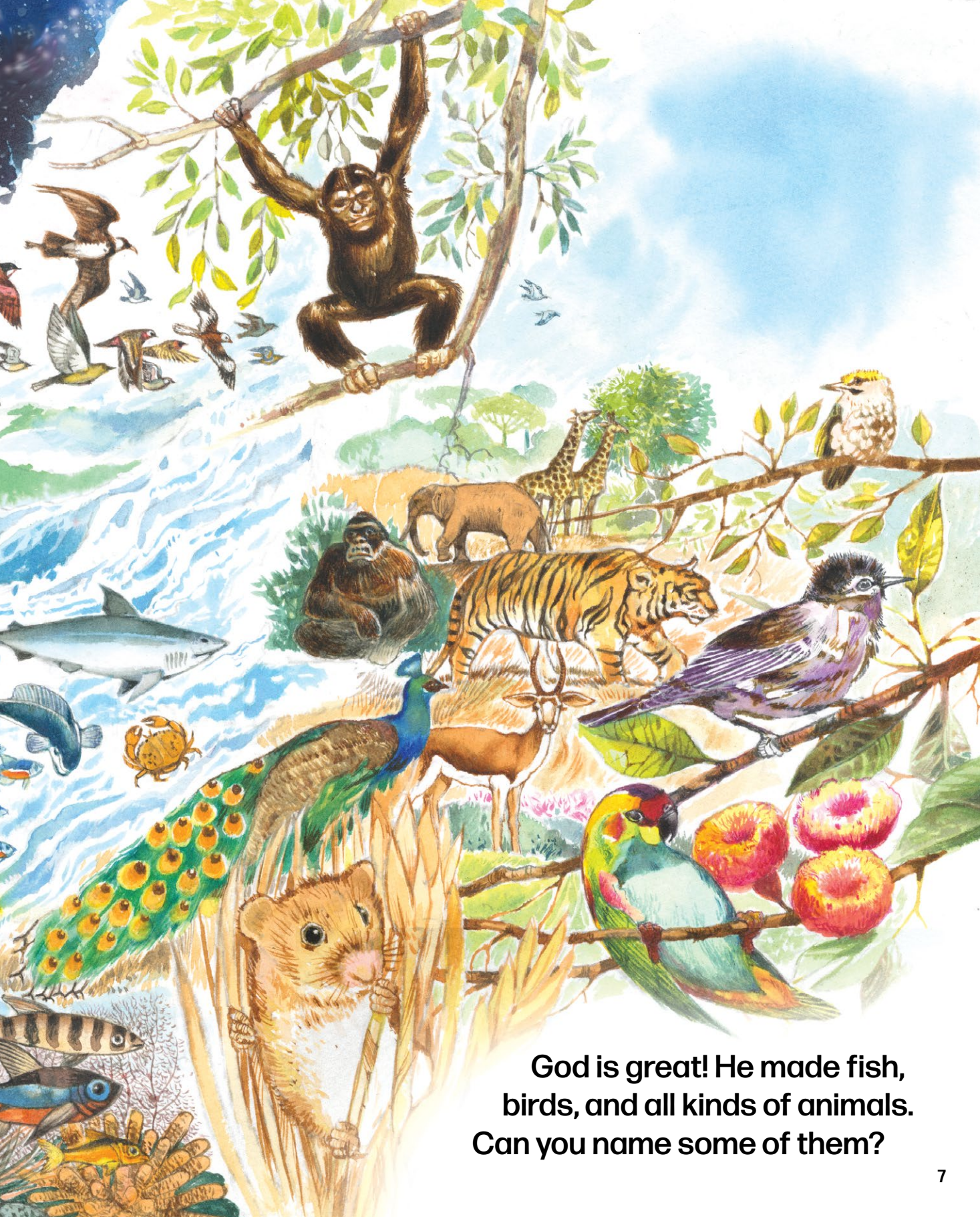
*—Genesis 1:1, 31a*



Where did the world come from? God made it! He just spoke with His almighty voice and made everything—day and night, sky and sea, land and plants. He made the sun, moon, and stars! It was all good!







**God is great! He made fish,  
birds, and all kinds of animals.  
Can you name some of them?**



It took God only six days to make  
all things. God saw all He made...  
and it was good because God is good.

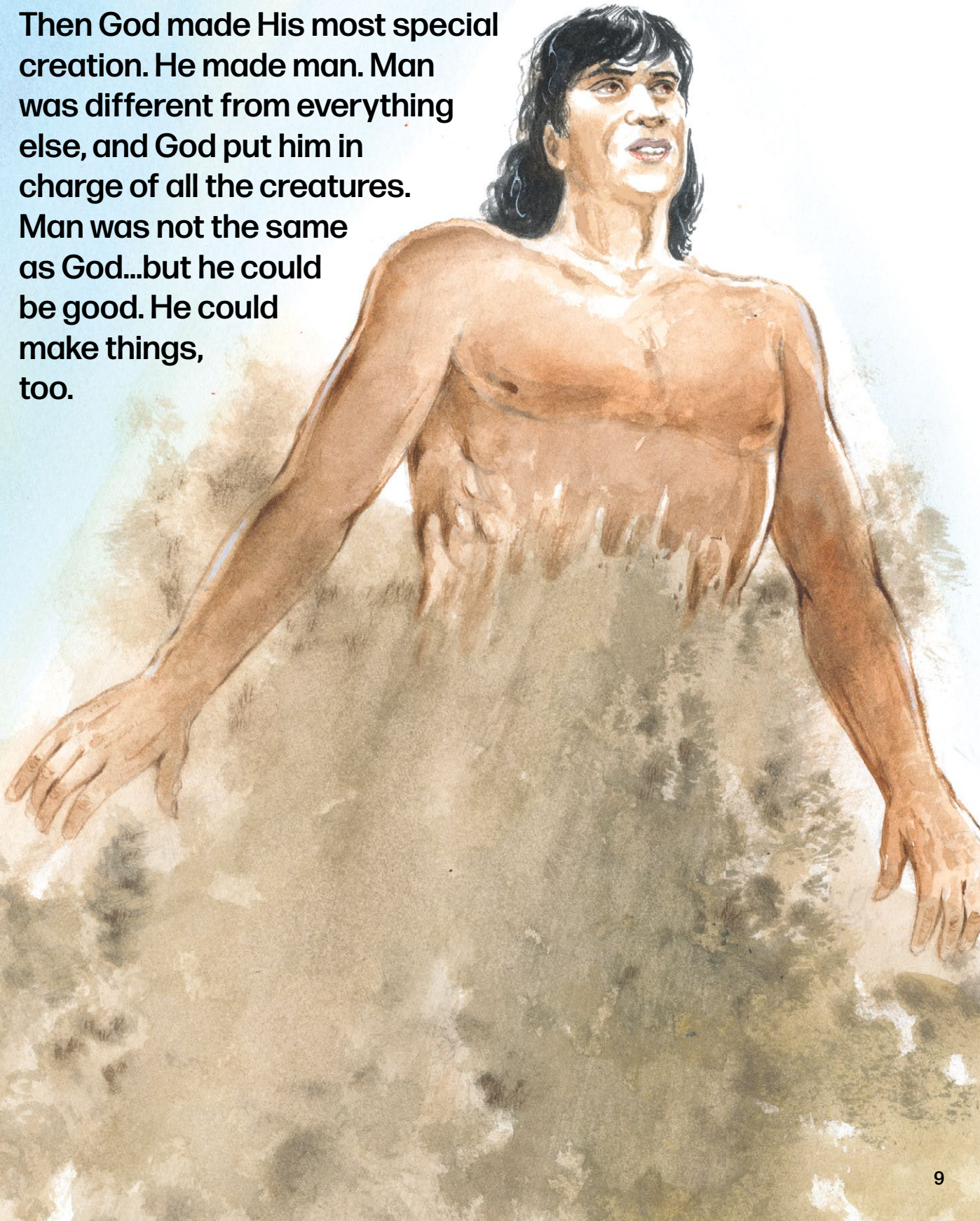
**Sing:**

*God is so good,<sup>1</sup>  
God is so good.  
God is so good,  
He's so good to me.*

<sup>1</sup> This is a verse from the song, "God is So Good," written by Paul Makai and translated by Marilyn Foulkes, according to [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org).  
Toward the end of the book, you will find words and notes for another song you could sing, "Genesis 1:1 (In the Beginning)."



**Then God made His most special creation. He made man. Man was different from everything else, and God put him in charge of all the creatures. Man was not the same as God...but he could be good. He could make things, too.**





**T**here is very bad news for all people. We have all turned away from God and cannot fix our sinful hearts. Sin and sorrow, sickness and death, problems and pain have entered God's good creation.

But there is very good news, too! God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take away the sins of everyone who would trust in Him. Jesus can give us a new heart...a heart that trusts and loves God most of all, a heart that wants to do right and obey God. But there is more good news! Someday Jesus will return and make all things new! And forgiven sinners—those who have trusted in Jesus—will live forever in heaven with Him.

*The Very Bad News & the Very Good News* offers a simple gospel presentation using the overarching themes of



Creation



Fall



Redemption



Restoration

Written for young children, this book will help your children understand and be able to explain to others the good news of the gospel. Present your children with the very bad news of the “wages of sin” and the very good news of “the free gift of God [of] eternal life in Christ.”

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.—Romans 6:23*

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to Know, Honor, and Treasure God

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