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God's Love for Us

Bible Stories for Children

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Redemptorist Pastoral Publication

Illustrated by Lula Guzmán



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Introduction

Many years ago, God gave some people the mission of writing a very special book: the Bible. Through it, God shared his message of love with us. In its pages, you will find teachings and many lessons that will help you know and love God better. It will help you learn what makes God happy and how you can teach others by your example. May these biblical stories, drawn and retold for children, help you—no matter how old you are—to grow closer to God and also to Jesus, his beloved Son.

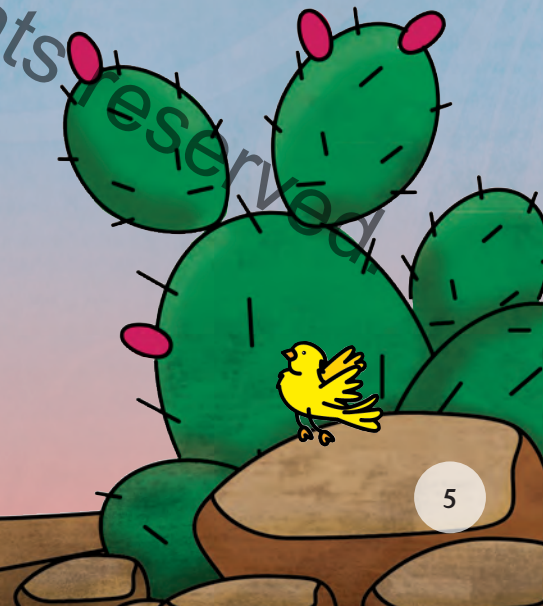




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The Old Testament

Introduction to the Old Testament

From the creation of the first human beings, long before Jesus came to earth, God, the Father, wanted to be near us. In fact, he created us to be his friends. That's what the Old Testament is about. It is the first part of the Bible, which tells the story of friendship between God and us, as begun with his Chosen People of Israel. We hear the story of the hard times and threats that they had to overcome to arrive in the land promised to them by God. The Old Testament also tells about the men and women God chose to guide and lead his people. We learn about the prophets, who brought God's message to us. We see how, even though his people made many mistakes, God still loved them and continued to be their friend. He was preparing them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ.



The Creation of the World [Genesis, Chapter 1]

God, in his great love, wanted to create a beautiful place for us: the world. God created the sun to warm us when we are cold and give us light during the day. He put the moon and the stars in the sky so that our nights would have some light, too. God made grass grow in the fields, he made fruit trees grow, and he planted sweet-smelling flowers in many places.



He filled the sky with birds, the earth with animals, and the water with fish. He gave them all the food that they needed. God created a good world in which everything was beautiful. He lovingly shared it with us so we could take care of it for him.



The New Testament

Introduction to the New Testament

God was always faithful to the promise he made to Abraham and to all human beings. So, when he thought that everything was ready and that the right moment had come, he decided to send us Jesus. He sent him to us so we wouldn't have to listen to his messages only through religious leaders and prophets. Instead, his very own Son would share his messages with us! This is what the New Testament is about: Jesus and his message.



The Birth of Jesus [Luke, Chapter 2]

Several months later, the emperor Caesar Augustus ordered everyone in the land to go to the town from which their family came, where their names would be included in a census. Joseph traveled with Mary to Bethlehem, the home of his ancestor David. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth. Joseph couldn't find a room for them at the local inns, but he found a stable, where animals took shelter from the cold.



Mary gave birth there. There were a few shepherds nearby who were looking after their sheep that night. Some angels told them about the birth of Jesus, and as soon as they could, they went to meet the Baby Jesus. And so, together, both the angels and the shepherds proclaimed how happy they were on the day the Son of God was born.

