

GOOD NEWS For Our Youth

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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INTRODUCTION ... The Vision

The Holy Bible is a great book. It contains the greatest stories ever told and it contains the greatest truth we can ever learn. It's a book that can give us the greatest hope we will ever need. The Holy Bible is a book that contains stories of the greatest love we can ever desire. Reading the Bible will help us learn to live in a way that will make our Father God very happy with us. Let us search the Bible and learn. The goal of this newsletter is to bring out some of the truth of the "Good Book" to young people in a simple and interesting way. God has given this task to me and I will continually seek Him to accomplish it through "Good News". L/S/E/S J. Orokunle

From the Book of Genesis

It is believed that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis. The word "Genesis" means beginnings. It's no wonder that the phrase, "in the beginning", happens to be the first words of the first book of the Bible.

The book of Genesis starts out by telling us how God created the world from the beginning. It tells us how God created man and woman and His relationship with them in the Garden of Eden.

From the time we were small children, most of us have been taught some of the stories from this book. We also need to know that within many of these stories there are other people, stories, and lessons to learn. Understanding these lessons can help us develop and keep our relationship with God throughout our lives. These are some of the stories found in the Book of Genesis:

- The Story of Creation
- Adam and Eve
- Cain and Abel
- Noah and the Ark
- The Tower of Babel
- Abraham
- Sodom and Gomorrah
- Jacob and Esau
- Joseph and His Brothers

The Story of Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:3-16

Adam and Eve had two sons. Their names were Cain and Abel. Cain worked to help the family by growing crops. Abel's work was raising sheep and goats for milk and meat.

One day Cain gathered some of the crops he had grown to give a thanks offering to the Lord. Abel wanted to do the same. He chose the fattest and healthiest lamb for his offering.

God looked at both of their offerings and He was happy with Abel's gift to Him. God was not happy with Cain's gift. God was not happy with Cain's offering because Cain did not choose the best of what he had to give as an offering to God.

Cain became very angry and he didn't think God was being fair. God spoke to Cain and told him that he always had a choice of doing what is right or doing wrong. Cain didn't try to make amends for what he had done, instead he chose to stay angry.

While Cain and Abel were both out in the fields, Cain did something very, very bad. He killed his brother, Abel!

God called to Cain and asked him where is his brother Abel? Cain pretended that he did not know. God told Cain that he had done wrong and he would be punished. He told Cain that his life would no longer be the same. He could not continue to live there and grow his crops. God sent Cain far away from his home. He sent him to live in the land of Nod, which meant "wandering". Cain was very sad to be

sent away from his home and to be away from the presence of God. He thought that he would be a wanderer on the earth and soon be killed. God told Cain that he would not be killed. God said that if anyone killed Cain, that person would suffer so much more. The Lord put a mark on Cain so anyone who found him would not kill him.

What does this story of Cain and Abel tell us?

- When we give our thanks offerings to God, the offering should be the best that we can give. If we want what we do to be accepted by God, then what we do should be good. God wants our best!
- When we commit sin, we cannot hide it from God. We are rewarded for doing good and punished for doing bad.
- Being sinful and living outside of the presence of our Father God is a sad life to live. God does not want us to be away from Him and He never leaves us. When we sin, we take ourselves away from God.

IN SIX DAYS . . .

First: God created a day both dark and light

Second: He contained seven seas and put a sky up high

Third: He filled the earth full of sweet fruits, plants, and seeds

Fourth: Then with a sun, moon and some stars, He brightened the sky

Fifth: Next He created fish in the sea and many birds that fly

Sixth: God then made all of the animals that walk the land. And last but not least He made man and woman.

Dear Lord, we know that we are your children and we thank you for caring so much for us. We thank you for your son, Jesus, whom you sent to save us from a sinful world. Please continue to forgive all of our sins. We love you and welcome you into our lives. Amen

WE ARE GOD'S CREATION

We know that God existed before creation. He was, is, and forever will be. He is all mighty and all powerful. He spoke this world into existence through the power of His word. We are His creation and He still has the same power to speak His word into each of our lives. God created us and He has a plan for each one of us. When we stay obedient to Him and communicate with Him through prayer, He directs us and guides us. Proverbs 3:6 says: "IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS." One way that we can acknowledge God is by including Him in everything we do. God is already a part of our lives. When we talk with Him and read His word, we are letting Him know that we expect Him to help us in all things. We are then acknowledging Him.

We are born through our earthly parents as infants and we are not able to take care of ourselves. Parents care for us and teach us until we grow up, but they never stop being our parents. We also have a great father in Heaven who is a parent to every one of us. He watches over us and He cares for us. Just like our earthly parents, He is happy and proud when we do good and sorry when we do bad. However, He never stops loving and caring for us! He never stops watching over us!

ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS WILL HELP YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOOK OF GENESIS

1. On what day of creation did God make plants and trees? Genesis 1:1-19
2. Why did Adam and Eve have to Leave the Garden of Eden? Genesis 3:20-24
3. Why was Abel's gift to God better than Cain's? Genesis 4:3-16
4. After Noah put all of the animals in the ark, who locked the door? Genesis 7:1-16
5. Why did God put a rainbow in the sky? Genesis 8:2-9:17
6. Why did God mix up the language of the people? Genesis 11:5-9
7. How was Lot, Abraham's nephew, rescued from Sodom? Genesis 19:1-29
8. How did God give Abraham a big test of faith and obedience? Genesis 22:1-18
9. How did Jacob steal Esau's birthright and his blessing? Genesis 25:27-34 & 27:1-40
10. How did Joseph teach his brothers a