

Introducing the Book of Secrets

Imagine that a mysterious stranger knocked on your door. He handed you an ancient, thick book and said, “You have been chosen to receive this book of wisdom. It tells all the secrets of the universe. It tells the future, too. You will read here how to be happy and how to stay out of trouble. Everything you need to know to live a prosperous life is written right here.”

Then he slipped away, leaving the book behind him.

What’s the first thing you would do? I imagine you would sit right down and start reading!

You have something much more exciting and interesting than a book of secrets from a mysterious stranger. You have a book given to you by the maker of the universe – the Almighty God!

It tells all those things we were pretending about – but for real. It holds the true secrets of the universe told by the One who made it all. You can find the instructions you need to stay out of trouble and to be happy. It tells what is going to happen and how to make smart choices for your future.

But it’s far more than that. In this awesome book, you will meet God, Himself. It tells about who He is and what He is like. You can read about Him and get to know Him.

You will find out why there is evil in the world. You can read about what God did to defeat evil. Why do bad things happen? Why were you born? What is the purpose of your life? What should you do when people treat you badly? All the answers are in the Bible.

And you can discover what makes God happy and what makes Him sad, what makes Him angry and what makes Him feel like throwing up. It’s all there. And He is there, ready to meet you in the pages of His book. Are you ready to find out what’s inside?

I’ll be your guide. Come with me on this adventure of exploration. We will look at this amazing book together and unlock the secrets it holds.

It starts “In the beginning.....”

Discovery Adventure #1
Before the Dawn of Time
Genesis 1-3

Imagine that you are traveling back in time. F-a-r back. Back to the very beginning. You are going to find out the first secret today. Where did the world come from? How did everything start – and why?

The more scientists study the world and the things in it, the more complicated it looks. Even in your own body there are trillions of microscopic cells, too tiny for you to see, which are communicating with each other and going about the business of keeping you alive and walking and talking. They do it without you telling them what to do, or even knowing what they are doing.

Where did those cells come from? Who taught them what to do?

It all starts with God. The Bible tells us about it in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Genesis means “beginning.” That’s a good name for it, because it tells the secrets of what happened at the beginning of the world.

Close your eyes as tightly as you can. What do you see? Dark, isn’t it? That’s how the universe was once. Nothing was there. It was just a dark expanse of black emptiness.

But God was there. He chose to make something out of this nothingness. He said, “Let there be light.”

How can just speaking make it happen? That’s easy for God. You can do it yourself in an imaginary way. If you tell someone a story about a big green elephant stomping on a bicycle, they will see it like a movie in their minds. Did it really happen? No, of course not. We can’t make things happen, but we can speak imaginary things and people can see a picture in their heads. When someone tells a really good story, we can even forget it isn’t real as we follow the characters on their adventures.

What we can do is just a faint shadow of what God does. He can say something, and poof – there it is. Solid and real. He can do that because **He is all-powerful**. He is God. No one else can do that. Only our God can.

He spoke and there was light. He separated light from darkness so there are times of light and times of dark.

Would you like to live in a place where it was always dark? I doubt it! You wouldn't be able to see where you were going and you would stumble over things. If your face was dirty or your hair was messed up, you wouldn't know it because you couldn't see to look in a mirror. You might walk right over a cliff because you wouldn't know it was there. It would be dangerous to live in the dark.

God knew that people need to see, so on the first day of creation, He made light.

But people need more than light to live. We need air to breathe. On the second day God made air and the atmosphere. Again He just said, "Let there be..." and there was.

On day three, air surrounded the earth, but water covered the ground. God continued with His story. He spoke and the waters gathered together in one place and dry land appeared. He made flowers and trees and grass to grow. How did He do it without seeds and with no sun yet or seasons? He just told the story and it happened.

Next, God was ready to display the rest of the galaxy. He told the sun, moon, and stars to appear and they did – on day four.

It was a beautiful world, but a quiet one. There was nothing living on the earth that would make any noise. On the fifth day God described the birds and sea creatures, and they appeared.

Then came a really big day. God filled the earth with all kinds of animals. Now it was noisy enough with lots of braying and barking and hooting. But God wasn't finished yet. He said, "Let's make a man who will be like us."

God was the only one there. So to whom was He talking? Here's another big secret. He was talking to Jesus.

“Wait,” you say. “Didn't Jesus come in much later in the story?”

Yes, He came to earth thousands of years later. But God's Son, Jesus, was always alive with God the Father. He was right there with Him when He made the world. (John 1:1-4) God's Holy Spirit was there, too, taking part in creation. (Gen. 1:2)

God made the first man. He wasn't just like God, because God is a spirit. We don't know if the first man looked like God or if he was only like God in some ways – like his ability to imagine things.

But we know that He made the first man on day six. He named the man, “Adam.”

On the seventh day God rested. Do you think He was worn out from all that creating? No. We read many places in the Bible that God never gets tired and He never needs to sleep. He rested because it was finished. The universe was complete – and God saw that it was all good.

Adam had plenty to do, taking care of the new world and naming all the animals. None of the animals were wild and dangerous then. It was as if the world was full of pets. But even with all those animals, God saw that he was lonely, so He made a helper for Adam. He made a woman to be Adam's wife.

Adam named his wife, “Eve.”

God put Adam and Eve in the most beautiful spot – the Garden of Eden. They had the best job! All they had to do was keep the garden looking nice. That wasn't hard, because there were no bugs to eat holes in the plants and no weeds to choke them out.

Adam and Eve got along perfectly well, too, because they were perfect. They were both totally unselfish and good all the way through. They didn't even think bad thoughts or wish for things they didn't have.

They had it all. They had a whole beautiful world. They had a great job. They had a perfect marriage.

The best part, though, was that they were friends with God. God is holy and can't have sin anywhere near Him. Adam and Eve had never done anything wrong, so they could walk right up to God and look at Him. They could talk to Him and listen to what He told them. They were His friends.

So what happened? Why can't we do that now? Why doesn't God come and see us and talk to us, if He has something to say?

That's another secret of the universe. We'll go on that adventure of discovery in the next chapter.

But now let's look at what we learned today and see what it means for you. Yes, you! These aren't just cool stories to entertain you. They are true things God put in the Bible because you need to know them, and because they tell you about Him. We'll call this part of the chapter....

God's Secrets for You

If you painted a picture, to whom would it belong? To you! You could give it to your friend, or hang it in your room, or throw it away if you wanted to. If you made it, it's yours. You can decide what to do with it.

Who made the world? God did. So everything belongs to God. He made you, too. That means you belong to Him.

Sometimes we forget and we start thinking that we are the god and that our lives are our own. We want to make our own decisions and go our own way. Then we get mad when things don't turn out like we think they should.

But we aren't gods. He is. It's His right to decide. And He is a kind, loving, and good God. He knows what He is doing, and He has all power to make things happen that will be good for us.

We've talked about a lot of important things. We don't want to forget any of them! If we just hear something once and then don't think about it anymore, we will forget it pretty soon. We will practice sticking these secrets to our brains so they don't slip away. We'll call our practice questions....

Brain Glue

What is the first book of the Bible?

Genesis

What does "Genesis" mean?

Beginning

What did God make on the first day?

He made light and separated it from darkness.

What did God make on day two?

Air and the atmosphere around the earth

On what day did God make plants?

On day three

On what day did God make the sun, moon, and stars?

On day four

What did God make on day five?

Birds and sea creatures

What did God make on day six?

Animals and people

What did God do on the seventh day?

He rested.

Why did God rest on the seventh day?

Because His work was finished.

Who were the first people God made?

Adam and Eve

Where did they live?

The Garden of Eden

How did God make all things?

He spoke and they appeared.

Think about It.....

What can we learn about God from this story?

Who made you?

So, who has a right to decide what you should do?

Why can we live without worry or fear