

# Bible adventures

for young readers

6



God  
loves me  
28 ways



## GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"In the beginning God created the sky and the earth." *Genesis 1:1*

## STORY TIME

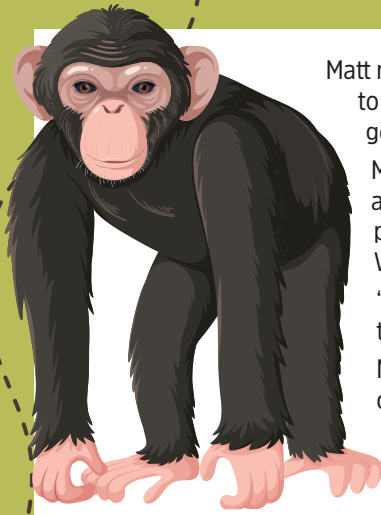
Matt sat down beside his mother and pulled the warm blanket up around his chin. Being sick with a cold wasn't fun. He'd been sneezing and coughing and sweating for two days straight and finally felt good enough to do something other than sneeze, cough, and sweat.

Mom opened the large family photo album and laid it across their laps. "Are you sure you feel well enough to look at these pictures?" she asked.

"Yes," Matt responded with a sniff. "I want to do something fun. I'm tired of being sick."

"OK," Mom said with a smile. "I know how much you enjoy this old album, so here goes."

Matt snuggled in close to his mother as she began pointing to images taken long before he was born. "There's your great-grandfather on his farm in the country. And that little boy standing beside him? He would someday grow up, get married, and be the daddy of your daddy! Kinda looks like Daddy, wouldn't you say?"



Matt nodded. "And that's my cousin Sandra," he said pointing to another photograph, "and my uncle Ray—the one who got shot in the foot during the war, right?"

Mother smiled, then hesitated. "I'm about to show you a new picture that I placed in the album last week. It's a photograph taken of a family member you've never met. Would you like to see it?"

"Sure!" Matt said enthusiastically. "I love looking at pictures of my relatives."

Mom turned the page and there, mounted right in the center of the album was a big, beautiful picture of a monkey.

Matt blinked, unsure of what to say. "That's one of my relatives?" he gasped.

Mother shrugged. "There are a lot of people who would say it is. They believe that a few billion years ago, a little sea creature crawled out of the ocean and began to live on land. Over the centuries, its offspring grew legs, tails, and finally fur. Then it continued to change until it became a human being. So this could very well be a picture of a family member—according to them."

"Wait a minute," Matt responded. "That's not what the Bible says. The Bible says that God created everything, including me and that monkey. He made the trees and flowers and birds, too. I don't care what anybody says. I know the truth. A monkey can be my friend, or a pet, or something I see in a zoo, but it has never, ever been my relative." He smiled. "So, Mom, you can take that monkey out of our family album. He doesn't belong there. But, I would like to hang it on my wall. It's a great picture of one of God's creatures."

Mother hugged Matt so tightly it made him cough. "You're one smart kid," she said. "I tried to trick you, but you didn't fall for it. I wanted to see if you were listening in church last week." Matt's grin spread from ear to ear. "Hey," he said, "no one is going to make a monkey out of me."



## FUN FACTS

### MONKEYS:

- Monkeys are most easily distinguished from apes by their tails. Apes have no tails.
- A group of monkeys is called a "troop."\*

### HOLD ON!

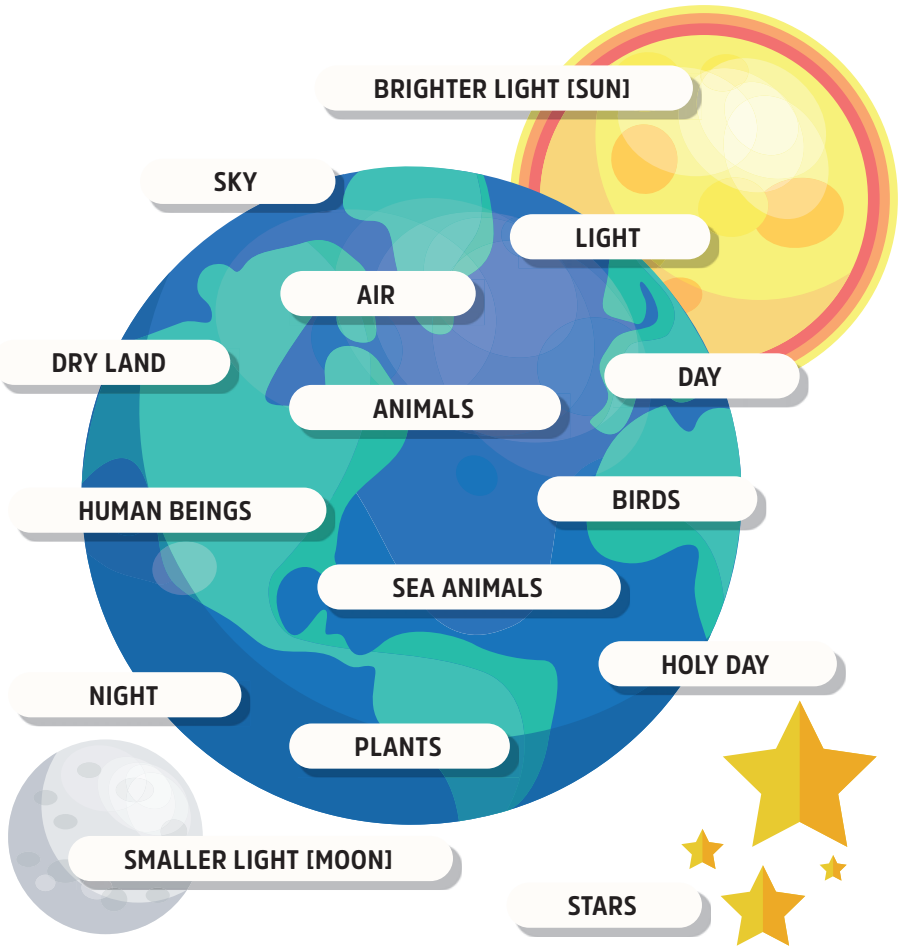
- Monkeys can grasp with both their fingers and their toes.





## MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

Look up the Bible texts in the “Library” section and then draw a line from the day of Creation to what God created on that day. Remember, some days may have more than one creation. God began with an ugly mixture of water, air, and darkness. He ended up with our beautiful world.



DAY 1 - GENESIS 1:3-5

DAY 2 - GENESIS 1:6-8

DAY 3 - GENESIS 1:9-13

DAY 4 - GENESIS 1:14-19

DAY 5 - GENESIS 1:20-23

DAY 6 - GENESIS 1:24-31

DAY 7 - GENESIS 2:1-3



## LIBRARY

- “Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth’” (Genesis 1:26).
- “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him’” (Genesis 2:18).
- “The man answered, ‘I heard you walking in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid’” (Genesis 3:10).
- “So the Lord God forced the man out of the Garden of Eden” (Genesis 3:23).
- “All people have sinned and are not good enough for God’s glory” (Romans 3:23).



## MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“The fall of man filled all heaven with sorrow. ... Angels ceased their songs of praise. Throughout the heavenly courts there was mourning for the ruin that sin had wrought” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 63).

Can you imagine a silent Heaven? When Adam and Eve sinned, even the angels felt sad. But we can make the angels sing again when we love God and love others. Think about that. When you do something kind, when you forgive a person who has been mean to you, when you share God’s love with a neighbor, you are filling the courts of Heaven with song. Wow!

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## PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What are some ways you can make the angels sing again?

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