

FRIENDS^{WITH} GOD

DEVOTIONS

FOR KIDS



WRITTEN BY Mikal Keefer

ILLUSTRATED BY David Harrington

54 Delightfully Fun Ways to Grow Closer to Jesus, Family, and Friends



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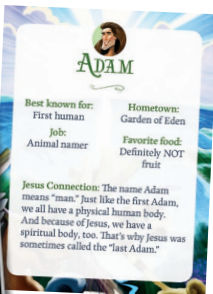
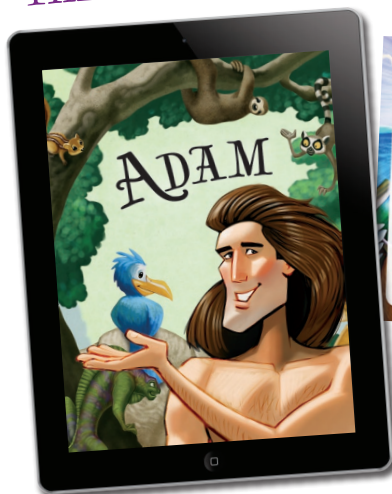
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BRING YOUR DEVOTION TO LIFE WITH THE FREE FRIENDS WITH GOD APP!



Come face to face with Bible-times friends of God. Scattered throughout the pages of the *Friends With God Devotions for Kids*,

digital triggers unlock mobile games so you can win virtual devotional cards with fun ideas you can talk about with your family. Plus, you'll get a Bible character collectible card with entertaining facts about that person.

▶ Get started in three easy steps:

1. With your parents' help, download the free app available on iTunes and Google Play.



2. When you see this icon , scan the page with your mobile device.

3. Play the games to win all of the collectible cards!



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HERE'S something you might not know: God likes you—a *lot*.

He likes spending time with you
because that's what friends do.
They hang out together. They talk.
They listen.

And sometimes they giggle, too.

So here are 54 chances for you to spend time
with God. You'll do all the stuff friends do: talk...
listen...and get to know each other.

Sound good?

You'll meet some of God's friends who ended
up in the Bible. That's a good thing because you
can learn a *lot* about God by seeing how he acts
around other people.

In each of these devotions you'll do a little
reading, do a little drawing or writing, and then
go have fun with your friends and family...and
you can invite God along for that, too.

You'll love growing closer to God. And your
family. And your friends!

So pick a devotion (you don't have to start at the
front of the book unless you want to) and dive in.

Have fun!



GOD CREATES ADAM AND EVE

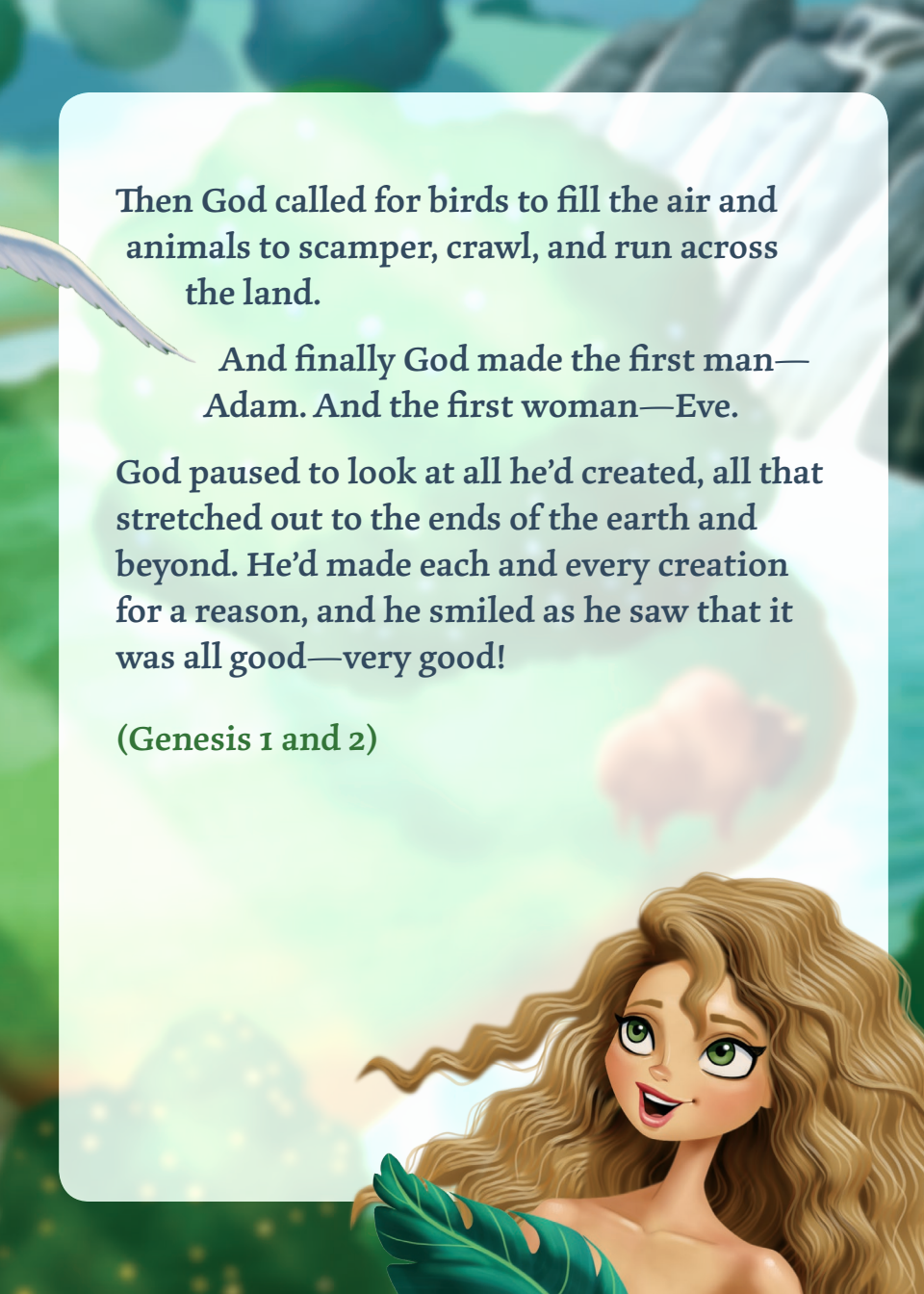


What God did in the beginning was AMAZING!

He called out, “Let there be light,” and zillions of stars glittered in the heavens. He formed the earth, stretching sandy beaches between dry land and sparkling oceans. He told plants and trees to sprout, and the land blossomed.

Then God created life in the oceans. Fish flashed and jellyfish floated beneath the waves. Dolphins leapt and danced on the water.





Then God called for birds to fill the air and animals to scamper, crawl, and run across the land.

And finally God made the first man—Adam. And the first woman—Eve.

God paused to look at all he'd created, all that stretched out to the ends of the earth and beyond. He'd made each and every creation for a reason, and he smiled as he saw that it was all good—very good!

(Genesis 1 and 2)

Meanwhile, in *your* world...

When God made you, he did a great job! Draw a quick self-portrait, and list three things God did really well when he made you. That cute dimple, maybe, or your truly superior skating skills! Create your masterpiece here:



You and God...


Those wonderful touches God added when he made you? He gave them to you for a reason...maybe so you can use them to help others. Take a minute to ask God about that. Ask, “How can I use your good work in me to help other people?” and then see if he gives you some ideas. If so, jot them down here:



You and others...

Go rustle up a friend or two (family members count!) to play Build a Beat. Here's how to play: Clap out a short rhythm—two claps, a pause, and two more claps, for instance. The other players repeat what you did and add their own rhythms. Everyone repeats and then adds to create something cool for as long as you all can go. Fun with two, a hoot with three, creative chaos with five!

Friendship Nugget

Friends notice when other friends do good work. Tell God, “Hey, nice job!” 

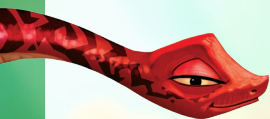
ADAM AND EVE HAVE A CHOICE



The garden where God placed Adam and Eve was perfect—lush and green. God told Adam and Eve to enjoy eating any fruit they found, except for one. It grew on a beautiful tree planted in the very center of the Garden of Eden.

One day, a snake hissed to Eve that God hadn't meant what he'd said. Of course it was okay to try the forbidden fruit. Eating it would make her wise, just like God.

As the snake urged her on, Eve plucked a piece of forbidden fruit and took a nibble.



When nothing happened, she handed the fruit to Adam—who shrugged and took a big, juicy bite.

Suddenly, it was as if their eyes had been pried wide open. They knew they'd chosen to do evil rather than good and then noticed something else: *they were naked!* They scrambled to cover themselves with fig leaves.

That evening they heard God strolling in the garden. God asked them, “Have you eaten the forbidden fruit?” Spoiler alert: God already knew the answer.

Adam pointed at Eve. Eve blamed the serpent for tricking her. The snake didn't say anything.

As a punishment for disobeying him, God made Adam and Eve leave the perfect garden they'd called home.

(Genesis 3)



Meanwhile, in *your* world...

Like Adam and Eve, you make choices. Tell God about a choice you're making now. Maybe you're deciding what to do about a bully or where to start on a book report that's due...tomorrow.

Whatever choice you're making, describe it here:



You and God...

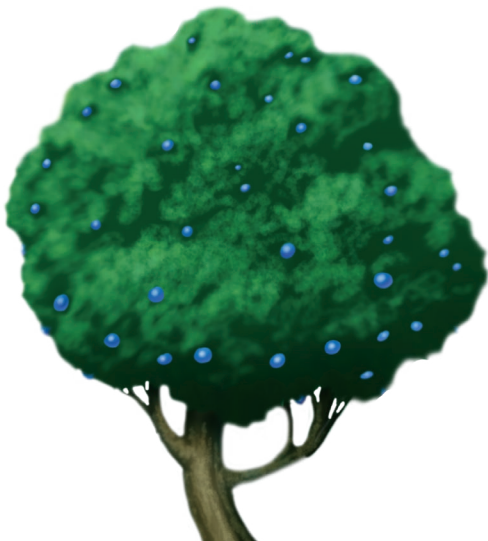
Think about this: God knows what you wrote—and he cares about it. That's because, as your friend, he cares about you. Give God two thumbs-up, big time: one thumb for making time to know you while running the universe and one thumb for also caring about you!

You and others...


Find a couple of people to play Two Truths and a Lie. Take turns telling one another two true things about yourself and one lie. See if you can all choose truth from among the lies. If Adam and Eve had done that, we might all still be living in a garden!



The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. (Genesis 3:6)



Friendship Nugget

Friends make choices that build trust in the friendship. 

NOAH BUILDS AN ARK



Times were tough: Pretty much the whole world was disobeying God. Only Noah lived in a way that pleased God.

So God warned Noah a flood was coming that would scrub the earth clean and give it a do-over. Which sounded fine until Noah realized that meant everyone would drown... including him.

Uh-oh. God quickly promised that Noah and his family would be saved. But Noah had to build a boat—a *huge* boat, called an ark.

Noah got busy, and shortly after he finished the ark, rains thundered down. Geysers

erupted from beneath the ground. The ark—packed tight with Noah, his family, and an entire zoo of animals—lifted and floated free.

For months they bobbed through swirling water. Then, as flood waters drained away, Noah's ark bumped to a resting spot atop a mountain. Thanks to God, Noah and his family had lived through the flood!

God told Noah to open the door of the ark and let the animals out to go find new homes. Then Noah and his family built an altar and praised God for giving the world a do-over.

(Genesis 6–9)



Meanwhile, in *your* world...

Go find a square of toilet paper and a ballpoint pen. We can wait...

You back? Good.



Now write on the toilet paper something you've said or done that you're sorry for. That you wish you could get a do-over for.

You and God...

One way to get a do-over is to apologize to the person you hurt. Ask God if that's something he'd like you to do and, if so...well, do it.


But for now, just hold the paper in your hand. Show it to God. Because when you hurt others, you're hurting him, too. Tell him you're sorry and then...

Go flush it. That's how it works when God forgives you—your sin is gone. Forgotten. Thanks to Jesus, our sins can disappear in one satisfying sin-swirly!

You and others...

Get ready to give a friend unlimited do-overs!
Find a partner to play Rock, Paper, Scissors and keep playing until your friend wins three times in a row. Pack a lunch—the odds of that happening right away are like one in...um...14 zillion. Unless you're *really* bad at Rock, Paper, Scissors!

Friendship Nugget

Friends give friends do-overs. Like God's forgiven you, you can forgive others. 



Help kids build a true friendship—with God!

Children meet Bible-times friends who share their thrilling stories, each from their own view.

They'll march side by side with David as he rushes toward Goliath. Turn with Peter to see Jesus alive after his resurrection. Stand next to Abraham under a glittering, star-filled sky, remembering impossible promises coming true.

With each stunningly illustrated page, kids' faith grows as they draw close to the God who loves them and calls them *his friend*, too.



Help kids deepen their friendship with God *even more* by pairing this story Bible with the *Friends With God Devotions for Kids*!

Free: bonus app! Look inside for details.

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