

The Bible Is a Message from God

Have you ever played hide and seek? Where is the best hiding place in your house? When you play hide and seek, you try to hide where no one can find you. You don't want others to know where you are.

Do you think God hides, too? No, He *shows* and *tells* us who He is.¹ God wants us to know Him! All around us are messages sent to us from God to let us know who He is.

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)

The world tells us about God. It shows us how great He is. It tells us that He is a great Creator.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge. (Psalm 19:2)

Every day, the world tells us about God and shows us His greatness.

There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard. (Psalm 19:3)

God's world is a message about Himself to everyone. It doesn't matter what language a person speaks, because all kinds of people can understand what the world tells us about God.

1. Note that though God does reveal Himself to man, He also hides Himself from some people (e.g., those destined for destruction), and no man can ever fully comprehend the full character and nature of God (see Isaiah 45:15).

What are some ways the world tells us about God? What does God tell us about Himself through the sun and sky, birds and flowers, rivers and oceans, wind and rain?

Every day when the sun comes up, we can see that God is watching over and taking care of the world. When you see the sun in the morning, God is saying, "I'm still here. I am watching over my world." When the sun comes up in the morning and goes down at night day after day, God is sending us a message that He never changes.



At night when you see a whole sky full of stars, God is saying, "I am big. I am great." Pretty flowers are a message from God saying, "I made many beautiful things in this world. I am a good and glorious God."

All kinds of bugs—flying, creeping, and hopping . . . green, yellow, and brown . . . beautiful butterflies and strange-looking beetles—are all God's way of telling us that He is creative and never runs out of ideas. God is not boring, and He did not make a boring world!

When you see a big storm and hear loud thunder, God is saying, "I am

strong and powerful.” When the sun stays in the sky and doesn’t fall on us, God is showing us that He rules the world with wisdom. Every day God shows us who He is. He wants us to know Him. He is not hiding.

There is another way God speaks to us, *showing* and *telling* us who He is. It is a written message. It is God’s special book to us, the Bible. God wrote the Bible so we would know what He is like and what He has done.

Every story in the Bible tells us something about God. If you want to know who God is, open the Bible and read His special message to you. He will tell you what He is like, what you are like, and what He expects from you. He will tell you how you can know Him personally and what Jesus did for sinners. His word in the Bible is His message to you forever. Every page of the Bible will tell you something about the God who made the whole world and who wants you to know Him.

What has God told you about Himself in the Bible? What is He like?

All God’s mighty acts and all the words He has spoken about Himself in the Bible show us what He is like. When we read about God opening the Red Sea for Israel, He is telling us that He can do anything. Nothing is too hard for Him. God is giving us the message that He takes care of His people.

What message is God giving us in the story of the flood? When we open our Bibles and read about Noah and the ark, it is not a story about animals. It is God’s message to us about Himself. God is telling us that He is holy and good and that He hates sin. He sent floodwaters to destroy a world of sinners but saved Noah and his family.

When we read about Jesus healing blind Bartimaeus, God is showing us that He is kind and has power over sickness. In the story of Jesus calming the storm, God is telling us that He is stronger than anything else and is in control of all things.

The Bible is God’s message to us, showing and telling us who He is. God is not hiding. He wants us to know who He is and what He is like. God wants to tell us about Himself.

I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is none like me. (Isaiah 46:9)



LEARNING TO TRUST GOD

- ✦ Read Acts 17:22–34. What is another way God makes Himself known to us? What does Paul say about God in these verses?
- ✦ Read Isaiah 46:9 again. What does this verse tell you about God?
- ✦ **Activity:** Explore the Bible as a family. Note that there are Old and New Testaments, and that the Bible is divided into books, chapters, and verses. Play a game to begin learning the names of the books of the Bible in order. Make cards with a book name on each card. Start with the first 5–10 cards and put them in order. Keep working on memorizing the order of the books of the Bible each week until you know them.