

The rest of the Bible tells us about lots of people who were also God's friends – **Joseph, Moses, Ruth, David, Mary, Peter, Paul** and hundreds more. To become God's friend they had to be sorry for the wrong things they had done, and ask God to forgive them.

Have you ever thought about knowing God as '**your friend**'? The books in the New Testament part of the Bible tell us how God has made this possible. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. He died on a cross at Calvary to take the punishment for all the wrong things we have done. Then three days later Jesus came alive again. Many people saw Him after He rose from the dead. After that, Jesus returned to heaven where He is today. If you put your trust in Jesus and ask Him to become your Saviour, God will not only forgive you but He will become your friend too!

If you don't already have a Bible and would like one, please write to the address below and we will gladly send one to you free of charge.

The Open-Air Mission

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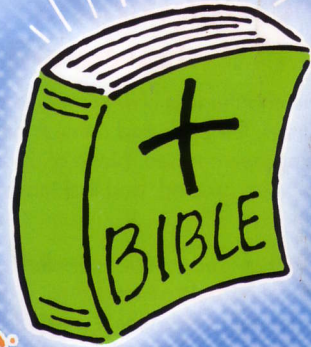
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The Open-Air Mission is a Christian organisation supported by hundreds of churches all over Britain.

We promise that nobody will call at your home.

THE BIBLE



A New Special Book

What is the Bible?

The Bible is a very special book. It tells us all about God. Without the Bible we would have to imagine what God is like. If we did this we would end up with a very different kind of God! But God used men to write the Bible so that we could know what He is like. The Bible is full of real life stories. Each one teaches us something about God. By putting them all together we can see how great and wonderful God is.

Genesis is the first of sixty-six books, which make up the Bible. The first words in it say,

**"In the beginning
God created the heavens and the earth".**

The rest of the chapter tells how He made everything: the flowers, the trees, the birds and animals and all the other wonderful things we can see. None of these came about by chance! They were created, and that teaches us that God is very powerful.

Next we learn that God created people. The first man and woman were called **Adam and Eve**. God gave them a beautiful garden and visited them every day. They were told that they could eat anything in the garden, but not the fruit from the tree in the middle. All Adam and Eve had to do to enjoy friendship with God forever was to keep one rule, but they disobeyed God and ate the (*forbidden*) fruit.

Because they broke God's rule they had to leave the garden He had made. They could no longer see God or be His friend. Disobeying God is very serious and He must punish wrong.

Many of Adam and Eve's descendants became so bad that God said that He would destroy the whole world with a flood. Before He did so, God told a good man called **Noah** to build a big boat called an Ark. All the people who went into the Ark would be saved from the flood. Sadly, only Noah, his family and the animals went into the Ark, and the whole world was flooded. All those outside the Ark were drowned, just as God had said.

When Noah and his family came out of the Ark, God put a rainbow in the sky to confirm His promise that He would never flood the whole world again. From this story we learn that God always keeps His promises and those who believe what He says will be saved.

By reading just the first part of the first book in the Bible (*Genesis*) we have already learnt a lot about God. He is much greater and more wonderful than we could ever imagine! If we carry on reading through the Bible there are many other lessons to learn. We begin to get a picture of what God is like.

The Bible doesn't just tell us what God is like. It also tells us what people are like. Many kept on disobeying God and going their own way. However, there were others who turned to God and loved Him and knew God as their friend. **Abraham** was called a '**friend of God**'. His life story is also found in the book of Genesis. What a difference it made to Abraham to have God as his friend. He learnt to trust God no matter what happened to him.