


THE CREATION STORY



there was **GOD THE FATHER**. At first, there was **GOD THE SON**. At first, there was **GOD THE SPIRIT**. And that's all there

was. Then God said, "LIGHT,"  and there was day and there was **NIGHT**. And that's all there was. But there was more, so much more to

come... So God said, "SEA" and "SKY" and "SPACE." And there were **WAVES FLOWING** and  clouds blowing and galaxies **GROWING**.

And that's all there was. But there was more, so much more to come...

So God said, "EARTH," and the waters parted...



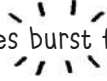
... and mountains started and flat plateaus and hollowed valleys followed.

And that's all there was. But there was more, so much more to come...

So God said, "PLANTS," and fields  **FLOWERED**  and meadows spread



and forests full of trees burst forth. And that's all there was. But there



was more, so much more to come... So God said, "SUN" and God said,

"MOON" and God said, "STARS" and gifted the days and the nights



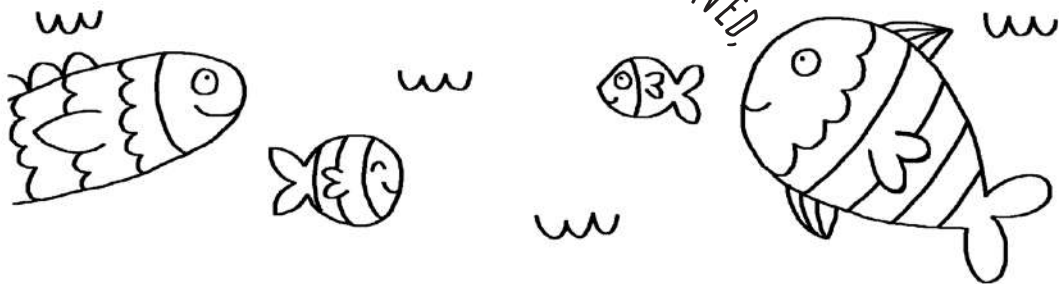
with light. And that's all there was. But there was more, so much more

to come... So God said, "FISH," like a spoken wish, and up through the



waves they leapt, deep down into the seas they

DIVED,



and all through the RIVERS they raced. And that's all there was. But there



was more, so much more to come... So God said, "BIRDS,"



and their wings split the air, their feet fixed on branches, and

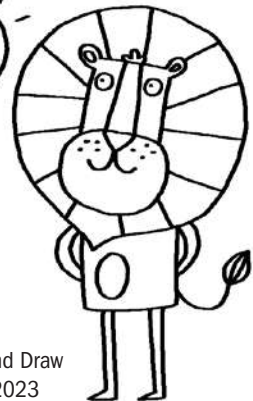


their cries filled the skies. And that's all



there was. But there was more, so much more to

come... So God said, "ANIMALS," and the jungles and

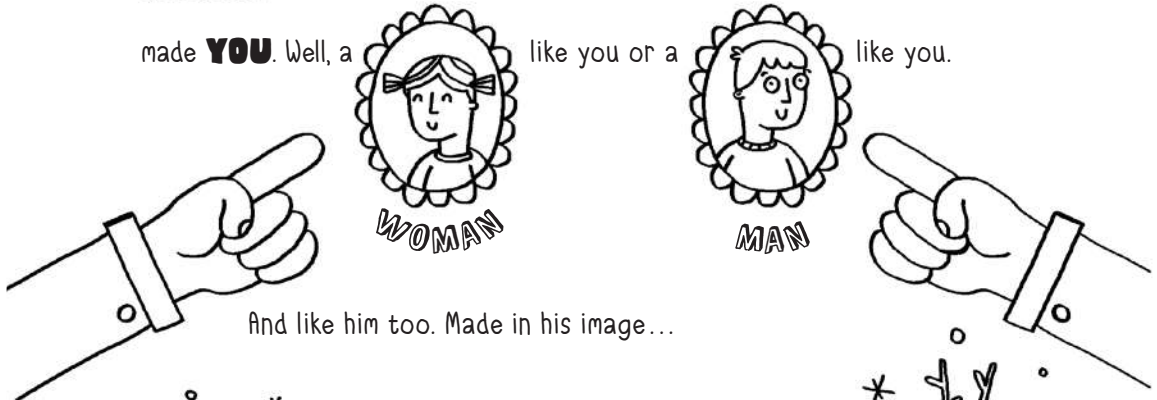


the forests and the plains embraced the chasing and racing life that

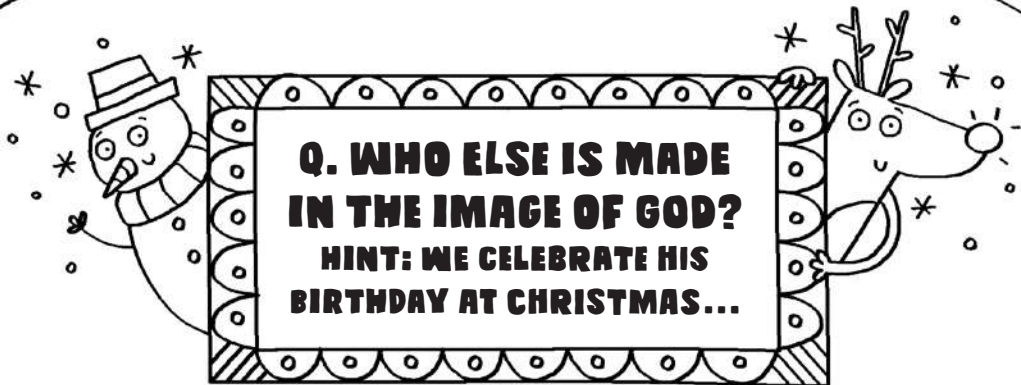
started, with a startle, among them. And that's all there was. Beautiful and

AMAZING as it was. But there was more, so much more to come... So God

made **YOU**. Well, a  like you or a  like you.




And like him too. Made in his image...



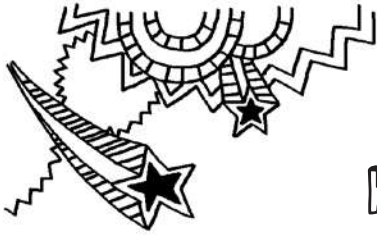
Made to make. Made to  LOVE. Made to take care of all there was. And

even though God rested when he was done, it was only for a while. For his

story and our story tell us there was **MORE**, so much more to  come...



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HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH GOD

What came next? Something sad. **GOD** planted a **GARDEN**, a



perfect place, for the first man, **ADAM**, and the

first woman, **EVE**, to call home. But a **SERPENT**

lived there too—the craftiest creature God had made. So the serpent

sidled up to Eve one day, as she stood with Adam next to the Tree of the

Knowledge of **GOOD** and **EVIL**. “Did God really say that you



must not eat fruit from the trees in this **BEAUTIFUL** garden, this garden

of Eden?” he asked. “Of course not,” Eve replied. “We are allowed to eat

FRUIT from **EVERY** tree. Well, apart from the Knowledge **TREE**, this

one in the middle of the garden.” And then she bent down and whispered, “For

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SUM!

God says that if we eat from this tree, we will die. "Die?" the serpent

SNORTED

"Don't be ridiculous! You won't die. **GOD** doesn't want you to eat the



fruit because he knows that, if you do,

you will know what he knows—good and

evil—and then you will be just like him!" "HMM," Eve thought. "If the

fruit tastes as good as it looks, it has to be worth a try. And if it makes

me wise as well..." And that's when she took a bite.



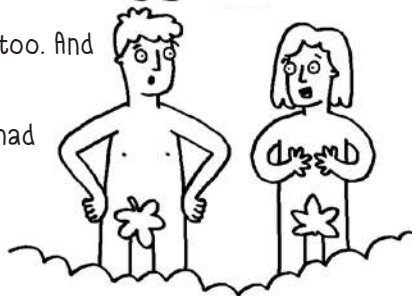
And that's when

she passed it to Adam and he took a bite too. And

that's when they noticed something they had



never noticed before. They were **NAKED!**

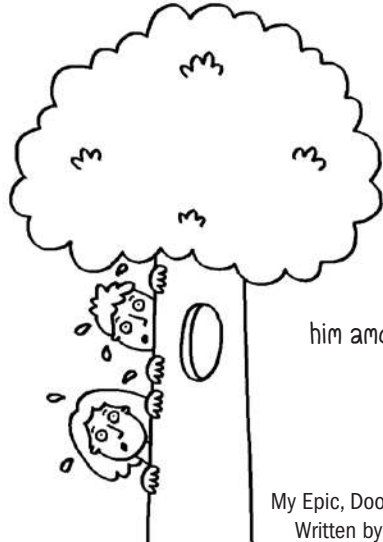


More than that, they were ashamed that they were naked. So they sewed

themselves some clothes out of fig leaves. And

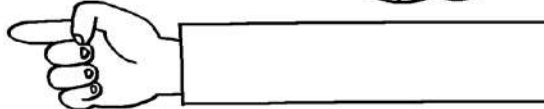
when they heard the **sound** of God walking in

the **GARDEN** that evening, they hid from



him among the trees. "Where are you?" God called.

THERE THEY ARE!



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"WE'RE HIDING!" Adam called back. (He'd never hidden before and hadn't quite gotten the hang of it.) "I heard you walking in the **GARDEN** and I was naked.

So I was afraid." "How did you know you were naked?" asked God, sadly. "You

have **EATEN** the fruit from the tree, haven't you?" "It was the woman's fault!"

Adam protested,  pointing at Eve. "The woman you gave me!"

"The serpent tricked me!" Eve replied, pointing at the serpent.

"That's why I ate the fruit." **"SERPENT,"** God said, "you will be

CURSED above every living creature. You shall crawl on your belly. You and the woman will be enemies.

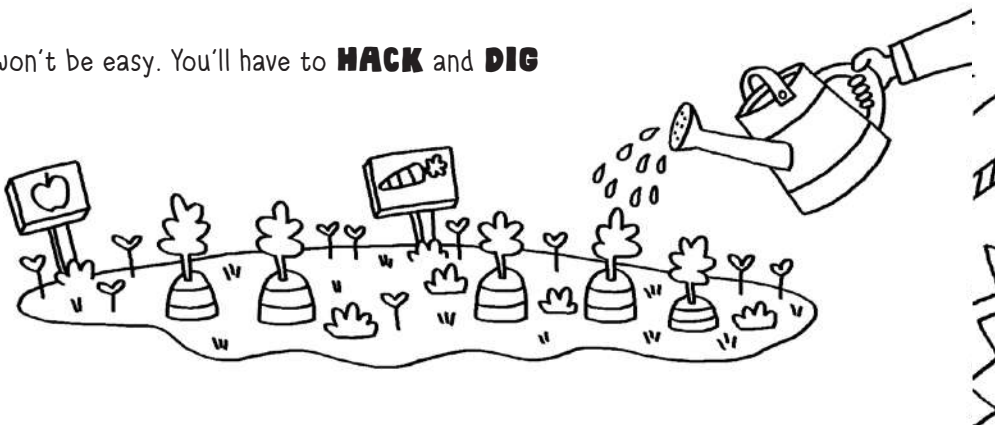
And even though you will **ONE** day bruise the heel of one of her children,

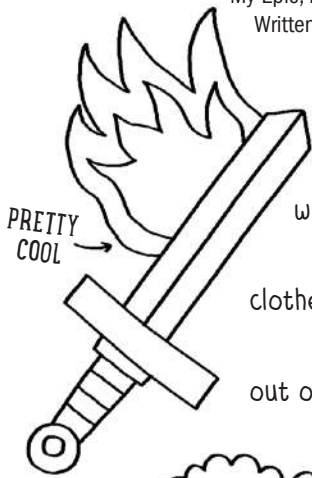
he will **CRUSH YOUR HEAD.**" "Woman," God went on to say, "childbirth


will be painful. And your husband will rule over you. And as for you, Adam," God

concluded, "you will have to **GROW** your own food from now on. And

it won't be easy. You'll have to **HACK** and **DIG**





and **FLOW UP** the ground. And into the ground is where you will  when you die." Then God made clothes from animal skins for Adam and for Eve and sent them out of that beautiful garden. Finally, God set a cherubim with



a **FLAMING** sword at the garden's gate, so they could not return and eat from the **TREE OF LIFE** and live forever. But that was not the end

of the story. There was more, so much  to come. There was that

PROMISE of a child. Who would one day crush the serpent's head and defeat him once and for all...

