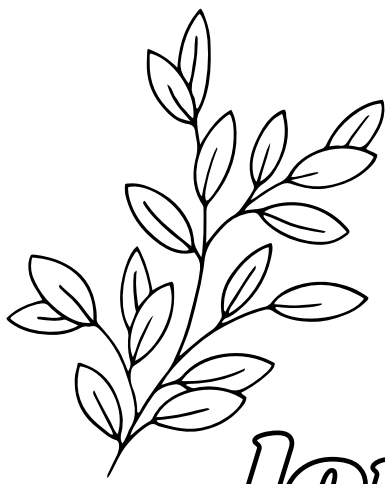


# The Good News

## Activity Journal



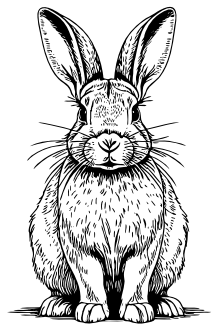
Unlocking the Mystery  
of God's Love



# The Mystery of God's Love



For God so  
*loved* the world  
that he gave his  
*one and only Son*,  
that whoever  
*believes*  
in him shall not  
perish but have  
*eternal life.*



John 3:16 NIV

**For God** (the creator of the universe and all things) **so loved** (longs to have a loving relationship with) **the world** (you, me, and everyone) **that He gave** (sacrificed) **His one and only Son** (Jesus) **that whoever** (you, me, and everyone) **believes** (trusts, regards as true) **in Him** (Jesus, the Son) **shall not perish** (be eternally separated from God) **but have eternal life** (live forever in heaven with God).

# The Mystery Revealed



## **We all know that God exists.**

*“This is because what is known about God should be plain to them, because God made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—God’s eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen because they are understood through the things God has made, so people are without excuse.” —Romans 1:19-20 CEB*

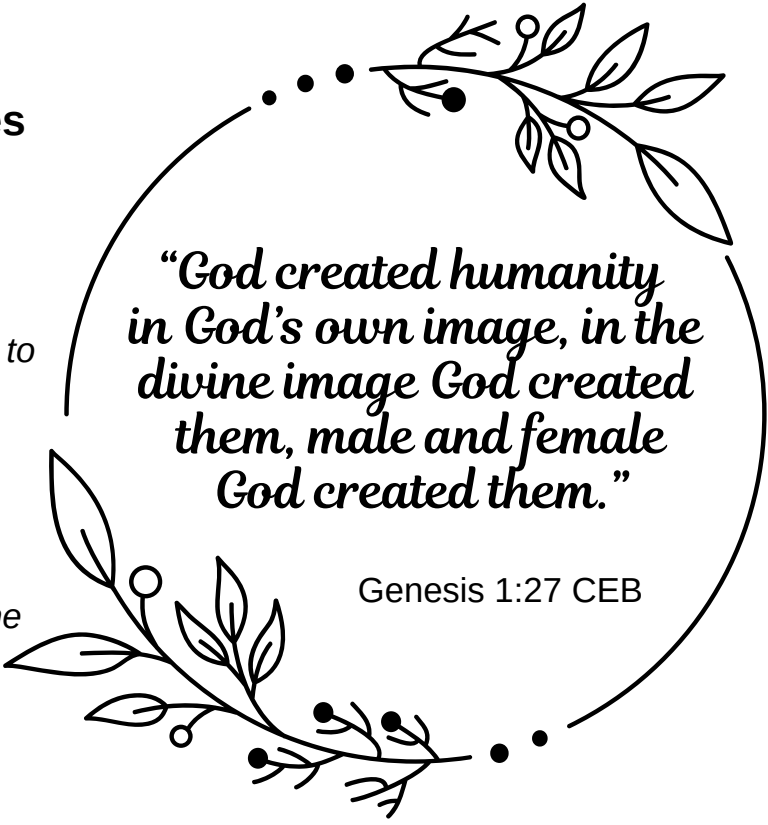
*When you see a building, you know there was a designer. Now, when considering the complexities of the human body, you **KNOW** there was a designer.*

**We are created in God’s image with God-like qualities (intellect, emotions, creativity) so, we can learn about and understand God.**

*We all have a longing to know more, to understand something outside of ourselves, that transcendent “something.”*

*That “something” is God.*

*It is when we turn toward God that the longing starts to make sense.*



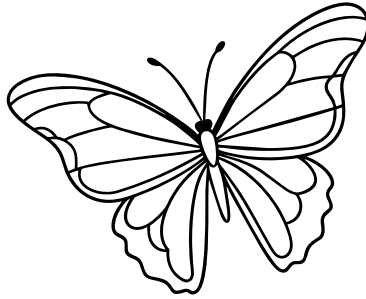
*“God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them.”*

Genesis 1:27 CEB

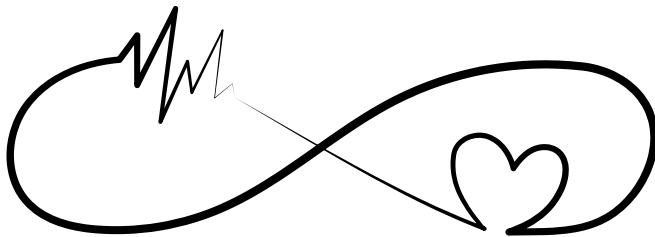
## **We have an eternal soul and spirit in one body.**

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. —Genesis 2:7 KJV*

God is an eternal spirit. Humankind only came to life when God shared this eternal aspect (His breath/spirit) with us.



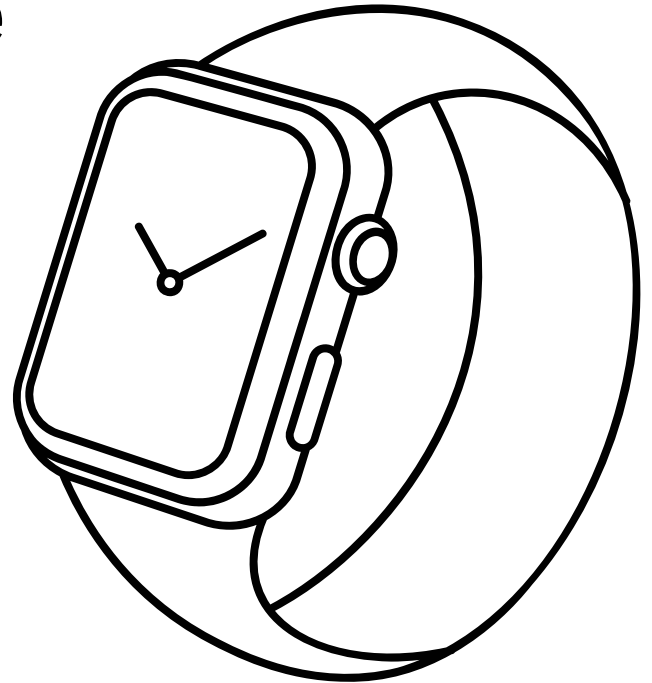
Because God is eternal, we will also exist forever. Our bodies will die and return to dust but our spirit lives on.



## **We are made for eternity.**

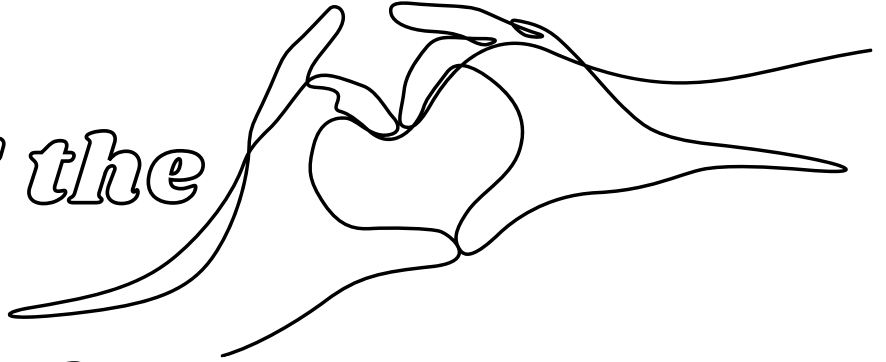
Our soul/spirit is eternal and has been made to live forever.

God has made everything fitting in its time, but has also placed eternity in their hearts ...



We are loved so much more than we know.

*We have come  
to KNOW  
and to  
BELIEVE the  
LOVE  
that GOD has  
for us.*

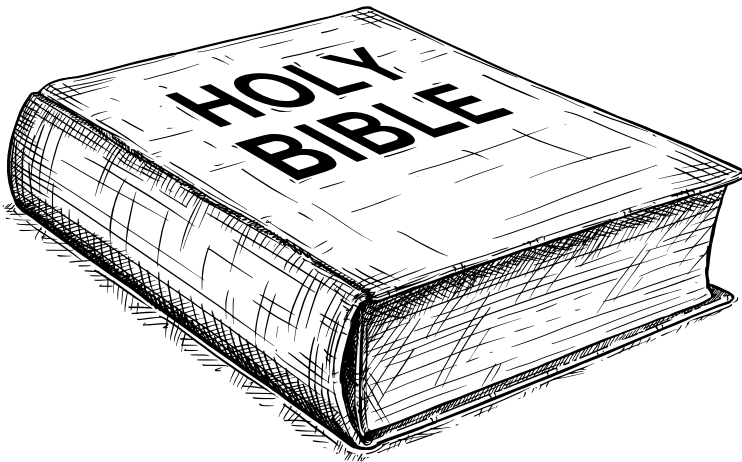


*GOD is LOVE.*

1 John 4:16 ESV

We love because He first  
loved us.

1 John 4:19 ESV

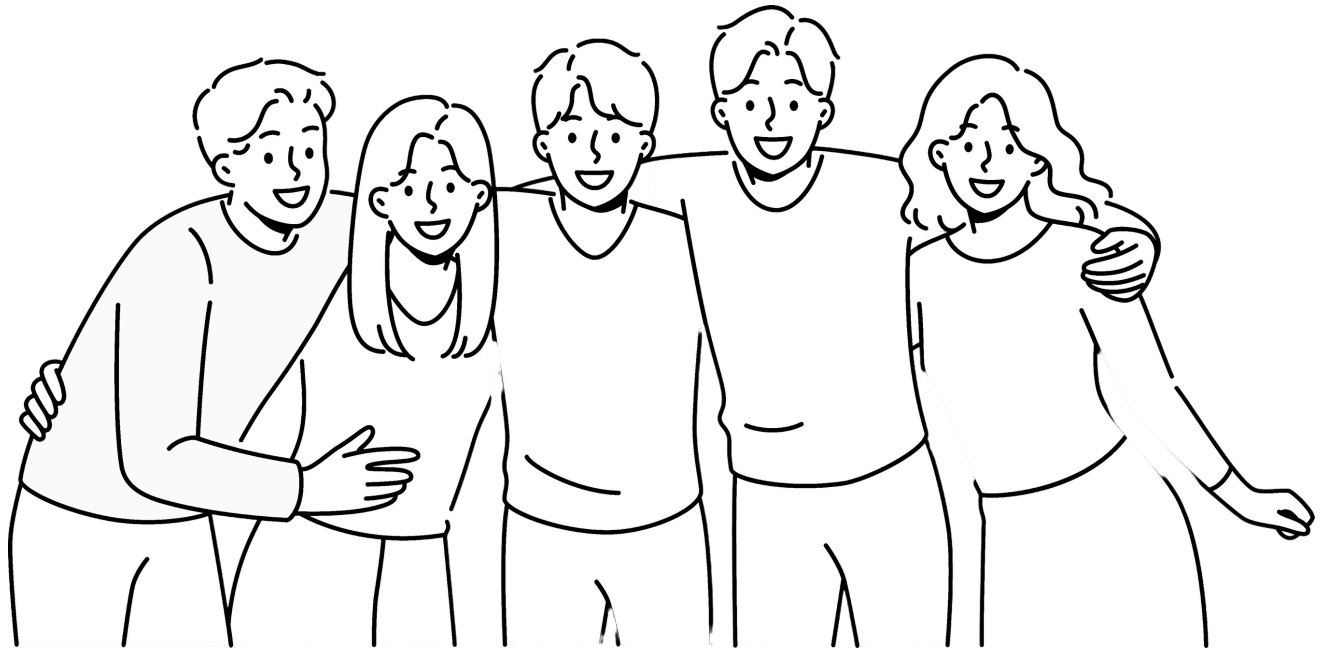


The Bible is God's love story to us to show us how patient God is with people who turn away from His love. He chose to create us already knowing we would turn away from Him in rebellion and what the cost would be to bring us back to Him. It is our choices that determine where we spend eternity. In a condition of punishment, or of life. The choice is ours to make.

## **We were created for purpose and fellowship.**

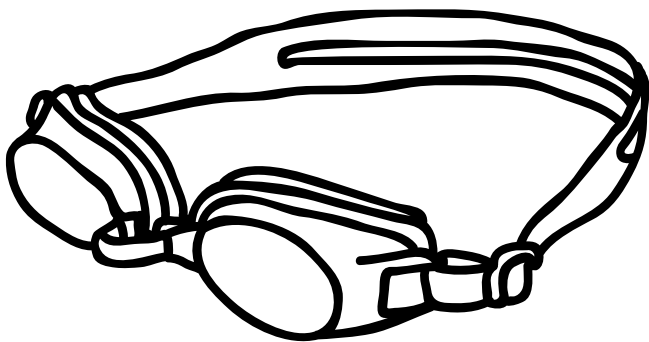
*He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord God requires of you: To do justice, embrace faithful love, and to walk humbly with your God. —Micah 6:8 CEB*

We were designed for friendship (companionship) with God and others. What makes a strong friendship? Quality time spent sharing and listening (which we do with God through prayer and reading the Bible) and trust (that you each can trust the other, and that you will be trustworthy/do what you commit to doing).



## **Uh-oh. We're sinful and separated from God.**

*Your misdeeds have separated you from your God. Your sins have hidden his face from you so that you are not heard. —Isaiah 59:2 CEB*



Even when I want to do good, to be kind and loving, I can't sustain that nature for very long, and so I fail. It would be like trying to swim from California to Hawaii, eventually even the strongest swimmer fails to make the journey. Drowning and death are inevitable. We can never be "good enough."

## **But—What is sin?**

*It is sin when someone knows the right thing to do and does not do it. —James 4:14 CEB*

*These are a rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord. —Isaiah 30:9*

Sin is defined as rebellion against God, an indifference to Him, or a passive neglect to decide. Kind of like if you ignore something, it will just go away. Right?

## **There is a penalty for sin.**

*For the wages of sin is death (eternity in hell separated from God) —Romans 6:23 NIV*



In short, sin leads to the rejection of God's love, his blessings, and eternal separation from God. Sin is doing something you know is wrong—like gossiping, cheating, lying, stealing, using hurtful words, and more—but you do it anyway. And failing to do the right thing is also sin. Sins big or small come with a cost: death and eternity in hell.

## **But—Why would a loving God send someone to hell?**

*Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. —Colossians 3:25 NIV*

*He's the faithful God, never deceiving; altogether righteous and true is he. —Deuteronomy 32:4 CEB*

Because God's very nature is love, we assume He is unjust to exact such extreme punishment for seemingly small sins. We think we know better than God who is holy and no corruptness is found in Him. He cannot lie. In his mercy He allows us to actively participate in our future by giving us a choice. We can choose to believe and receive heaven, or we can choose to go our own way to destruction.

## How did I become sinful?

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12 BSB*

Just like you may have inherited blue eyes from your mother or dark hair from your father, Adam, the first man, willfully sinned by rebelling against God and so we inherited the sinful nature from Adam.



## How can I go to heaven?

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God. —John 1:12 ESV*

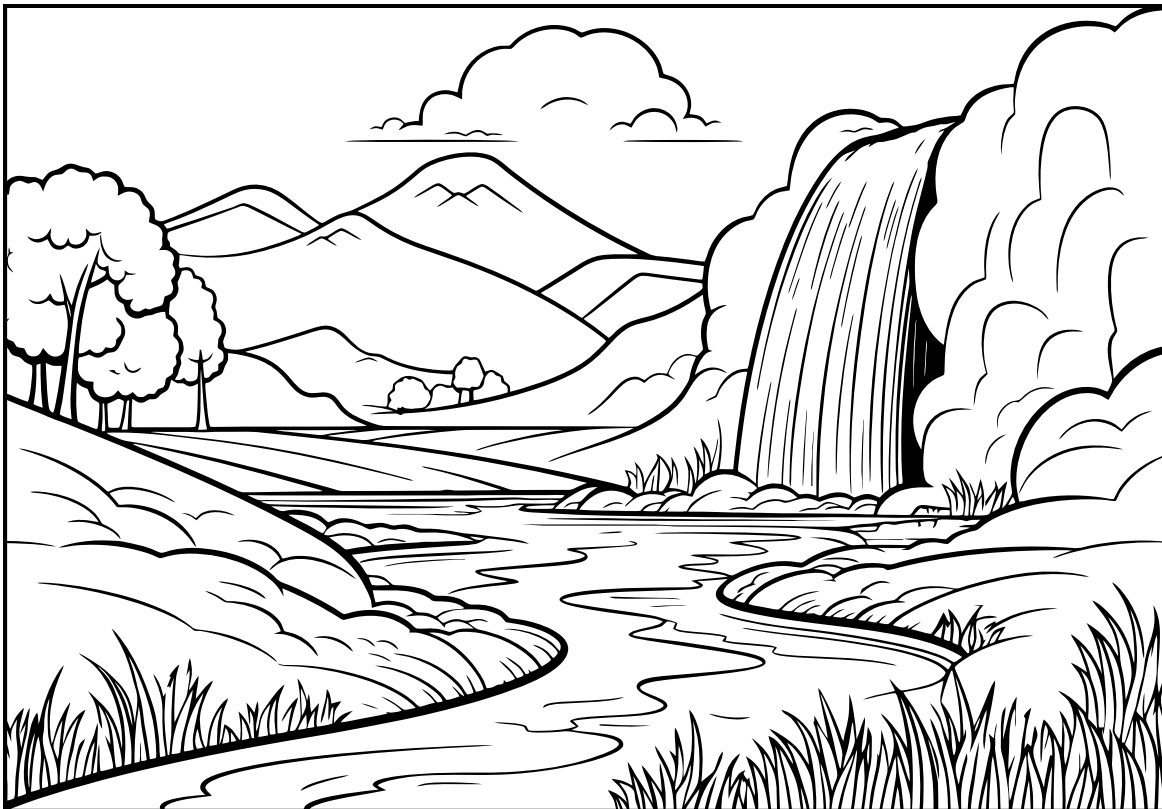
We must repent. It means we turn around and go the other way; change our mind. We must decide to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He paid the penalty for our sin through a horribly painful death so that we don't have to. He then rose from the grave to give us life and hope.

## But wait! There's more!

*For by grace are you saved through faith, and this is not of your own doing; it is the GIFT of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. —Ephesians 2:8, 9 ESV*

WHAT?! If you decide to believe, God will even help you with that by giving you the gift of faith. It is not something you can manufacture or work out for yourself; it is a gift. If you could provide it for yourself, wouldn't you want to boast about it? All you need to do is: Add a little bit of body text

Believe in the Lord  
Jesus and you will be  
saved... Acts 16:31 NIV



When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we receive what is called salvation (forgiveness of sin). We also receive another gift—we are marked by God’s Holy Spirit as a child of God. We are adopted into His family. That is why you may hear someone say you are a child of God. Yes! You are!

Remember, it is a decision, to go toward God, not away from Him. We must change our minds. Our emotions have nothing to do with our receiving those free gifts. It is an act of our will. Please, choose today to believe.

***Today, if you feel a tugging at your heart, then I urge you to decide to trust Jesus as your Savior.***

**Jesus is the only way to heaven.**

Jesus said, “I am the way  
and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father\*  
except through me.”

—John 14:6 ESV; \*(God)

If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior today, write the date and the time of your decision.  
It is the most important decision of your life.

date:

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time:

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NOTE: What are those letters after the verses? The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek and has been translated many times into many different languages. For this activity book, I have used the translation of each verse that felt easiest to understand when taken out of context of the of the verses around it and used language that someone new to the Bible could understand. To better grasp the message of this activity book, pick up a Bible or look up these verses on your phone, then read the verses around the verse I have included for more context. Happy reading!

Translations used in this activity book:

CEB—Common English Bible.  
NIV—New International Version  
BSB—Berean Standard Bible

ESV—English Standard Version,  
KJV—King James Version,



