

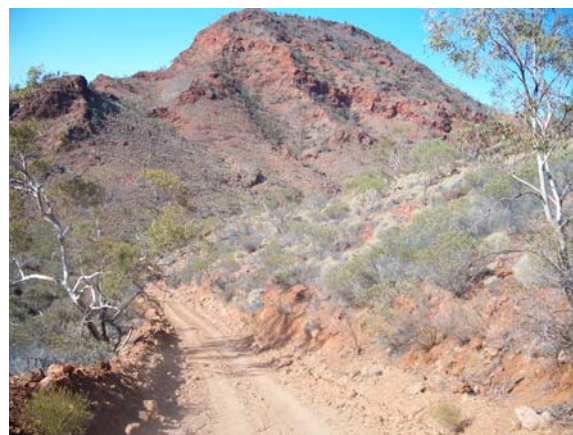
The right way

“Have we got all the maps?” asked dad. Mum laughed, “we have everything except the kitchen sink.” “No, we even have that,” piped up Sean. The family were just finishing packing for their trip to central Australia. Sean and his big sisters Vickie and Kaylee were so excited, they were sure they would never get to sleep on their last night at home.

Dad had bought detailed maps because they were going to some remote places and he knew it was important to have clear directions. They didn’t want to risk getting lost. With a map, he would know he was on the right roads.

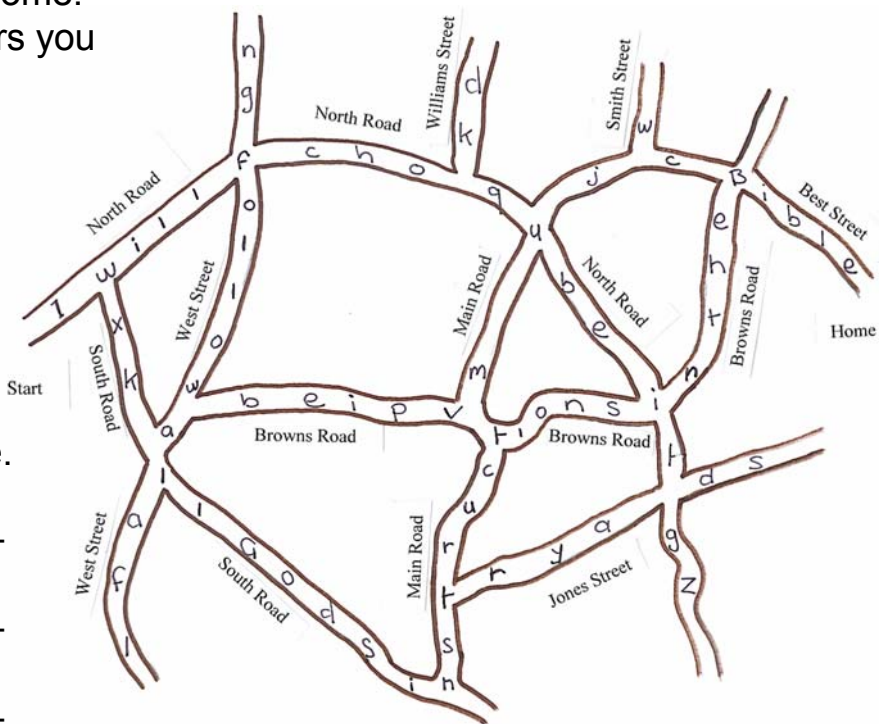
Use the map to find your way home. As you go, write down the letters you pass to find a message.

Go along North Road from the start. Turn right into West Street. At the cross roads, turn left into South Road, then turn right into Main Road. Turn right into Browns Road. Take the second street (Best Street) on the right to get home.



Listen to God! Acts 17:11-12

The people in Berea wanted to know that what Paul was telling them was right so they checked the Bible. The Bible is like a map for our life. It shows us the right way to live.



Talk to God! Heavenly Father, thank you for the Bible. Thank you that it shows us the right way to live. Help me to understand it and learn from it everyday.

Binara, the nosey frilled necked lizard wants to know what sort of directions or instructions the Bible gives us. Can you tell him some?





RUN, RUN!

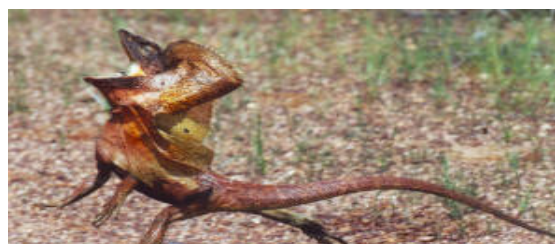


As the family drove into central Australia, they looked out for birds, animals and interesting wildflowers. Kaylee was the first to see a frilled neck lizard. It was sunbaking on a log.

When it decided that Sean was getting too close, the lizard opened its mouth, spread out its frill to the size of a dinner plate, hissed, and whacked its tail against the tree. When that didn't scare Sean off, the frilled neck lizard jumped to the ground and ran like lightning on its two back legs to a tree that could be climbed to safety.

Listen to God! 1 Timothy 6:11

The apostle Paul was giving advice to a young man named Timothy. In the New Living Translation of the Bible, this verse says, "run from all these evil things" - things like listening to people who say wrong things about Jesus, things like arguing, jealousy, fighting, wanting things we don't need. Just like frilled neck lizards, it's safer to run away from things that might do us harm. We don't need to run up a tree! We can run to God!



Talk to God!

Think of some things that you should "run away from" and avoid. Write them down, then ask God to help you keep away from them.

Binara is an aboriginal name for frilled neck lizards. Binari the nosy frilled neck lizard wants to know how we run to God. Talk about that with someone.



Colour the bookmark, cut it out and glue onto cardboard or laminate. Memorise the verse and keep it in your Bible or a favourite book.



WE

HAVE

RUN TO

GOD

FOR

SAFETY

The eagle eye

“Stop the car,” shouted Vicki excitedly. “I can see a wedge tailed eagle on the side of the road up ahead.” “You’ve got good eyesight,” said mum. “It’s a bit far away for me to see clearly.” Everyone was impressed that Vicki had spotted the bird before it lifted it’s wings and flew off into the sky.



“Wedge tailed eagles are the largest raptor, or bird of prey, in Australia,” said dad. “Did you know that their wingspan is wider than my outstretched arms? That one was feeding on a kangaroo that had been killed by a car, but they also catch live animals like rabbits, birds, reptiles and small mammals. The wedge tailed eagle has amazing eyesight. Scientists believe it can see it’s prey up to 1.5 kilometres away!

Listen to God! Exodus 3:7-10

God saw that the Israelites were being treated badly in Egypt. He sent Moses to rescue them.

God sees everything that happens to us too. He can see everything and everyone all the time. God has the best eyesight of all.



Photo source: aarivvaark

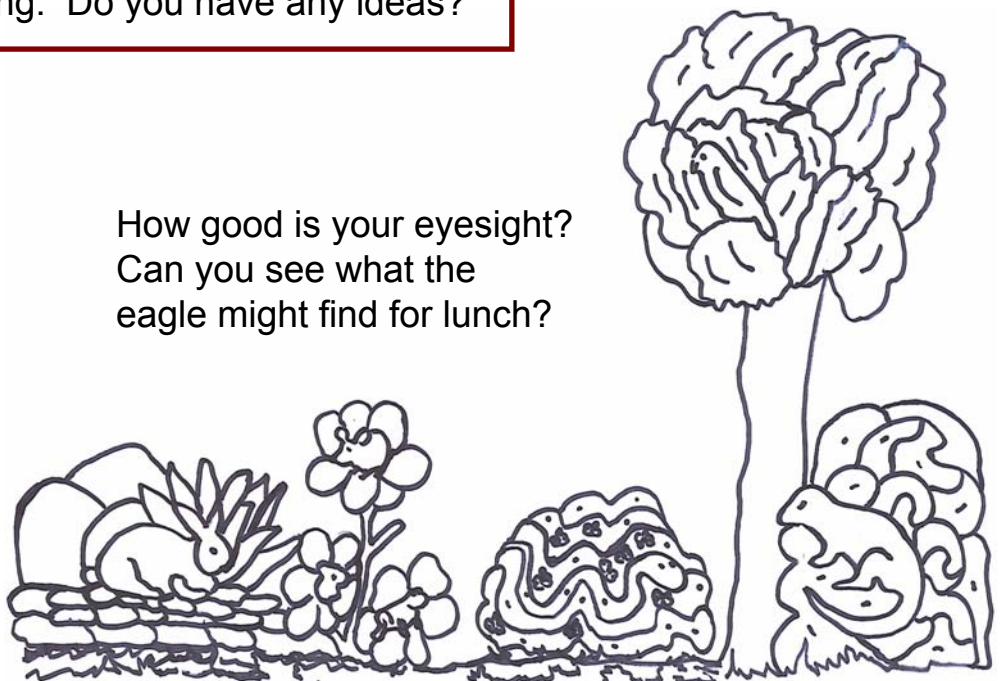


Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know how God can see everything. Do you have any ideas?

Talk to God!

God, you are amazing. It’s great to know you can see everything. I know you not only see me when I’m happy but also when I’m in trouble, or sad, or scared. Thank you that you love me and watch over me.

How good is your eyesight?
Can you see what the eagle might find for lunch?





Are we there yet?



On the first few days of their trip, the children thought they would become bored with driving for hours at a time. But mum made up a “Spotto” game and they soon became occupied trying to be first to spot the things on the list – a camel, a yellow flower, a windmill, fence, cow, an emu. Travelling through places they had never been before became exciting.

Vicki, Kaylee and Sean have never been to where Jesus lived either but sometimes they play games of “Spotto” in their Bible.

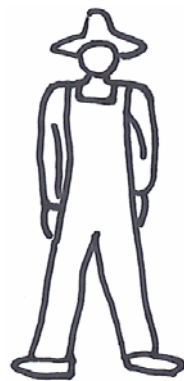
Try this one. Look up Mark 4:1-8

When you have spotted the things on the list, colour or circle them and write the verse they are first spotted in.

Listen to God!

Mark 4:14-20

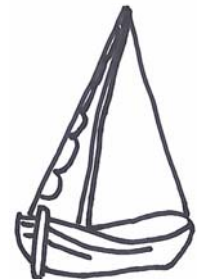
Jesus told this story to show that people respond to God’s message in different ways. Some take no notice, some a little and some a lot. When we listen to and obey God’s message it grows in us.



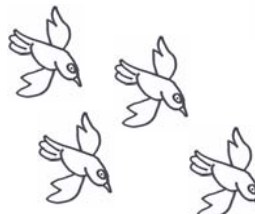
lake



good soil



seeds



pathway



Binara, the nose- frilled neck lizard, asks,

“What is your favourite Bible story and what do you learn from it?”

Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, thank you for the things we can “spot” in the Bible that help us understand God’s message to us. Help us to listen, to trust and obey so we can be like the plants that had lots of seeds.

Small, is important.

Photosource: darthdowney



“Don’t go any closer. That lizard looks really scary,” Vicki told the others. “It’s a thorny devil” and “ants” I’ve read about them. They just look that way to scare you off, but they are harmless. They don’t bite, just lick up ants with their tongues. They can eat 5,000 ants a day! And the spikes help collect dew and moisture from the sand and channel it to the corners of the thorny devil’s mouth so it can get a drink.”

Living in the desert means there isn’t much food or water around for thorny devils. They rely on very small things to stay alive – tiny ants and tiny amounts of water.

Listen to God! I kings 17:8-16

Where Elijah was living there was a drought. It was like being in a desert. The lady he visited only had a small amount of food left but she was willing to share it with him. Small things are very important. With God’s help, the small things we do can make a big difference.

Talk to God!

Dear God, your book the Bible tells us about lots of small things that are important to you. Thank you that I am important to you and the things I do are important to you.

Answer the following questions –

What did Elijah ask for? _____ & _____

What did the lady have? _____ & _____

What did Elijah promise? _____

Who do you think made that happen? _____

How many ants are there on this page for the thorny devil to eat? _____



Binara, the nosy frilled neck lizard, wants to know what you will do to be a help to someone this week?



Where's Joey hiding?

“Look Sean, that kangaroo over there has a joey in it’s pouch,” said Kaylee excitedly. “I can’t see it,” moaned Sean. “Just keep watching. It will poke it’s head out and eat some grass in a minute.” Sean watched and suddenly he saw a tiny head pop out and then quickly disappear again.



One month old joey.

Kangaroos are marsupials. This means babies are carried and fed in their mother’s pouch.

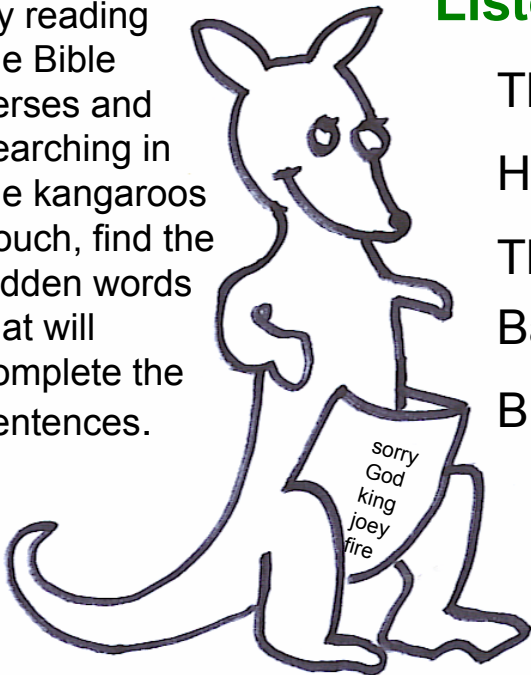
After growing in the mother’s body for a month, the joey is born blind and deaf, without any hair and only 20 millimetres long. It crawls to the pouch where it stays for about 8 more months feeding on milk from it’s mother’s nipple. Then it begins coming out to feed on grass, hopping back into the pouch whenever it is tired, scared or cold. There the joey can hide away safe and warm.



Three month old joey.

Many years ago God told Jeremiah the prophet to write a scroll (book) about how God would punish his people’s sin. This was read to the people, the kings officials and finally the evil king Jehoiakim.

By reading the Bible verses and searching in the kangaroos pouch, find the hidden words that will complete the sentences.



Listen to God! Jeremiah 36:22-26

The king threw the scroll into the _____

He was not _____ about what he did.

The _____ tried to have Jeremiah and Baruch put in jail.

But _____ had hidden them.

Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard, asks can you think of ways God has kept you safe lately?



Talk to God!

Thank you God for hiding Jeremiah and keeping him safe. Thank you for making such a clever way to keep joeys hidden and safe. Thank you for keeping us safe too.

This won't last forever

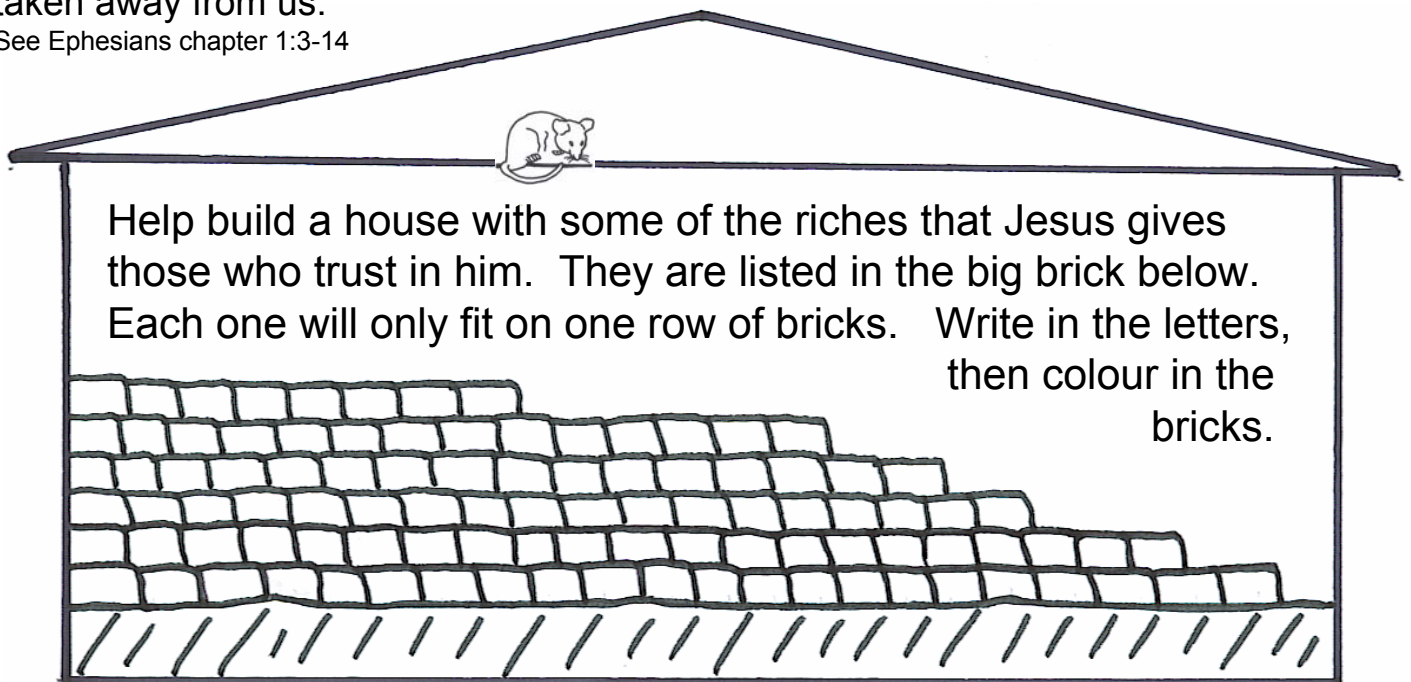
"Why don't people live here any more," asked Kaylee when the family stopped at the ruins of an old homestead. Dad told them that many people had moved into the outback in the past thinking they could have lots of land and become rich. But many people lost all they had after droughts, diseases and poor management wiped out their animals and crops. Some people just walked away leaving their houses and belongings behind. And now only the ruins are left.



Listen to God! Luke 12:16-21

In these verses, Jesus wasn't saying it's wrong to build up possessions and save. He was saying that making sure we know and love God is far more important than looking after our money and possessions. God can give us riches that can never be taken away from us.

See Ephesians chapter 1:3-14



Every spiritual blessing
God's wonderful kindness
Forgiveness of sin
God's love
Life with God forever
Belonging to God

A clue – count the letters.



Binara, the nosy frilled neck lizard, wants to know if you have asked God to forgive your sin.

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord Jesus that having you is far better than anything else we can have. Thank you that when we have you, we have all of God's riches.

But, I'll die of thirst!

"I'm so thirsty." grumbled Sean as he followed dad and the girls along the track. "We are nearly at the lookout, you can have a drink then," dad told him. "How do the animals survive?" asked Sean. "I would die of thirst if I lived here all the time."



"I know about two frogs that can live for years without any water. God has given them both amazing but very different ways of surviving," dad told them. "They both burrow under the ground and only come to the surface when it rains. While they are underground they go into a dormant state a bit like hibernation."

The water holding frog has special sacs in its body that store the water it will need during that time. The painted burrowing frog sheds its skin. This skin forms a bag or cocoon around the frog's body that keeps the moisture in until the rain comes. When it rains, both frogs come to the surface, then quickly mate, lay, and hatch their eggs before the ground dries up again."



Water holding frog



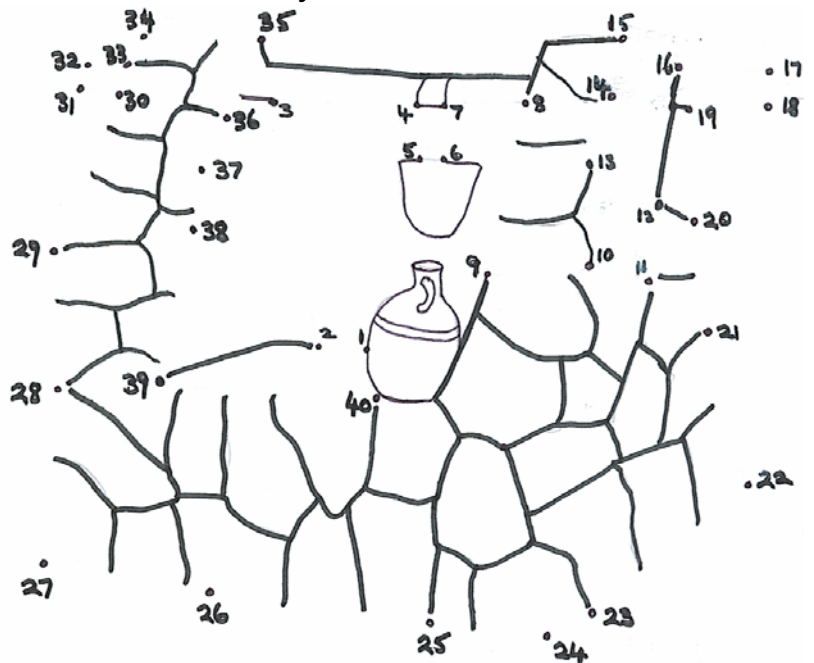
Painted burrowing frog

Listen to God! Genesis 21:14-19

Hagar and her son Ishmael had to leave the home of Abraham. When they no longer had any water, Hagar was afraid Ishmael would die. But God was watching them. He provided a well of water and they survived.



Can you see the water well that Hagar saw? Join the dots to find it.



Talk to God!

Lord God, you made us and every thing we need to survive. Thank you for water and food and sun and fresh air that you give us everyday.



Binara, the nose frilled neck lizard, wants to know what else God gives us everyday. Can you tell him some things?



DID AN EMU DO THAT?

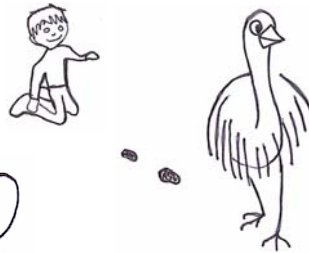
“What is that?” asked Vicki, as she just avoided standing on a funny big ball that looked like it was made of seeds. “It’s an emu scat,” replied dad. “But what is that?” asked Vicki again with a puzzled look. “It is the emus manure. The emus around here have been eating lots of leaves and seed pods from the wattle trees. The seeds aren’t digested so they go straight through their body. As the emus walk around they spread the seeds by carrying them to other places where new plants will soon grow.

Listen to God! Acts 11:19-21



After his resurrection, and before he returned to heaven, Jesus told his followers to spread the good news about him to people everywhere. The verses you read tell how this was happening.

What was this good news? Read what Jesus said in John 3:16-17 and then colour the seeds that tell the good news.



Ways seeds are spread:

- Falling from plants
- Floating on water
- Blown by the wind
- In stomachs of animals or birds
- Hooked on fur eg. Burrs
- Flung from exploding pods
- In beaks and on feet

God hates loves us.

He gave sold Jesus his Son.

brother. Everyone who works for

believes in him has eternal life

lots of toys because Jesus saves us.

Talk to God!

Heavenly father, we know it’s important for seeds to spread and new plants to grow. But we know that it’s even more important for people to hear the good news about Jesus. Help us to share and spread this news.

Binara, the nose frilled neck lizard wants to know how you could spread the seeds of the good news about Jesus?

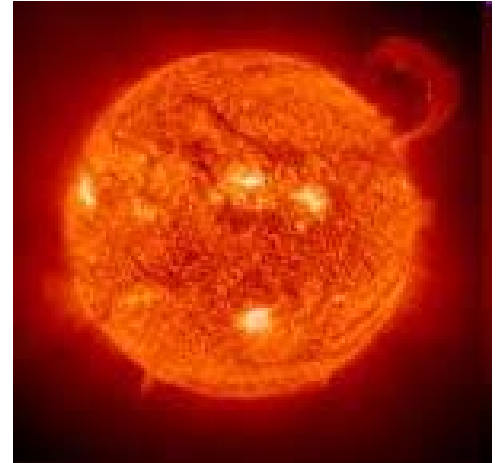




"I'm so hot," complained Kaylee. "It must be 60 degrees." "Don't exaggerate Kaylee," said mum. "It's 38 degrees, and yes it is hot. You must stay out of the sun." "If the sun makes us this hot, how hot is the sun?" asked Sean.

The sun is about 6,000 degrees centigrade on its surface, but scientists believe it's 15 – 25 million degrees in the centre or core. The heat and energy is produced by nuclear reactions that occur when hydrogen nuclei join together to form helium. As this happens atoms move so fast and violently they generate incredible heat.

This heat enables life to exist on earth. Without it, animals, plants and people would all die.

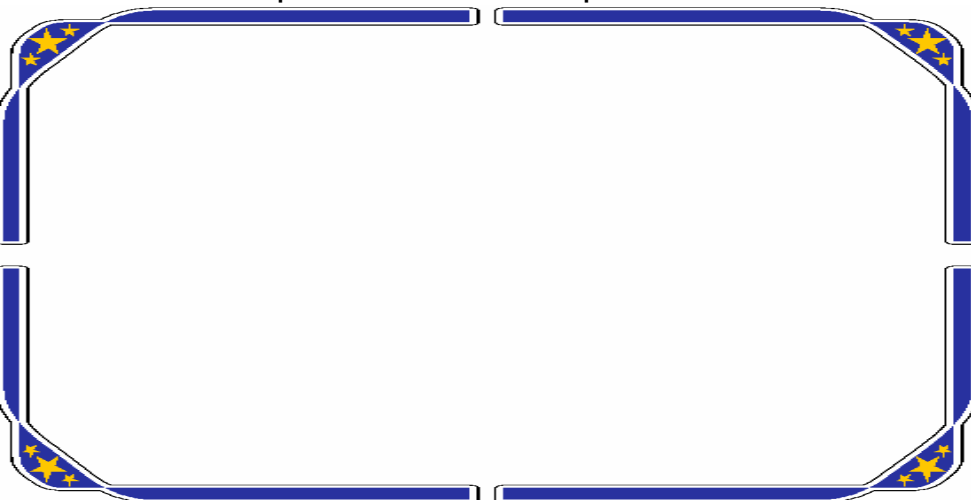


Listen to God! Psalm 33:6

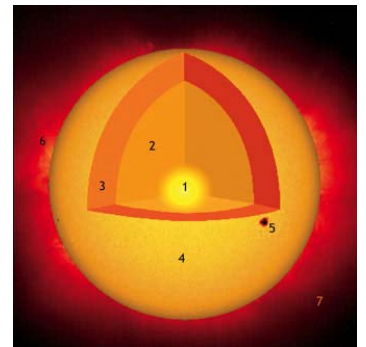
The New International version says, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth."

Can you imagine the power of God's breath that created all the stars and made the sun (just one of those billions and billions of stars) so hot and so powerful?

Think of something else that shows God's power and draw a picture.



- THE SUN
1. Core – nuclear furnace
 2. Radiative zone – transports heat/energy
 3. Convection zone – transports heat/energy
 4. Photosphere – visible surface
 5. Sunspot – magnetic "storm"
 6. Prominence – hot gases 1,000s kms wide
 7. Corona – outer atmosphere



Talk to God!

Lord God, you are more powerful than we can ever imagine. Wow!



Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know how God made people. Genesis 2:7 and 18-22 will help you tell him.

The Rock and the Rule



It was an exciting day. The family had finally arrived at Uluru (Ayers rock) and were keen to explore some of the walks around it. “Why can’t we climb to the top?” asked Sean. “Other people are.” Mum and dad explained to the children that although climbing the rock isn’t forbidden, the Anangu aboriginals who are the traditional owners ask people not to. “It is a very special and important place to them,” mum told them. “If we climbed on it we would not be respecting their law and culture.”

Listen to God! Matthew 7:12



This verse is sometimes called “The Golden Rule”. Jesus was telling people how to treat each other. Sometimes it means **not** doing something like climbing on Uluru. But often it means making a deliberate choice to do something kind or helpful.

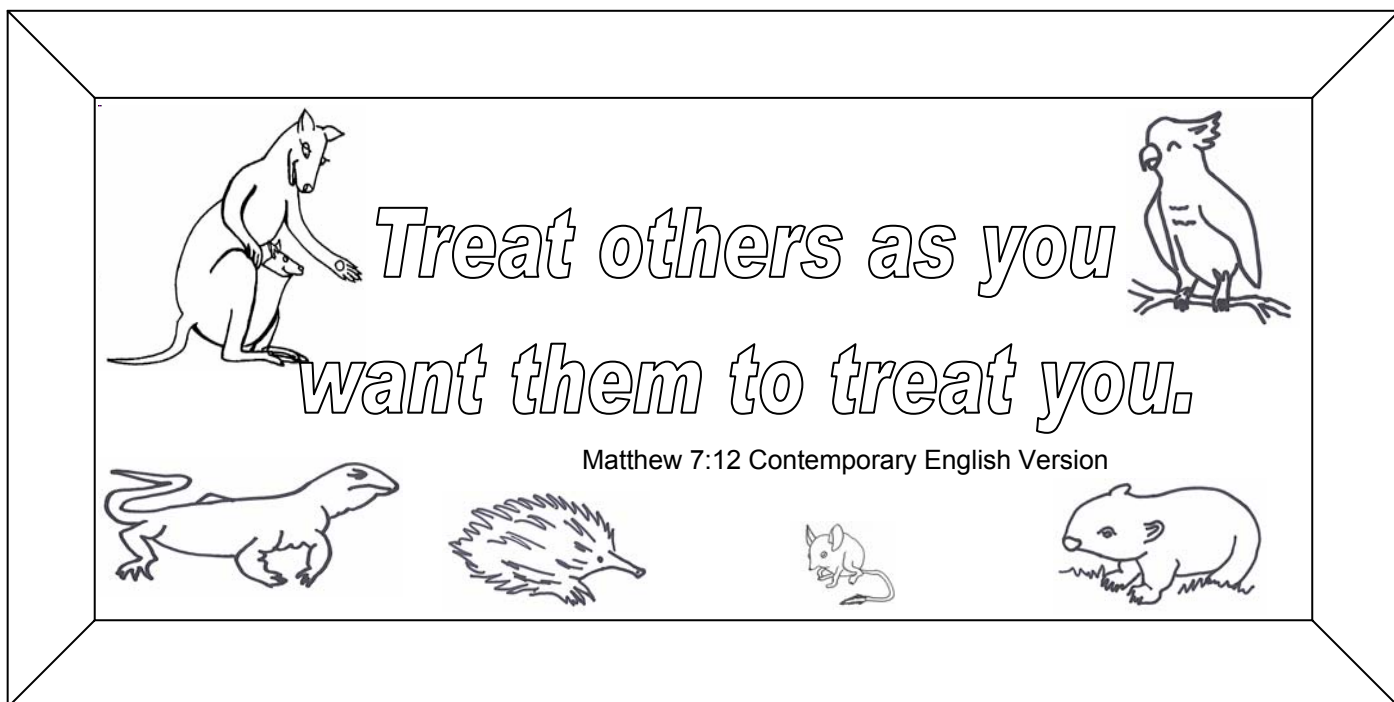
Talk to God



Lord Jesus, please help us remember what you said and treat others as we would like them to treat us.

Uluru is a huge sandstone rock formation. People say it is the biggest monolith (single rock) in the world. Most of it is under the ground so we can’t even see all of it. It’s 9.4 kilometres around the base.

Colour the animals and the verse, then cut it out to put on the fridge or in your bedroom. Try memorising it too.



Binarra, the nosey frilled neck lizard asks what are five things you like your friends to do for you?

Out in the desert from Alice Springs is the town of Hermansberg. Vicki and mum were interested in the town's history. It was established by some German families who went there as missionaries nearly 150 years ago. After many months of travel from Adelaide, they spent many, many more months building houses, a church and a school. Life was very hard. These families left their home country and travelled across the world so that the local Aranda Aboriginal people would hear about God's love for them. As well as building a town, the missionaries translated part of the Bible into the Aranda language and taught the people to read.

Go and tell

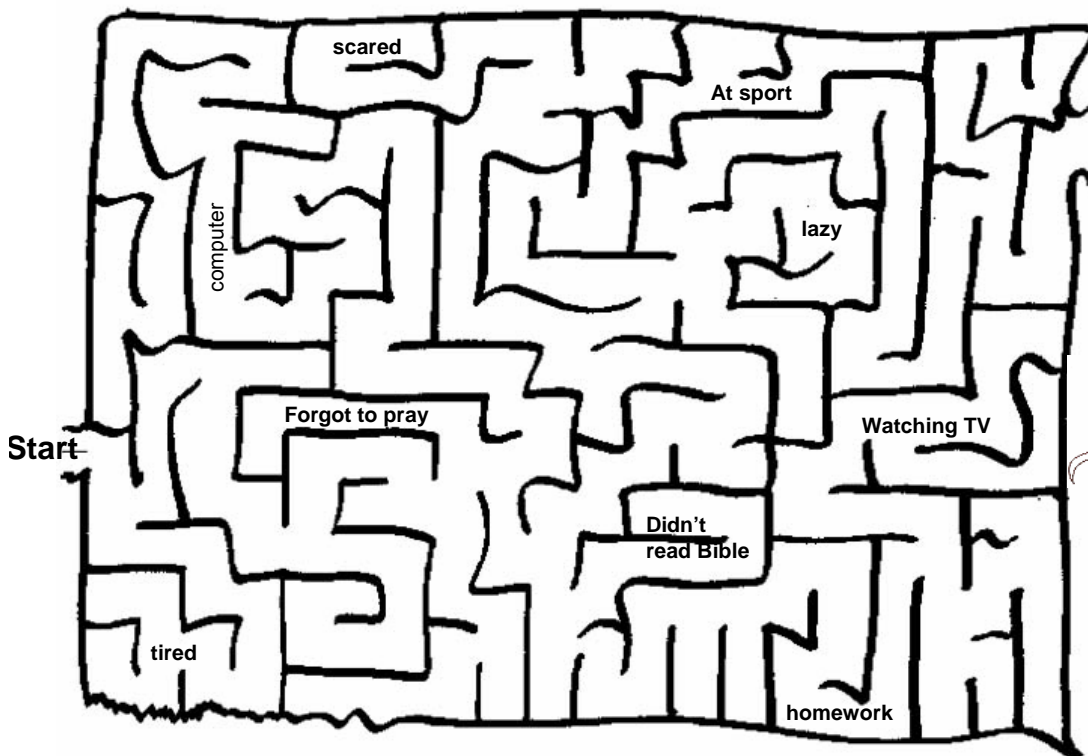


Hermansberg's church

Listen to God! Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15

Before he returned to heaven, Jesus told his followers to spread the good news about him around the world, and people have been doing this ever since.

Help take the news that God loves them to other children around the world. Travel through the maze. See what things might stop you.



You're there



Photo source: Ceekay's Pix



Binaru, the nosy frilled neck lizard wants to know what you can do to help your friends know God loves them.

Talk to God! Lord Jesus, You love us so much. Help us to tell others about you wherever we go.



You can't know everything



Dad loves to get talking with other people at camping spots. It's a good way to find out all sorts of interesting things. At Kings Canyon he met a scientist who was studying marsupial moles with geophones. They are like underground microphones the scientists use to listen to the moles movements.

Not much is known about these weird looking creatures. Marsupial moles spend most of the time under the ground burrowing through sand. The soft sand usually falls in behind them so it's like they are swimming through oceans of it. They have no developed eyes or ears, a hard shield-like snout and claws that are shaped like spades. We don't know how far they move, how they find food or how they find each other. We do know they carry their babies in a pouch that faces backwards so the sand doesn't get in to it.



There are many things even the cleverest people in the world know little or nothing about. Only one person knows absolutely everything. That's God.

Listen to God! Ecclesiastes 8:16-17

Talk to God!

Great God, I'm glad you know everything. That means you know all about me and exactly how I'm feeling. And you know all the things I don't know or understand, the things that confuse, puzzle or scare me. Help me to trust in you.



Binara, the nosy frilled neck lizard says, "Can you use the code to find out what 1 John 3: 20 say about God?"

↑ ⇨ ↗ ⇄ ⇅ ▷ ▽ ⇩ ◀ ▶ ⇨ △ ▲ ◀ ↑ ↓ ⇄ →

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
⇨	⇩	⇨	⇨	⇨	←	→	↑	↓	↖	↗	↙	↘
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
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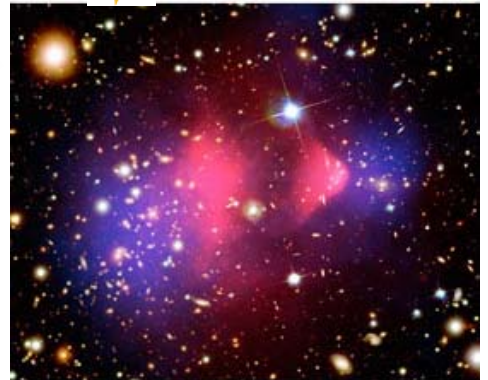
Can you count the stars?



Camping out in the bush is fun, but away from the lights of towns, it can be very dark. This makes it better to see the stars. Kaylee likes to lie on the ground at night trying to identify groups of stars (called constellations). The southern cross is easy but others are harder. Sean likes to try and count stars, but he knows it's impossible. There are more than anyone could ever count.

★ Listen to God! Genesis 15:1-6

Abraham lived long ago, but he now has many more descendants than can ever be counted because God chose him to be the father of a whole nation of people. The Bible tells the story of these people.



Picture taken by the Hubble Telescope in outer space of a group of galaxies called the "Bullet cluster".

Binara the nosy frilled neck lizard wants to know if you can count the stars in the picture. Can you count the stars on this page?



Abraham and Sarah were both much too old to have children. But God can do what seems impossible. He had promised them children, and God never breaks a promise.

Fill in the gaps with the following words - Sarah, promise, said, son, God, counted, old, descendants, kept

God said to Abraham, "I will keep my _____ to you and give you more _____ than can be _____." _____ was good to Sarah and _____ his promise. Although Abraham was very _____, _____ had a _____ exactly at the time God _____.

From Genesis 17:2 & 21:1

Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, thank you for keeping your promise to Abraham and Sarah. Thank you that you keep all your promises to us too.





Speaking with forked tongue?



“Dad! Stop the car!” shouted Sean. He had seen a large goanna beside the road. When the family got out for a closer look, they found a Lace Monitor. “He’s a bit bigger than the paper one I made last night,” laughed Vicki. “I’m not going near it.” Dad told them that if they got too close the monitor would raise itself up and hiss loudly. It could also whip you with it’s tail or scratch you with it’s strong claws.

“It has a forked tongue like a snake,” said Sean. “Look, it’s flicking in and out.” “The tongue picks up scents in the air and transfers them to a special organ on the roof of it’s mouth that has two pits. That’s why the tongue is split in two. It’s in addition to it’s normal sense of smell and helps them with directions, finding food or knowing when danger is around.” dad told them.



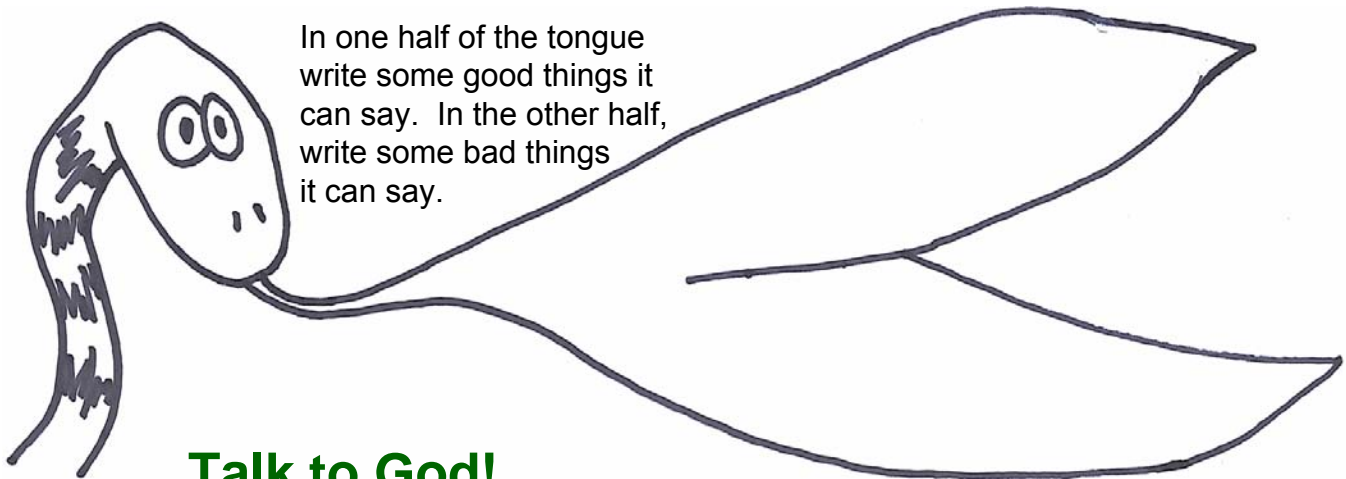
Photo source: aardvaark

Listen to God! Read Proverbs 12:18-19



People have a saying – “He speaks with a forked tongue.” It means someone is saying something they don’t mean, maybe sounding nice when they really mean something nasty. The Bible often uses the word “tongue” when talking about the things we say. We can use our tongue to say good things like kind, helpful, thankful, encouraging words, or bad things like angry, mean, hurtful or untrue words.

In one half of the tongue write some good things it can say. In the other half, write some bad things it can say.



Talk to God!

Lord God, you gave the lace monitor an amazing tongue. Our tongues are pretty amazing too. Help us to only use them to say good and kind things, and to mean what we say.

Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard, asks how can we make sure that what we say is helpful and kind?



I don't like this



Kaylie was jumping up and down with excitement. She had just taken a photo of a black footed rock wallaby. Rock wallabies are becoming scarce. They once lived throughout Australia, but are now only found in a few places. This one had hopped down from the rocks of Simpson Gap when the family was visiting and was nibbling some grass not far away. Although only half a metre tall, these shy animals can jump up to four metres from rock to rock.

Life is very tough for rock wallabies. The places they live in are tough – dry, rocky and isolated. They have been driven away from their natural homes. Feral goats and rabbits compete with them for food. They are constantly threatened by foxes, feral cats and dogs. They even used to be killed by people for their soft fur coats!



Listen to God! Acts 7:54-8:1

Life is tough for many who love and follow Jesus too. In the first church, Stephen and others were killed and many had to leave their homes. Believers in Jesus often went cold and hungry, were beaten up or put in prison. Even today, life is very tough for Christians in some parts of the world. In Australia many people swear about God or laugh or tease or get angry when he is talked about.

Talk to God!

Thank God that he always helps us even when life is tough. Pray for Christians who suffer in other parts of the world. Ask God to help them not be afraid.



Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard asks, "what happened to Stephen?"

Colour in the verse, then cut it out and put it somewhere you will see it often.

The Lord is my helper.



I will not be afraid.



What can anyone do to me?

Hebrews 13:6



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

“Do these paintings mean anything,” asked Vicki as they looked at some aboriginal rock art. “Yes,” replied mum, “but I don’t know what they mean, just like I don’t know what writing in another language may mean.” Unless you can read the language, words are only marks on a page.

Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizards wants to know if you can read these words 你好 العربية γειάσου

“A while ago I read about how the Walpiri people who live north west of Alice Springs got the Bible in their own language. They were very excited,” mum continued. “The Bible is often the first book to be written in a language because people believe it’s the most important book you can have.” “Sometimes, even though I can read the words, I find it hard to understand what I’m reading in the Bible”, chipped in Vicki. “That’s why it’s important to pray and ask God to help us understand it,” said mum.



Listen to God! Acts 8:26-35

The Ethiopian man didn’t understand what he was reading in the Bible either. God sent Philip to help him.

People like our parents and teachers help us learn to read and then to understand what we are reading. Who else has God given us to help us understand things, especially the Bible?

Use the following letters to fill in the gaps

e h i t y

_ _ _ _ _ o l _ S p _ r _ _ w _ l l

c o m _ _ o _ _ l p _ o u and

_ _ a c _ _ o u _ v _ r _ _ _ _ n g.

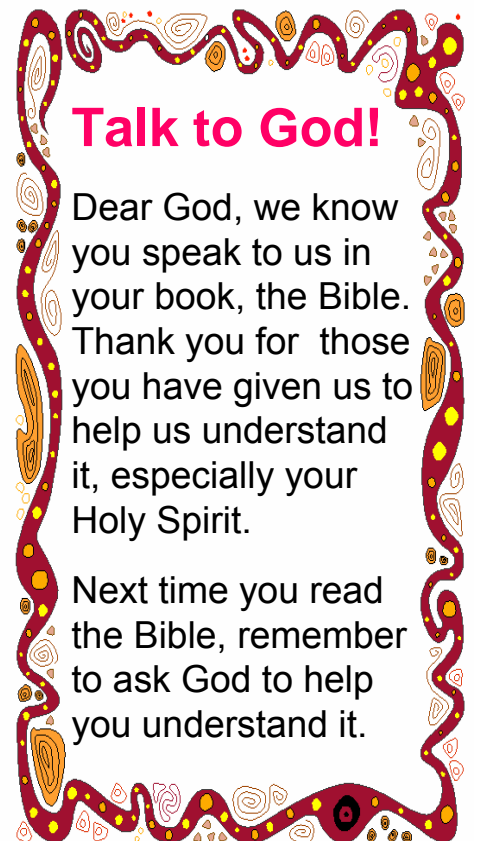
See John 14:26

The words say "hello" in Mandarin (Chinese), Arabic and Greek

Talk to God!

Dear God, we know you speak to us in your book, the Bible. Thank you for those you have given us to help us understand it, especially your Holy Spirit.

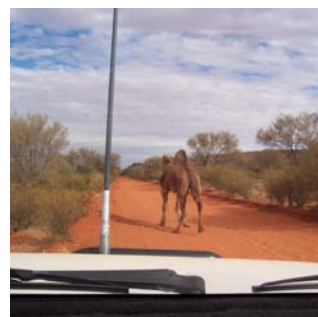
Next time you read the Bible, remember to ask God to help you understand it.



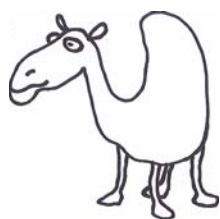
That's a lot of work!



The children were playing spotto. Mum had given them a list of things to find "We'll never see a camel," Vicki complained, but just as she said it, one walked across the road in front of the car. Camels were brought to Australia to carry loads in the 1800s. As motor vehicles became more popular, many were released into the wild. They can go several days without water, then drink up to 200 litres in a few minutes.



Listen to God! Genesis 24:10-20



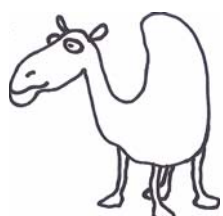
Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac. The servant prayed to God that he would know who was meant to be Isaac's wife. The right girl would offer to give his camels a drink, as well as him. She would have been expected to give a man a drink, but not his camels, AND ten camels would drink a lot of water. When Rebekah offered to do just that, he knew she was the one! She showed that she was thoughtful, kind and willing to work hard to help someone else – just the right kind of wife for Isaac!



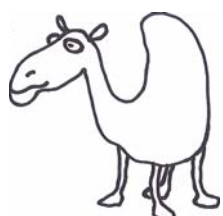
Can you work out how many jars of water Rebekah poured for the camels? If each camel drank 100 litres and Rebekah's jar held 20 litres, how many jars of water would be needed for each camel. Write this number in each camel and put the total here _____



Photo source: Daryl Fritz



You may need an adult's help.
Colour the camels and give them names.

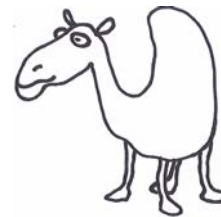
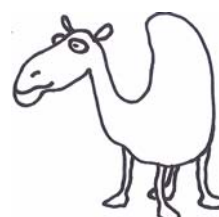
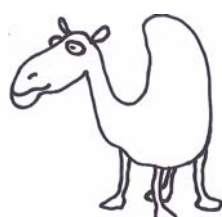
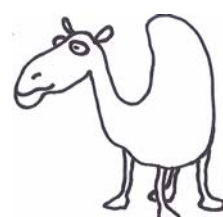


Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know, did Rebekah get any reward for all that work? Genesis 24:52-53 and 67 will help you answer.



Talk to God!

Think about the people who work hard to help you and thank God for them.



Living with danger

Vicki was reading about parrots in the bird book. She decided the princess parrot was the most beautifully coloured bird in the book. "They live in the outback," she told everyone excitedly. "I hope we see some on this holiday."



Princess parrots are rare and need protecting. Their pretty colours mean bird collectors will pay a lot of money for them, so birds and eggs have been smuggled overseas against the law. Because they spend time on the ground feeding on grass seeds as well as pollen and nectar they are also in danger from foxes, cats and other animals. And the outback is a hard place to live anyway – food and water is often scarce.

Listen to God!
1 John 3:17-18



Binara, the nose-licking lizard wants to know what you might be able to do to help children in need. Ask your family for ideas and help.

There are many children in the world living with dangers a bit like the princess parrot. Some are stolen from their family and taken to work as slaves, many are hurt and treated badly and many do not have enough to eat or a safe place to live. God wants us to help and care for these children.

From the Bible –

Naomi's husband and two sons died. She had to move countries. Only her daughter-in-law Ruth was with her. They had no jobs and needed food. Life was hard for Naomi. Read the following verses to learn what happened.

Ruth 1:16 and 2:2 Write down the kind things Ruth did.

Ruth 2:8-16 and 4:13 Write down the kind things Boaz did.



Talk to God! Heavenly Father, please help me to find some ways to show kindness and help to others who need it.

Colour
the picture

Warning!



The car filled with dust. Dad turned the lights on and slowed down. There was a road train ahead making huge clouds of dust on the gravel road. Sean was excited to finally see one. He recited all the facts he had learnt on the internet. "They are 50 metres long and weigh 200 tons. There are special laws that control their size and where they can go," he said. "Up to three trailers are allowed on the public roads but sometimes more are used on cattle stations or mining land."

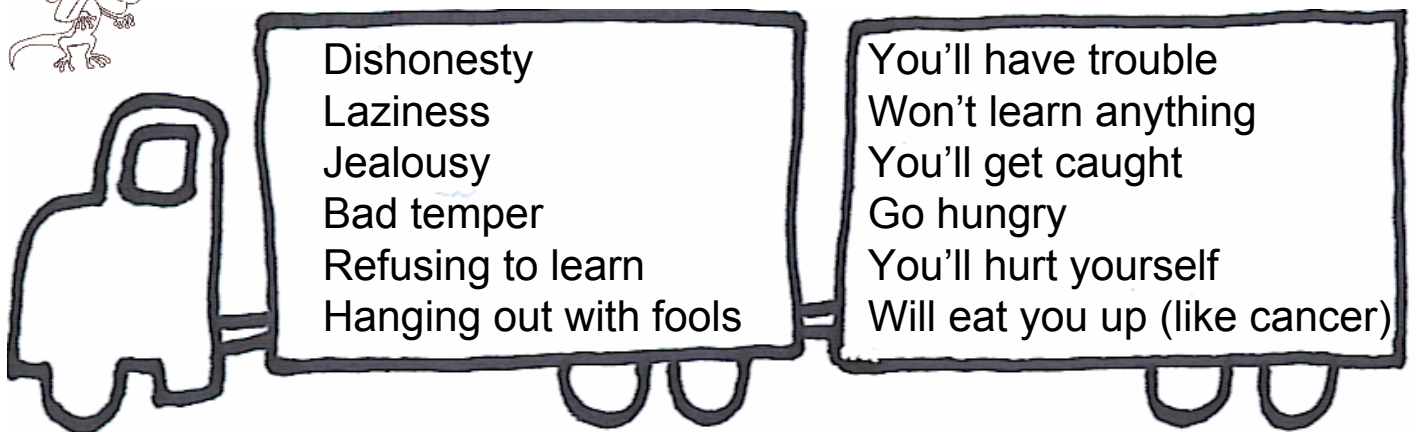
Other drivers must take great care. Road trains cannot stop suddenly and they are hard to overtake. To be safe, drivers need to take notice of warning signs, understand the dangers of sharing the road with these massive trucks and drive carefully.



To help keep us safe, God has given us many warnings in the Bible. Let's read a few from the book of Proverbs.

Listen to God! Proverbs 10:9, 14:7, 30, 15:18, 32, 19:15

The first trailer holds what is being warned against. The second trailer holds what will happen if that's how we behave. Match them up.



Talk to God!

God, Our heavenly Father, thank you for the warnings you give us in the Bible. We know they are there for our good and to keep us safe.

Binara, the nosy frilled neck lizard wants to know what a proverb is. Can you tell him? You may need to ask someone or look up a dictionary.



Sturt's Desert Pea was flowering along the side of the road. Mum kept wanting dad to stop so she could take photos. She liked the bright red of the flowers against the desert background.

The botanical, or formal, name of Sturt's Desert Pea is *Swainsona Formosa*. These names tell us a lot about the plant. It is called "Sturt" after a famous outback explorer who would have seen it in his travels, "Desert" because it grows there and "Pea" because that is the family of plants it belongs to. *Swainsona* is after Isaac Swainson, an English man who had a private botanical garden and loved and studied plants. *Formosa* means beautiful, and it certainly is.



Photo source: Royston



Photo source: aardvaark

What's in a name?



Listen to God!

Matthew 1:18-23

In the Bible, names mean a lot too. It has many names for Jesus. They all tell us something about him. The angel told Joseph to call Mary's baby "Jesus" which means saviour and "Immanuel" which means "God is with us".

Find names for Jesus in the Bible verses and write them in the petals of the Desert Pea

- Isaiah 9:6 Mark 1:10-11, 24
- John 1:29, 6:35, 8:12,
- 10:11, 14:6, 15:1
- Acts 10:36 Revelation 1:8, 5:5

Talk to God!

Lord Jesus Christ, your names tell us so much about you. Thank you that they tell us you are God's Son who came to save those who trust in you.

Binara, the nosy frilled neck lizard, asks, "do you know of, or can find any other names for Jesus in the Bible?"



There are over 100.



King of Kings



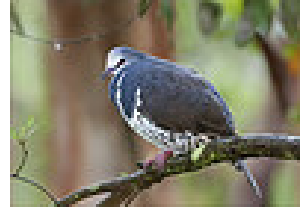
Honey bee



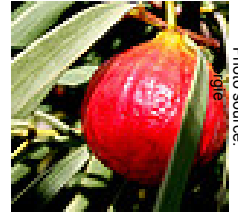
water ribbon roots



witchetty grub



pigeon



quandong

Photo source:



Photo source: Ludo Kuipers

Plenty of tucker



Sean is always hungry. His favourite snacks are vegemite sandwiches. But in the outback hundreds of kilometres from shops, mum had run out of vegemite and Sean was complaining. "A long time ago, the aborigines who lived in the desert didn't have any shops at all. They had to rely on bush tucker", mum told the children. They lived on fruits, nuts, roots,

vegetables, wild meat, birds and fish. Sometimes there would be plenty; at other times food was scarce. But it always had to be searched for or hunted. There were no refrigerators, no storage and no cooking pots. There were no cook books. Knowledge about what was good to eat and where to get it was passed along by word of mouth.

Listen to God! Exodus 16:11-15, 19-20

A long time ago, the people of the Bible were also living in the desert. God had led about 1 ½ million of them out of Egypt where they had been slaves. But they didn't know how to find food like the aborigines did and soon began complaining about being hungry. They forgot that God had promised to look after them and give them what they needed.

Talk to God!

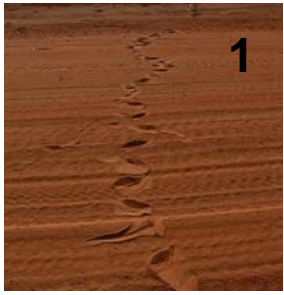
Read Philippians 4:19 and then thank God for some of the things he provides for you every day.

Draw manna in the baskets and colour in the things God had given the people.



Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know what God gave the people in the desert. Would you have eaten it every day without complaining?





Signs in the sand



Kaylee and dad try to identify the animal tracks they find in dad's "Tracks, Scats and other Traces" book. Many desert animals are hard, or almost impossible to see. They may be nocturnal. They may hide under bushes in the heat of the day. Or they may just be very shy. Tracks, not only prove that animals are around, but also tell us what the animals are.



Listen to God! Luke 2:8-12



When Jesus was born, God sent an angel to tell some shepherds about his birth. Some versions of the Bible say in verse 12, "this shall be a sign to you. . ." It was very important for them to know who Jesus really was. It would be easy to think he was just an ordinary baby.



Matthew 2:1-2

God gave a sign to some men in another country too. They travelled a long way to visit and worship Jesus because they knew from this sign that he was someone special.



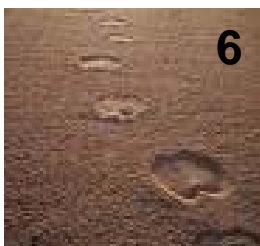
Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know if you can guess which animals made the tracks on this page.

Talk to God!

Lord God, even though we can't see Jesus like the shepherds and wise men did, thank you that the Bible has lots of signs that show him to us and help us know what he is like.



Draw what the shepherds would see, and write what they were told about Jesus.
Draw the sign the wise men saw, and write what they knew about Jesus.

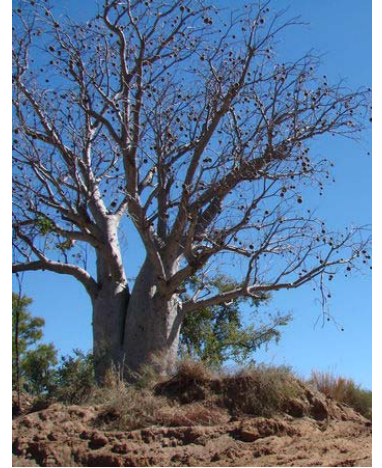


- Answers
1. snake
 2. dingo
 3. Goanna
 4. emu
 5. kangaroo
 6. camel



STORING AWAY

Vicki was intrigued by the strange shaped trees that were growing along the roadside. “They aren’t like any trees we have at home,” she said. Mum explained that they were Boab trees. “Some people call them bottle trees,” mum told them. “You can see why. But do you know that the trunk has soft fibrous wood that holds water – thousands of litres sometimes. This means they can live through the longest droughts. They can easily live for hundreds of years.”



Listen to God! Psalm 119:9-19

These verses in Psalm 119 tell us that knowing and obeying God’s words in the Bible will help **us** live well. It keeps us from doing wrong. Verse eleven tells us to hide, keep or treasure God’s word in our hearts (depending on which version of the Bible you are reading). It means to store it away like the bottle tree stores away water. One way of doing this is to memorise it (learn off by heart).



Memorise this: “The Lord will always guide you” Isaiah 58:11



Binara the nosey frilled neck lizards wants to know if you can find the 10 hidden diamonds in the picture. And he wants to know what kind of things you learn from the Bible.

Talk to God!

Thank you God that your Word is an even better treasure to find than diamonds. Help us to remember what we read in the Bible and to store it away in our hearts.



Fire, fire!



Sean likes to play with fire. He pokes the campfire with a stick until dad tells him to stop. Dad is very fussy about campfires. He's careful that they are safe and also that they are completely out before leaving a site.

Fire is very powerful. An out of control fire can have devastating effects on the desert. It can quickly kill plants, animals, even people. But controlled fires can be good. For thousands of years, Aboriginal people did patch burning. This cleared the country of old, dry inedible plants and gave new plants a chance to grow and thrive. Some plants actually need a fire to crack open tough seed pods so they can regrow. Others need the nutrients that fires create. When only small areas are burnt, animals can shelter under rocks or in burrows, or move out of the area, then return to sweet new grass and bushes.

Listen to God!

Exodus 3:1-12

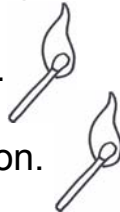


Moses had been living in the desert for forty years, but God had a big and important job for him to do. He was to lead a whole nation of people from one country to another. And a fire played a special part.

True or false.

If the sentence is true, light the match by colouring in the flame. If it is false, put a cross through the match.

Moses was in the desert looking after pigs.



God used a burning bush to get his attention.



The bush didn't burn up.



Moses was so afraid, he ran away.

God wanted Moses to rescue his people from Egypt.

Moses didn't feel good enough to go to the king.

God said, "never mind, I'll get someone else to do it."

Talk to God!

Thank you Lord God that you promised to be with Moses in his important job. Thank you that you promise to be with us whatever we are doing too.



Add the flames

Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know why you think the bush didn't burn up, and what did God tell Moses that gave him the courage he would need to do what God wanted.



**c
h
a
n
g
e**

A bearded dragon was hanging around the campsite. It's a cousin to Binara, and just one of many different reptiles that live in the Australian outback. All reptiles are cold blooded and only function when they are warm. The bearded dragon can change colour to help with it's temperature control – darker in cooler weather to absorb warmth from the sun, and lighter in warmer weather.

People make all sorts of changes for all sorts of reasons, sometimes good, sometimes not so good. But there is someone who never changes.



Photo source: jirrupin

Listen to God! Malachi 3:6

Match the Bible verses with the things they tell us about God and things about him that will never change.

Deuteronomy 32:4	God always hears our prayers
Deuteronomy 33:27	God is the same tomorrow as he was yesterday
Numbers 23:19	God can never do wrong
1 Samuel 15:29	God can never stop loving us
Psalms 6:9	God is eternal
Jeremiah 31:3	God can never break a promise
Hebrews 13:8	God will never lie to us

Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard asks, "why is it important to know that God never changes"? What do you think?



Talk to God!

Dear God, we are so glad that you never change. It means we can trust everything you say and do.



A cup of cold Water

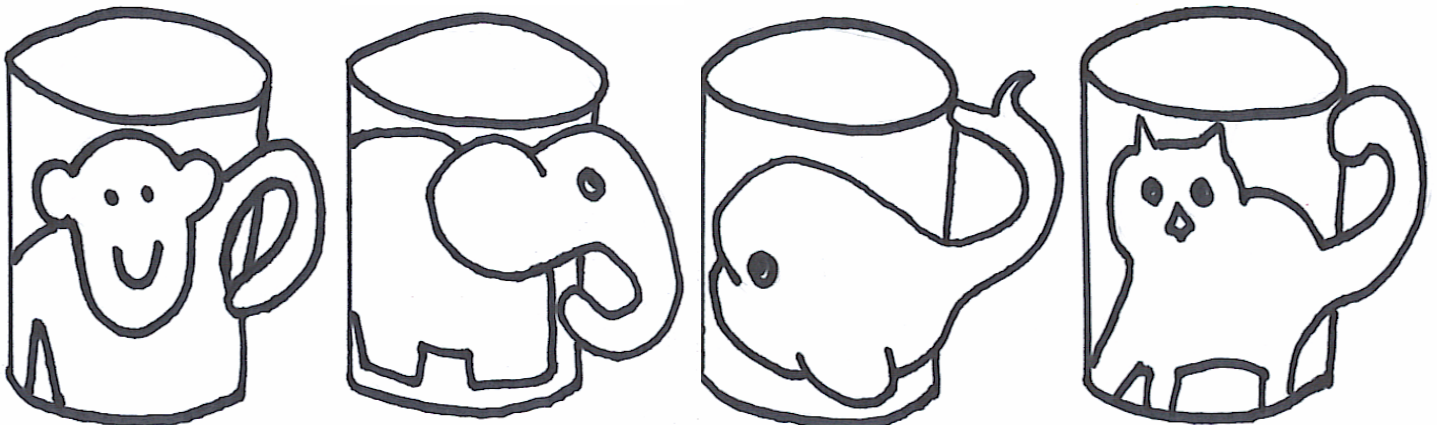


Some of the family's favourite camping spots were near water holes. They are peaceful and attractive. Shady trees grow. Birds and animals come for water. Water is often scarce in the desert, but it is something we all need. Without it we die.



Listen to God! Matthew 10:42

It may seem an easy thing to give someone a cup of cold water, but those listening to Jesus, without taps or refrigerators, knew that it could mean a special trip to the well on a hot day. Any water will save someone's life, but **cold** water has an extra touch of thoughtfulness and kindness. Of course, Jesus was using water as a picture of anything we give to help someone else, no matter what it is.



In the top of each cup, write things you can do this week to help someone else. Colour them in.

In the Bible verse, Jesus says those who give to help others will be rewarded. Binara, the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know what you think the rewards might be.



And, he wants to know if any of those animals on the cups live in the Australian desert!

Talk to God!

Lord Jesus, you want us to care for others, and you showed us how when you lived here on earth. Show us ways we can help others. Help us to do it with kindness and love.

That's freedom

One evening Vickie, mum and Kaylee walked to a waterhole near their camp. It had been a hot day and they wanted to see what animals came for a drink. They heard bird chatter that got louder as they got nearer. Then all of a sudden the sky was full of green and yellow flapping wings. They had disturbed a flock of wild budgerigars.

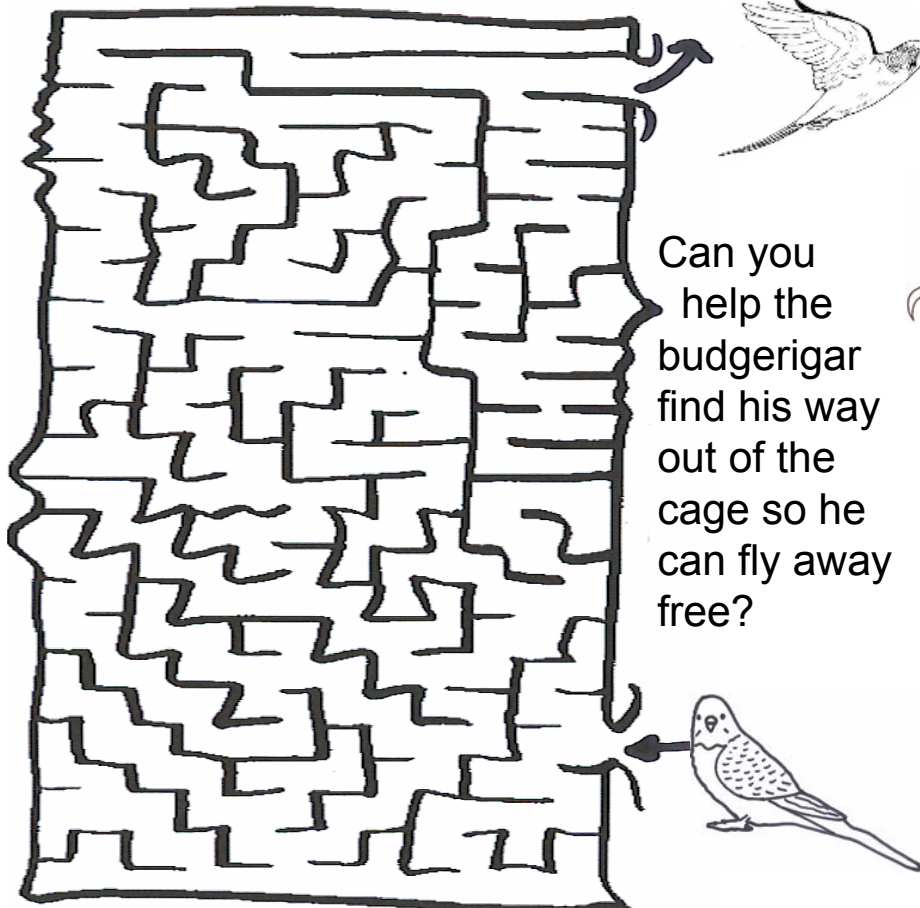


Budgerigars live wild and free throughout central Australia. They love to fly in large flocks, twisting and turning together like thousands of planes in formation. It must be great fun, certainly better than being confined alone to a cage as many pet budgerigars are.



Listen to God! Exodus 13:3-10

3500 years ago the Israelites (Jewish people) were slaves in Egypt. They had no freedom. Life was miserable. But God saw their misery and set them free. Jews still remember that time with a celebration called the Passover.



Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know what God promises we can be free from in Romans 8:1-2 in the Bible.

Talk to God!

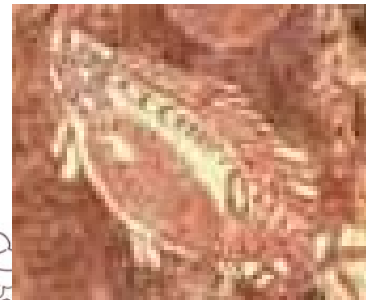
Thank you Lord God that Jesus came to free us from sin and it's effects. Thank you that we can be free to love you, to enjoy your world, and to love each other.



That's important

Near Alice Springs there is an ochre pit that the children enjoyed visiting. Kaylee and Sean drew pictures with the ochre and made some of it into paint. Ochre is a coloured pigment in rocks that Aborigines have been using for thousands of years for art and body painting. It was used to record things of great importance to the people.

Ochre is one of the first pigments ever used. It may even have been used by Moses when he wrote down God's laws. The Bible was first written on stones, then later scrolls made from animal skins. (It took a whole flock of sheep to write down all of God's laws.) The New Testament was written on an early type of paper called papyrus. It was copied many times over the years, but just as there are still Aboriginal paintings from thousands of years ago, we also have copies of parts of the Bible and other writings from thousands of years ago too.

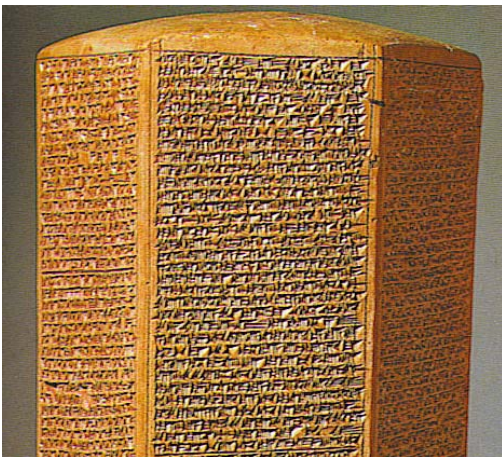


An aboriginal rock painting that is probably thousands of years old



Listen to God! John 20 :31

Write out this verse on the scroll or get a grown-up to write it out for you. Then colour the scroll.



This is part of a six sided clay prism that records an attack on King Hezekiah that is also written about in the Bible. It is over 2,700 years old. Writing like this helps us know the Bible is true.



Talk to God!

Lord God, thank you for the people like Moses who wrote down your words to us many years ago. Help us to understand the importance of your words in the Bible.

Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know why you think the Bible is so important.





Someone sees everything

As the family sat around a camp fire at night they could hear the faint squeaking of bats that flew around catching insects attracted by the fire. But no matter how hard the children looked, they couldn't see these strange animals.

Vicki looked up the Australian mammal book and was interested by Little Mastiff bats that live in southern and central Australia. These bats are less than 6 centimetres

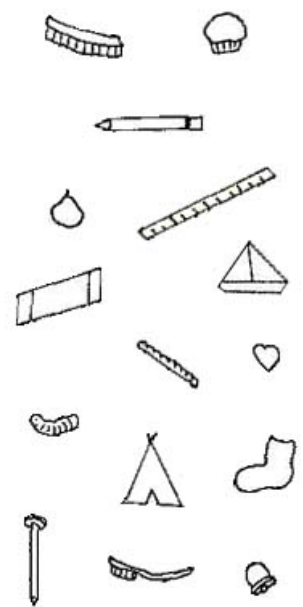
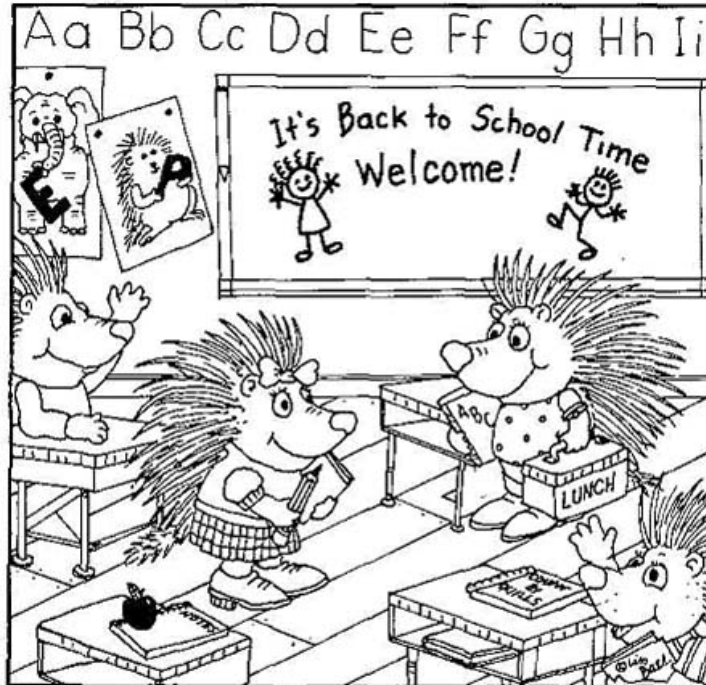
long and can enter their nest (usually in the tree) through a hole no thicker than a man's thumb. Most bats live in colonies of 100s or even 1,000s but Little Mastiff bats usually live in groups of less than ten. Vicki knew that no matter how hard she looked, she would probably never see a Little Mastiff bat.



Listen to God! Psalm 139:3-12

There are many things in the world that we will never see. Only God can see everything. He saw us before we were even born. He knows everything we do and say (before we do and say it) and everywhere we go. There is nowhere we can go to get away from God.

Can you see the things that are hidden in the school room? Colour them in.



Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know what is good about God seeing us all the time (verse 10 will help you answer).



Talk to God!

Thank you Heavenly Father the you see everything. Thank you that you see when I'm happy, or sad, or lonely, or in trouble, or just need to know you love me.

Blowing in the wind

“What kind of tree is this?” asked Kaylee looking at some large bright yellow flowers. “It’s a Kapok tree.” said mum. After the flowers die off and the seed pods dry, they will burst open and release thousands of seeds covered in a mass of fine light fibres that act like a parachute. The seeds will blow far and wide on the wind.



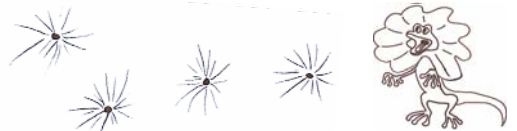
Listen to God! John 3:1-8

Jesus told Nicodemus the Holy Spirit is like the wind. We can’t see the wind but we can feel it, see what it does and sometimes hear it. Like the wind, the Holy spirit is sometimes gentle, sometimes strong. The Bible tells us he lives in everyone who trusts in Jesus.



“Blow” each second letter away, starting with X, by crossing it out to find a special promise about the Holy Spirit.

Mum told the children that when she was a little girl, her family visited an Aboriginal community. This lady used to spin kapok into cotton using a stick. She made this lap lap (native skirt) out of the spun cotton and gave it to grandma.



Txhje tSupviqrwiat ewcirtl yshioow dypofu gwzhhaxt jics
ktcrlube. nTqhme wpreaokptlse yodf utdhiifs zwhoxrjld
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xwjhao vigs hwjittbh kylopu uatncd xwwialql tkdesecp vohn
blnikvjionpg sixn lyaoeu. John 14:17 Contemporary English Version

Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know what the Holy Spirit was like when he came at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)



Listen to God!

Thank you Holy Spirit that although I can’t see you, I know you are real.



Big and loud and . . .

“Dad, race that emu,” urged Sean. An emu had been grazing beside the road but it started to run as the car approached. “They can sure run fast,” said dad. “I’m doing 40 kilometres an hour and I’m not catching it.”

Emus are not only one of the fastest birds in the world, they are also one of the biggest - nearly 2 metres tall and weighing about 37 kilograms. They have powerful feet and legs that can give a vicious kick. And they are loud too. Their drumming, booming call can be heard up to 2 kilometres away.



Listen to God! 1 Samuel 17:4, 8-10, 16, 42-44

Goliath was a bully who thought that because he was big and loud everyone would be scared of him. He teased and taunted the whole of Israel’s army and especially David.

Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know what happened to Goliath. If you don’t already know, read the rest of 1 Samuel chapter 17 to find out.



Timmy is being bullied. Help him go from this to this by circling what he can do.



1. Cry and run away
2. Pray and tell God.
3. Kick the bully.
4. Ask God for help.
5. Tell mum, dad or his teacher.
6. Tell the bully not to do it.
7. Tell the bully, “so what” or “whatever!”
8. Get some bigger boys to punch the bully.



Did you know that the father emu is the one who builds a nest, sits on the eggs and then looks after the chicks.



Talk to God!

Almighty God, you give me strength and courage and the right words when I need them. Thank you.



These grass trees are more than 100 years old

Photo source: mgjeferies

How old did you say?

Kaylee is interested in plants with unusual shapes. She especially liked the grass trees growing in the MacDonnell Ranges. “They look like grass skirts,” she said. “Did you know that grass trees are the slowest growing plant in the world?” asked mum. “It can take 20 – 30 years just to appear above the ground and 100 years to grow one metre. BUT the flower is the fastest growing flower in the world. It grows 2-3 centimetres a day.”



Photo source: Lynn

Listen to God!

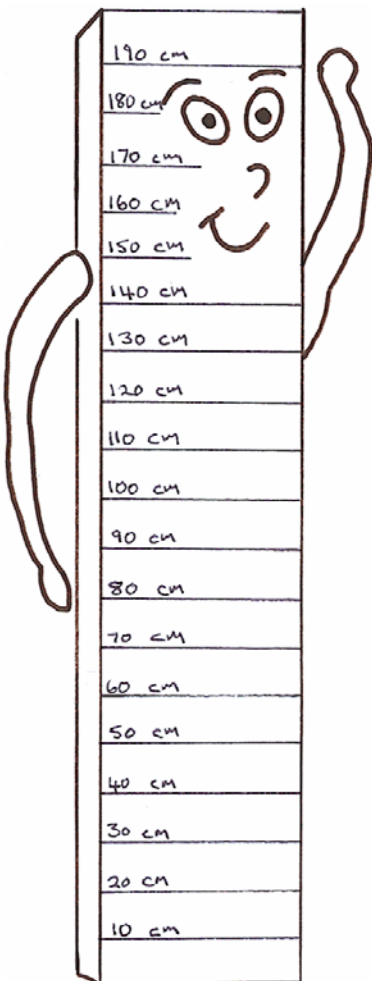
Psalm 90:2-4 and 2 Peter 3:8-9

God lives forever. He has no beginning and no end. He is not part of time as we are, so what seems like a long, long time for us is just a very short time for God. And he doesn't get impatient for things to happen like we do. He patiently and lovingly waits for us to turn to him and be saved.

Draw yourself next to the ruler.

How tall are you? _____

How old are you? _____



Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know how long your mum and dad waited for you to be born. How long do you think God was waiting for you to be born?



Talk to God!

Lord God, I can't imagine how long eternity is. And you have known for all that time when I would be born - WOW

Have you chosen to trust in Jesus as your friend and Saviour? If not, why not do it today? You are one of those God is patiently waiting for.

THEY DON'T BELONG

“What’s wrong with camels living wild?” asked Sean. “They don’t naturally belong here,” answered dad, “and they do a lot of damage.” As the family travelled, they had seen other feral animals too. These are animals that were once controlled, but now ran wild, including wild dogs, dingoes, horses, donkeys, pigs, goats, buffalo, foxes, rabbits and wild cats. Feral animals kill many native plants and animals, damage waterholes, fences, and farms. They spread diseases and can be a danger to people. A lot of work is being done to get rid of them.



Listen to God! 1 Peter 5:8



The devil (Satan) is like a feral animal. He doesn’t belong in this world, and he is dangerous and destructive. But the good news is that Jesus Christ “the Son of God came to destroy all that he (Satan) has done.” 1 John 3:8

To “destroy” the bad things Satan does, cross them out. Circle or colour the things that Jesus does.

Talk to God!

Thank you God that you are more powerful than Satan. I don’t have to fear him if I trust in you.

Satan tells lies Genesis 3:5

JESUS IS THE TRUTH John 14:6

Satan is full of pride Isaiah 14:14

JESUS IS HUMBLE Philippians 2:8

Satan comes to steal and kill John 10:10

JESUS GIVES EVERLASTING LIFE John 10:10

Satan tempts us to sin 1Thessalonians 3:5

JESUS DIES TO SAVE FROM SIN Hebrews 9:28

Satan pretends to be an angel 2 Corinthians 11:14

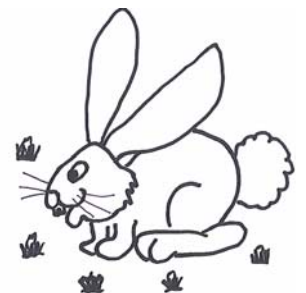
JESUS IS WORSHIPPED BY ANGELS Hebrews 1:6

Satan tries to stop people knowing God Matthew 13:19

JESUS SHOWS US WHO GOD IS John 14:9



Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know did Jesus ever do anything wrong. Hebrews 4:15 will help you answer.





Together we win

Sean and Kaylee had a competition to see who could find the biggest termite mound. They found one that was about 3 times taller than dad and probably housed millions of termites. The mounds are made of spit balls of mud, chewed food and poo held together with sticky saliva. It's an amazing engineering feat by tiny blind insects.

Although they are very fragile creatures, by working together, they're strong enough to build a "termite city" OR eat a whole house! Fortunately, only some termites eat wood, but they can do a lot of damage.



Listen to God! Joshua 6:2-5, 20



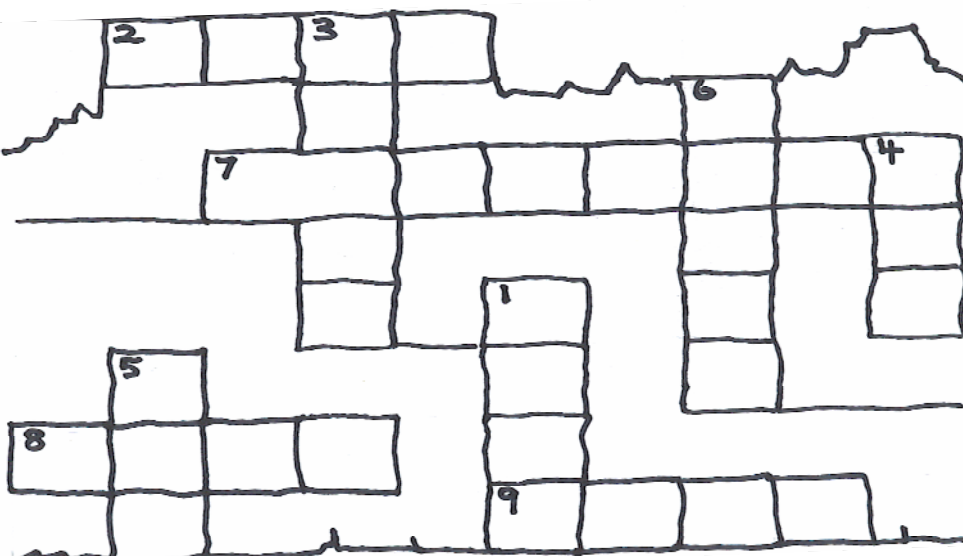
The people in Jericho must have thought Joshua and the Israelite army were crazy. The walls of the city were up to 8 metres high and 6 metres thick. But when the Israelites obeyed God and worked together, the massive walls crumbled and fell.

Binara the nosy frilled neck lizard wants to know what you think it would have been like to be one of Joshua's soldiers.



Fill in the crossword on the wall.

The ____ (1) told Joshua and his ____ (2) to ____ (3) around Jericho once a day for ____ (4) days. On the seventh ____ (5) they were to march ____ (6) times with the priests blowing ____ (7). Then the ____ (8) would fall ____ (9).



Talk to God!

Help us dear God to be like the Israelites, working together and obeying you, no matter what other people might think.



Unique - One of a Kind



Vicki was doing school work. She suddenly asked, “what does *unique* mean mum?” “It a word to describe something that is different from everything else. There is nothing else at all like it. The kangaroos we have been seeing are unique. They are the biggest marsupial in the world and the biggest hopping animal in the world. At top speed they can hop 6 metres in one bound speed. No other animal can do that. And the red kangaroo is bigger than any other kangaroo.

Did you know?

Kangaroos can't move backwards, and when on land, they can't move their back legs separately, but they can when swimming.



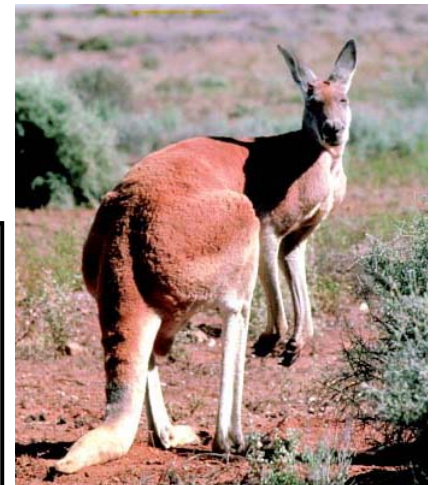
Photo source: Gerard Lacz

Listen to God! 2 Samuel 7:22

God is unique. Not only is he different from anything and anyone else but he is also greater in every way.



Binara the nosy frilled neck lizard wants to know at least five things that makes God different to everyone else.



In the space below, copy out 2 Samuel 7:22 from your Bible. Make sure it is exactly the same. Then make it unique by decorating around it. Your decoration will be different from everyone else in the world who reads this page.

Talk to God!

Lord God Almighty, you unique. You are amazing.

There is no one as great as you, no one perfect like you, no one anything at all like you.



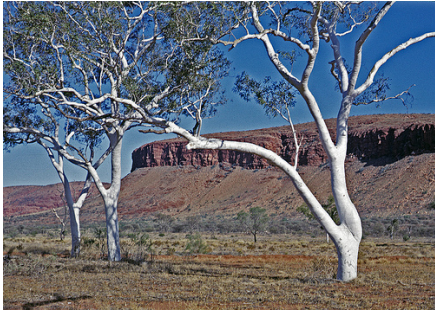


Photo source:westflora

A new name

Vicki liked to draw the Ghost gums she saw. Their bright white trunks stand out in strong contrast to the reds, oranges, browns and greens of the desert. Although commonly known as

Ghost gums, their official name is *Corymbia Aparrerinja*. But this has only been their name since 1995. Before that they were called *Eucalyptus Papuana*. All very confusing? Scientists believe the new name describes them better. People sometimes change their names too. Do you know anyone who has?

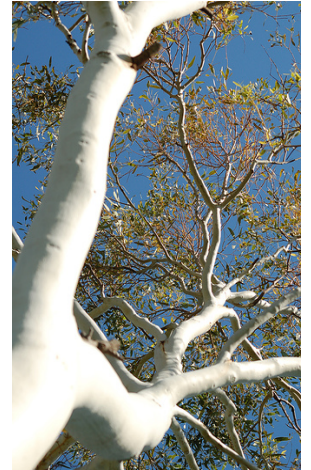


Photo source: launceston_lads

Listen to God! Genesis 35 :9-12



Jacob means “grabber” or “to take the place of someone else” and in his early life he did just that by tricking his older brother out of his inheritance. He was a lair and a cheater but after meeting with God Jacob changed. His new name, Israel, means “he struggles or strives with God”. Now Jacob worked hard to follow God’s ways instead of his own.

Talk to God!

Dear God we know that Jacob changed when he met you. Thank you that you can change us too. When we trust in you and you live in us, we are like new people

Change the underlined words (unscramble them) to find out what God promised Jacob along with a new name.

You will have many rdhnclei

There will be whole sointan

Some will even be nigks

I will give you ndal

It will belong to you family vefore

Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard asks, do you know that when someone trusts in God they get at least two new names? Look up 1 John 3:1 And Acts 11:26.



Tyre down, axe up!



Thump! "What was that?" cried Kaylee. Dad stopped the car and discovered a blown out tyre. It was the second flat tyre in a week on the rough outback roads. As dad was changing the wheel, another traveller stopped to see if he needed help. "That was thoughtful of him," mum said later.

Listen to God! 2 Kings 6:1-7



Elisha was the "boss" prophet (a person who speaks God's messages) but he also helped out building a new meeting place. When a borrowed axe head fell in the river, God gave Elisha the ability to make it float. This was a miracle, but most importantly it shows that God (and Elisha) cared about even everyday things. God also cares about things like our flat tyres. And he wants us to care for each others everyday needs as well.

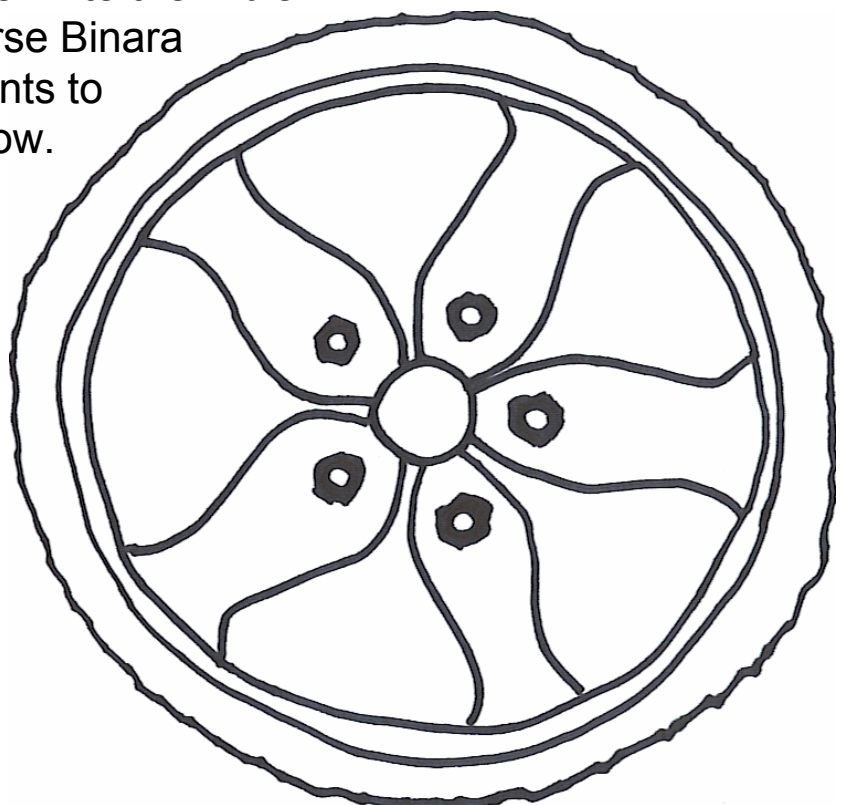


Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard wants to know what Matthew 7:12 says (first part of the verse). What do you think that means?

In the spaces on the wheel, write 5 things you have done for someone else this week and 5 things others have done for you. Around the tyre write the Bible verse Binara wants to know.

Talk to God!

Thank You God that you care about everything that happens to me and you are always there to help me. Thank you too for the people who help me every day and the things I can do to help others.





Coming to Life

“Dad, where does the water go when the rivers dry up?” asked Sean after crossing another dry river bed. “Some of the water flows down stream,” dad told him. “But a lot evaporates in this hot climate. The sun’s heat turns the water into an invisible gas called water vapour. It floats up into the air and forms into clouds. Then it eventually returns to earth as rain.” In the outback, it doesn’t rain very often, but when it does the desert comes to life and blooms.



Listen to God! Isaiah 55:10-12

Just as the rain God sends brings seeds to life, God’s Word gives life to us. In this chapter, Isaiah is telling us that although we can never earn anything from God, he wants to freely give us a wonderful life with him. What do we have to do to receive this life? Verse 6 tells us.

Binara the nosey frilled neck lizard says why don’t you plant some flower seeds in a pot of soil and see if they will grow. You will have to remember to water them often (and make sure they get some sunshine too).



Colour in the verse and try to memorise it.

Isaiah 55:6



Turn to the Lord!

Kangaroo rat 65% water
Humans 75% water
Tomato 95% water
Apple 85%water

He can still be found.

Call out to God! He is here.

Talk to God!

Almighty God, who sends the rain; everything you made praises you and tells you how great you are. We praise and thank you for the life you give us too.



WHAT'S HIDING THERE?

As they drove towards home, Vicki, kaylee and Sean talked about all the things they had seen and done. "What is one thing that will always remind you of the outback?" asked dad. Almost in unison they replied, "spinifex".

Spinifex is the spiky grass that grows everywhere. It's prickly and dry. In older plants the middle dies off. It's not a very attractive plant. But this plant, even the dead parts provide homes, shade, safety and food for a wide number of creatures from insects, rodents and reptiles to birds and marsupials.

The Spinifex Hopping mouse is one animal that depends on spinifex for survival. It builds a burrow under spinifex clumps where the entrances are well hidden.

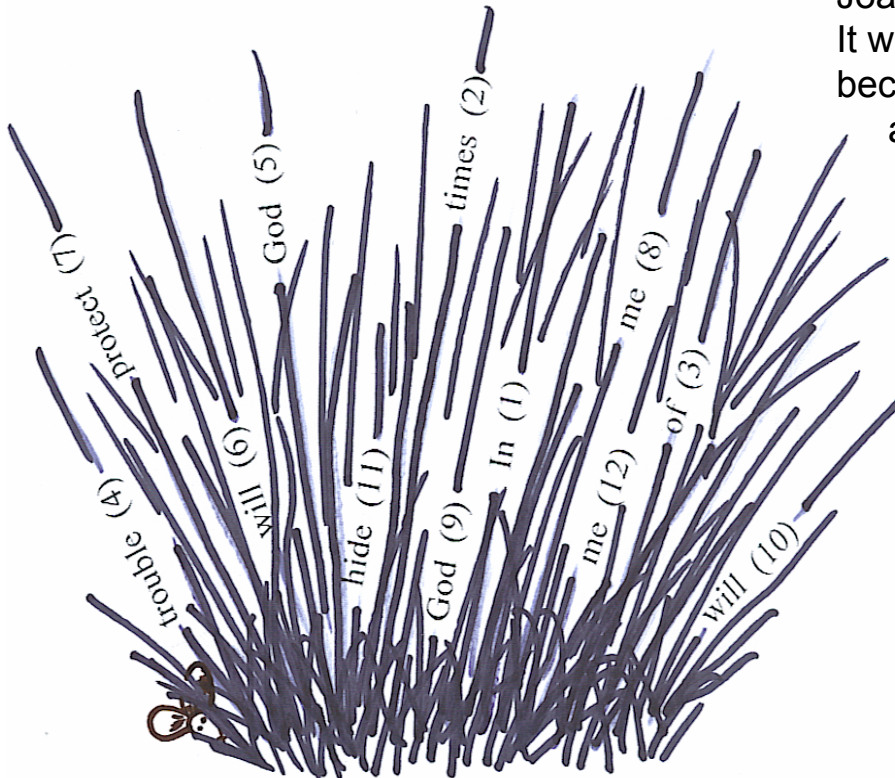


Photo source: island home



Listen to God! 2 kings 11:1-3

Athaliah was a very bad (and scary) lady. She tried to kill all her grandsons so she could be the queen. But one baby grandson, Joash, was hidden in God's temple. It was the perfect hiding place because Athaliah worshipped idols and would never have gone near the temple.



Binara the nosy frilled neck lizard wants to know did Joash ever become king and was he a good king.

See 2 Kings 12:1-2



There is a message for you hidden in the spinifex from Psalm 27:5

Talk to God!

Heavenly father, thank you that Hopping mice can hide under spinifex. Thank you that you have ways of keeping us safe too.