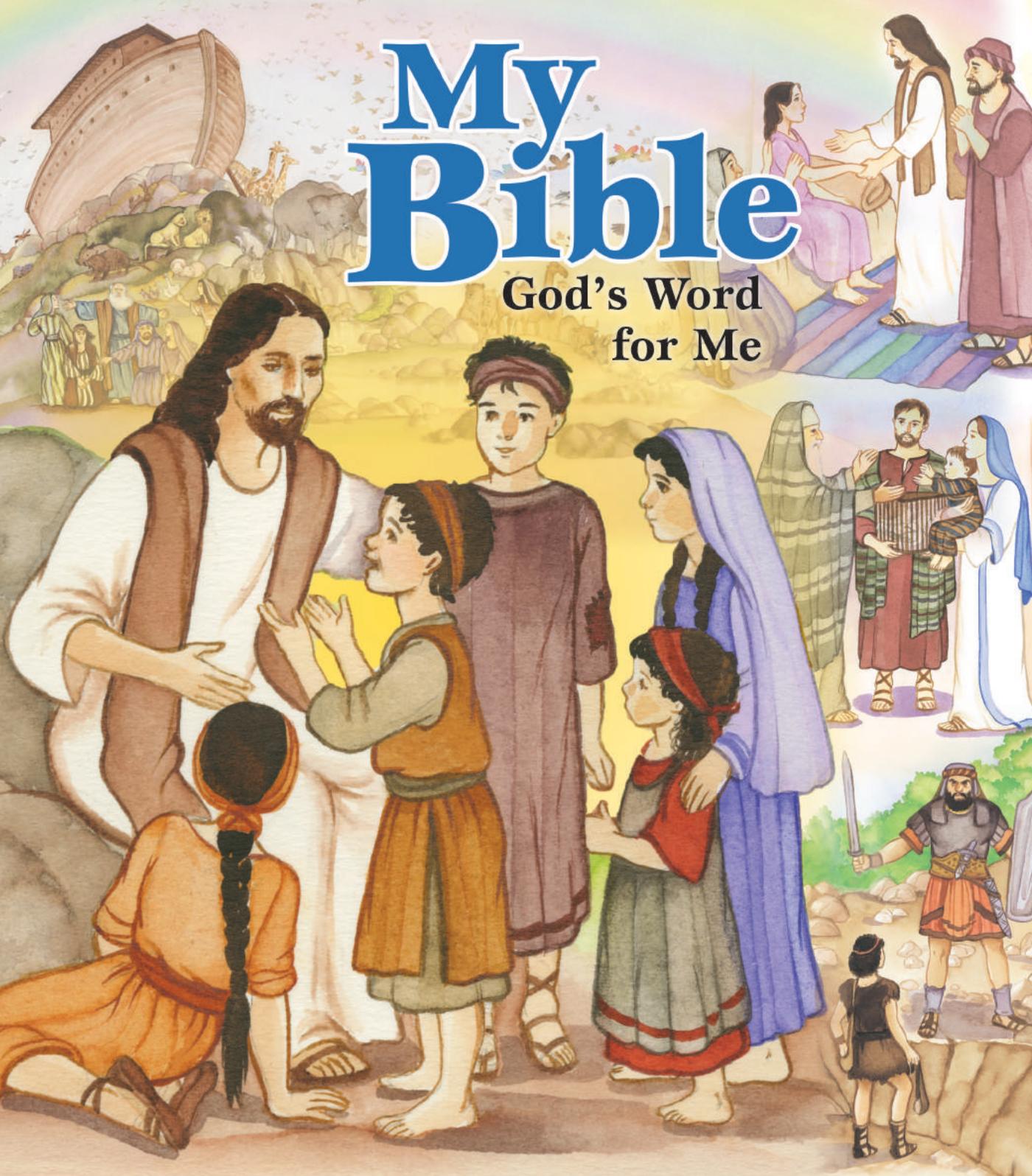


My Bible

God's Word
for Me









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My Bible

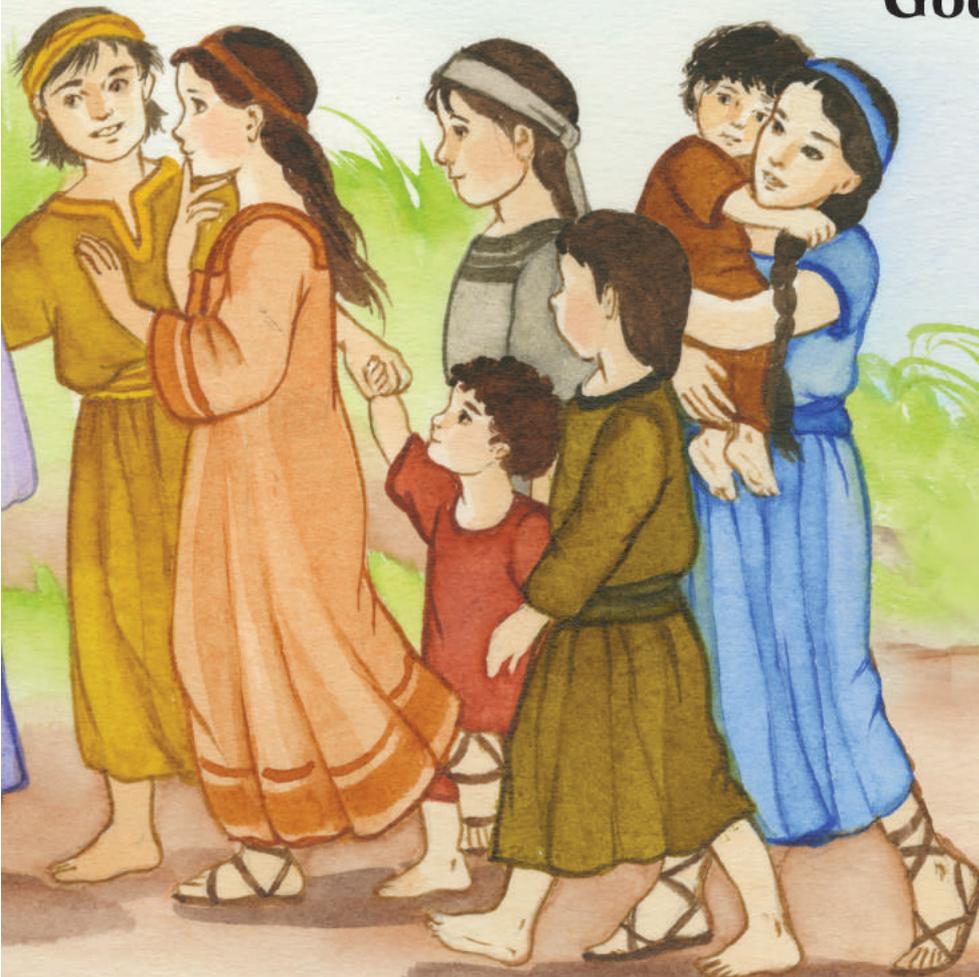
God's Word
for Me

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Dedicated to
Hayley Elizabeth Manning,
Kessler Gordon Brown,
and George Thomas Moss II.
May the Bible stories of God's love
always fill your heart with joy.



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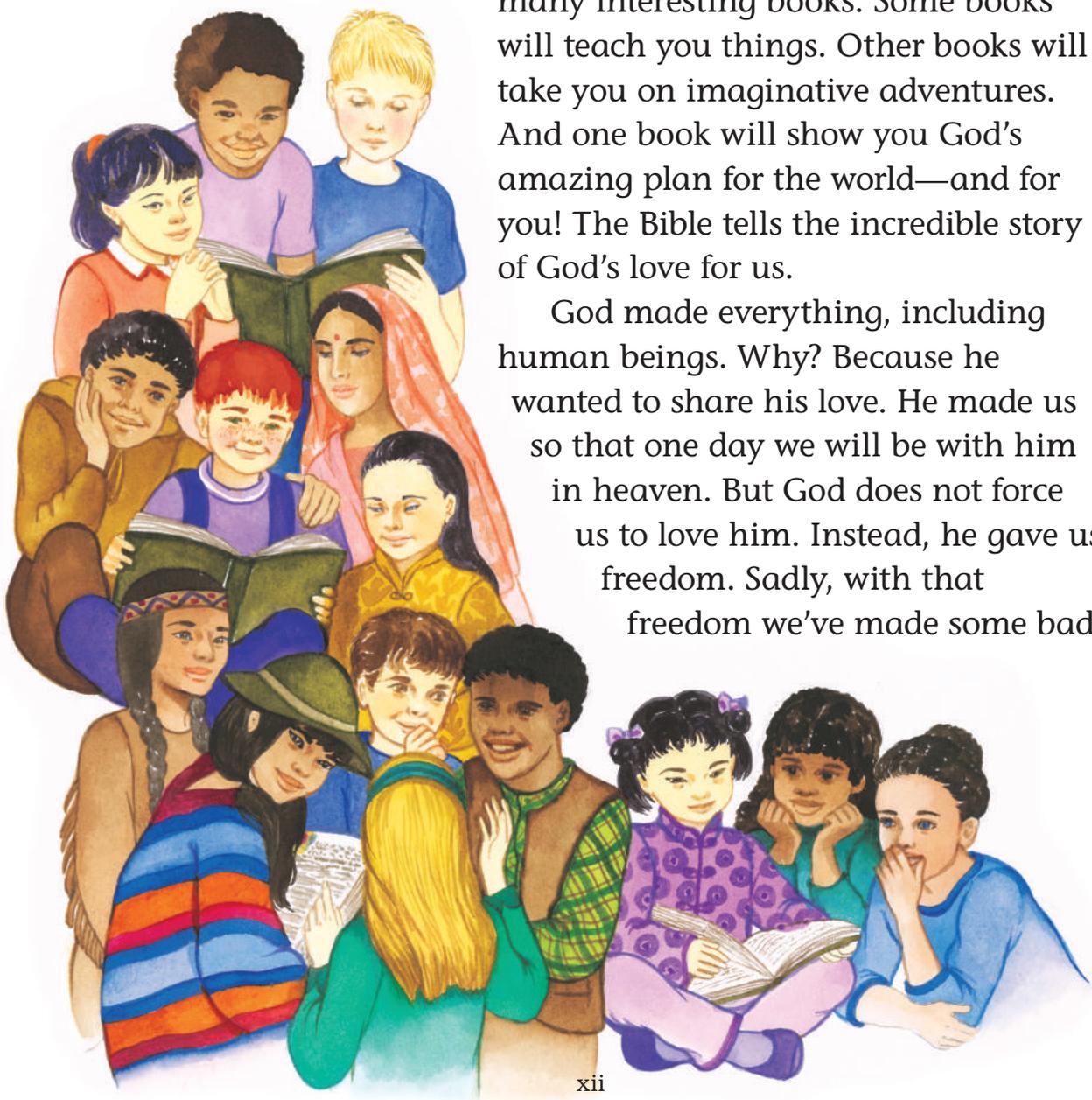
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Introduction

Throughout your life you will read many interesting books. Some books will teach you things. Other books will take you on imaginative adventures. And one book will show you God's amazing plan for the world—and for you! The Bible tells the incredible story of God's love for us.

God made everything, including human beings. Why? Because he wanted to share his love. He made us so that one day we will be with him in heaven. But God does not force us to love him. Instead, he gave us freedom. Sadly, with that freedom we've made some bad



decisions. Adam and Eve hurt humanity by sinning.

But hope is not lost! The Bible is full of heroes and heroines who have made the right decisions! Many men and women believed in God's love for us and did brave and daring things to help others know God's care for the world. Noah listens to God and learns how to build an ark to save his family and animals from a great flood. God tells Moses to use his staff to heal snake bites and to part the Red Sea. And God sends an angel to ask Mary if she will be the mother of Jesus, who came to save us!

This amazing story of God's saving love is now part of each of our lives. Every time you read the Scriptures you meet God. Whether you read the stories in order or jump around, they each contain something important that God wants you to know. And in every story, we can hear God saying to each of us, over and over again: I love you!





Old Testament



Creation

Genesis 1 and 2

In the beginning there was nothing—not one thing! Only God existed. God made everything in the world out of nothing.

First God said, “Let there be light,” and then there was light! Then God made the sky, the sea, and the earth. God made all kinds of trees and plants. Next God made the sun, the moon, and the stars. God saw that it was good.

There were no living creatures in the waters yet, so God made dolphins, whales, and fish of every kind. God also made birds that fly in the sky. Then God made all sorts of land animals: cows, horses, kangaroos, and all the other wild and tame animals too. And God saw that it was good.

God loved everything he had created, but he was not yet finished. So God made the first man, Adam. God put Adam in charge of all creation, even the animals. Then God said, "Adam needs a helper, so he will not be alone." While Adam slept, God made the first woman. When Adam awoke, he was so happy. "There she is at last!" he exclaimed. He called the woman Eve. God looked at them and blessed them. And God saw that it was all very good.

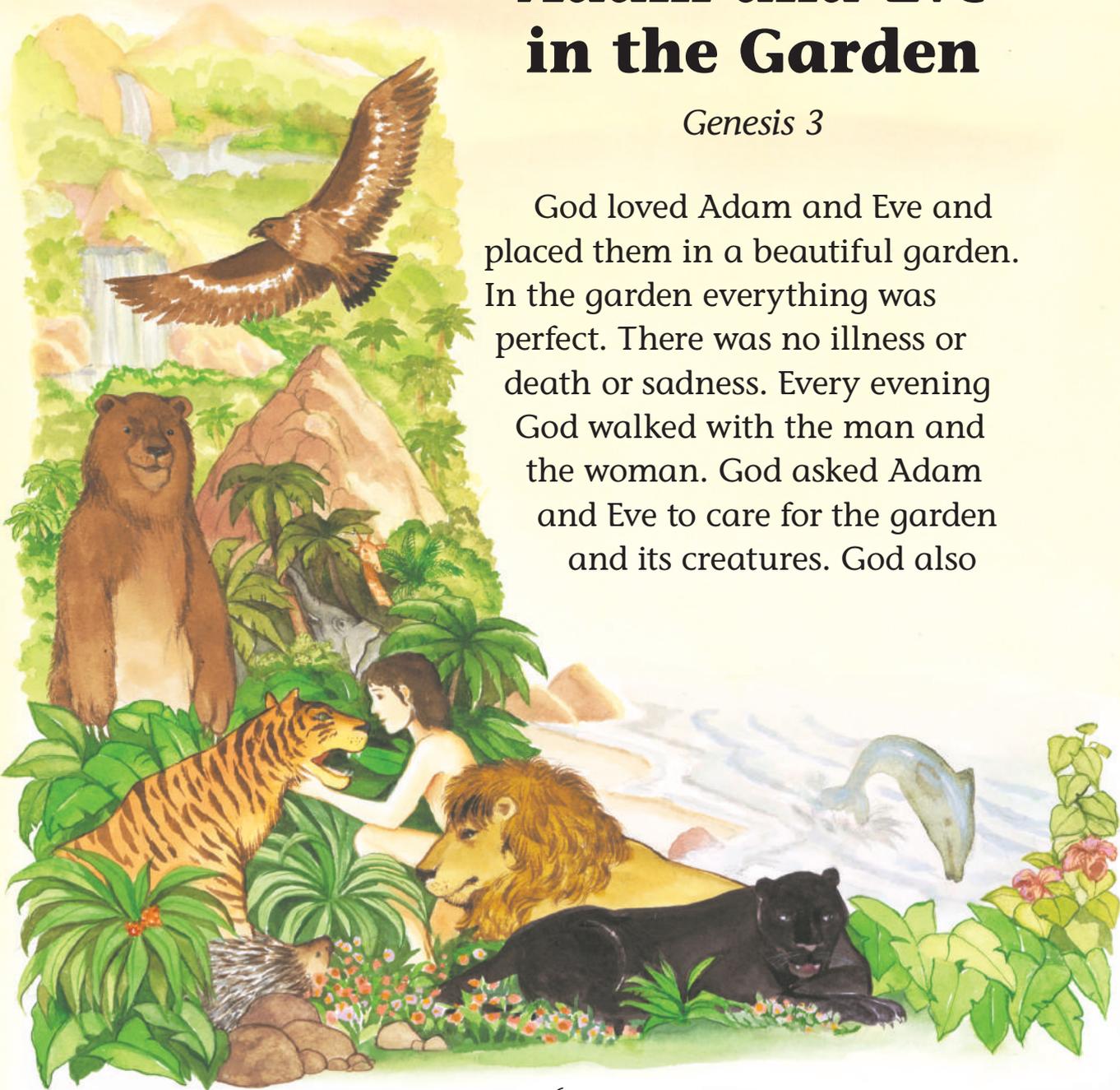
These are the six days of creation. On the seventh day God finished his work and rested.

*You made everything good, O God.
Thank you for your gifts!*

Adam and Eve in the Garden

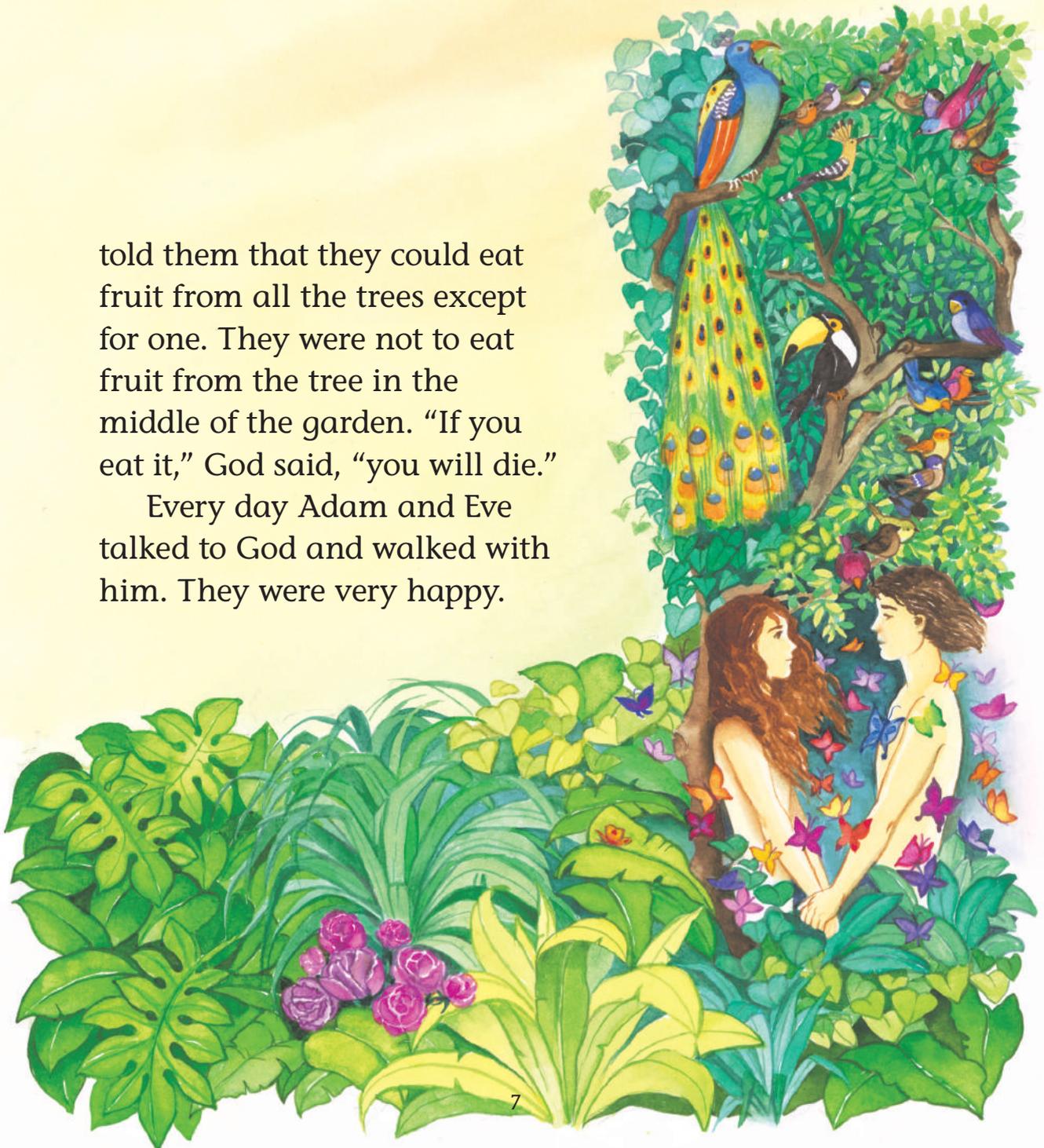
Genesis 3

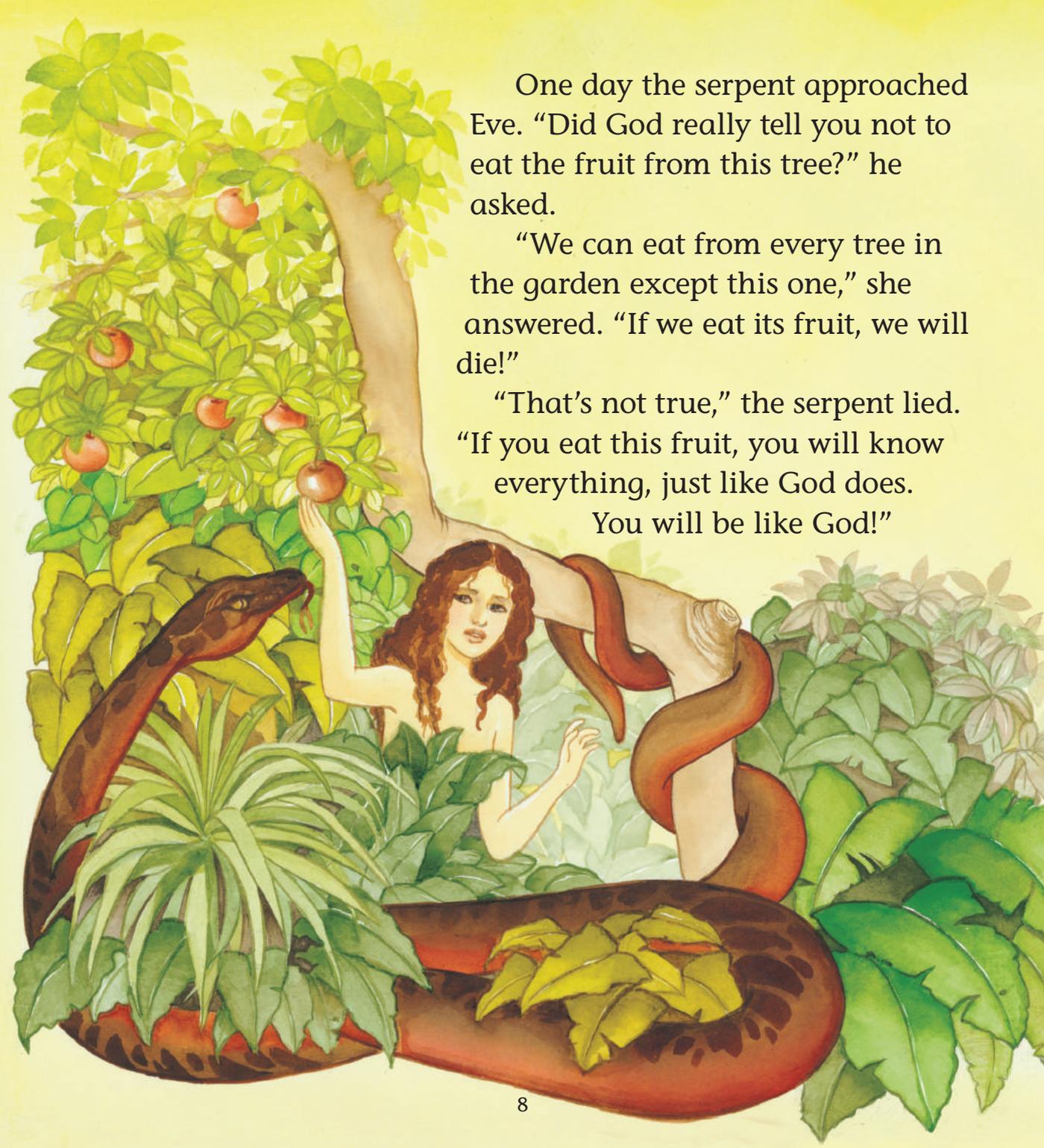
God loved Adam and Eve and placed them in a beautiful garden. In the garden everything was perfect. There was no illness or death or sadness. Every evening God walked with the man and the woman. God asked Adam and Eve to care for the garden and its creatures. God also



told them that they could eat fruit from all the trees except for one. They were not to eat fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. "If you eat it," God said, "you will die."

Every day Adam and Eve talked to God and walked with him. They were very happy.



An illustration of the Garden of Eden scene. A woman with long, wavy brown hair is standing in a lush garden, reaching up to pick a red apple from a tree. A large, brown and black spotted snake is coiled around the tree trunk, its head raised and tongue flicking out towards the woman. The tree is filled with green leaves and several red apples. The background is a soft, yellowish-green, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall style is a classic, colorful illustration.

One day the serpent approached Eve. “Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from this tree?” he asked.

“We can eat from every tree in the garden except this one,” she answered. “If we eat its fruit, we will die!”

“That’s not true,” the serpent lied. “If you eat this fruit, you will know everything, just like God does. You will be like God!”

Eve chose to listen to the serpent and to disobey God. She took some of the fruit, ate it, and gave some to Adam. He also ate it. Adam and Eve both disobeyed God. At that moment they realized that they were not wearing any clothes.

When God came to visit them, they were ashamed and hid themselves. God already knew they had sinned by choosing not to listen to him. "You cannot live in this perfect garden anymore," God told them sadly.

God still loved Adam and Eve, so he made them a promise. God would one day send a Savior to save them from sin.

God, may I always listen to your voice and do your will with love.

