A herd of Asian elephants left its home in a nature reserve in Yunnan, China. The beasts wandered north through fields, woodlands, and towns. (People left their towns before the elephants could hurt anyone.) The herd stayed in one place for five months. A mother had a baby! It needed to grow before it could trek along with the herd. Police and wildlife officers used cars, trucks, fences, and food to coax the animals home. Read about King Solomon’s throne of ivory in 1 Kings 10:18-20. Elephant tusks (long teeth) are ivory.

These elephants live in China. They left home over 1 year ago. They tramped through towns. The elephants ate crops. They trashed yards and fields. Now they are back home.
Have you seen this stamp on a letter? It shows a raven.

Tlingit [Klink-it] people tell raven stories. Rico Worl is Tlingit. He made this art.

The "People of the Tides" (Tlingit) are Native Americans. Many live along the Pacific Ocean in Alaska and near lakes in British Columbia, Canada. The Tlingit people once believed that the raven set the Sun, Moon, and stars free. Most Tlingit people today are Christians. But they still remember the old stories and the art that went with them. Isaiah 46:9 says, “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me.”
This old drawbridge opens hundreds of times each year. The roadway comes apart in the middle. Its halves are pulled up into the air. Big ships need to pass through. Cars may not be on the bridge then. Impatient drivers had to wait until the problem was fixed. Then they could cross the bridge. The fruit of the Spirit includes patience and self-control. Read Galatians 5:22-23 to learn the rest of the fruit too.

**London Bridge did not fall down.**

Its halves stuck up into the air! London’s Tower Bridge crosses the Thames [tems] River. Cars could not get over the bridge. They were stuck too.

Uh oh... the people in cars were wishing they were in boats!

This picture shows the Tower Bridge being built in 1892... almost 130 years ago!
Honeybees around the world are dying. Human beekeepers do all they can to stop that. But they cannot move as quickly as the Beewise robotic arm. Beewise is a company in Israel. Its bee-checking systems are used in Israel and the United States. The robot arms can apply medicine, harvest honey, and more. And they do not get tired.

Samson found a swarm of bees in the body of a lion he had killed. Read Judges 14:5-9.
The first Götheborg was a merchant ship. It carried goods from Sweden to countries in Asia. It brought other goods back to Sweden. That ship ran aground over 200 years ago. This Götheborg is a replica (exact copy) of the old ship. It is made of wood. It has three masts. Cannons on board can fire salutes or warnings. This ship also will sail far from Sweden to places like England, Greece, Singapore, and Shanghai in China.

Ezekiel 27:25 says, “The ships of Tarshish traveled for you [Tyre] with your [goods].”

It takes a crew of 80 people to do all the work on the Götheborg.

So many ropes!

This carving of a lion is called a figurehead. It is 15 feet tall.

The ship is over 150 feet long.

This is the route that the Götheborg took to get to China.

Isn’t the Götheborg [YEH-teh-bor-ee] of Sweden [SWEE-dn] a splendid ship? It is an exact copy of a ship that sank long ago.

This ship is ready to sail to China. It has not been there in many years.

READ MORE

1. An old ship is made new.
2. Mars rock in Maine
3. Pipe organ failure
4. Find the missing word.

LESSON 3
Be glad this did not hit your house!

A rock from Mars is at a museum in Maine. It is almost as heavy as you!

Scientists think a big space rock hit Mars. That knocked this chunk loose.

It traveled a long way.

It crashed to Earth.

The Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel has the Mars rock. It weighs 32 pounds and is 10 inches at its longest point. An asteroid in space probably hit Mars. That sent this rock flying away toward Earth. The meteorite landed in the desert of Mali. The big rock is called "Taoudeni 002." It is on display in the same room at the museum as Earth's largest known piece of the Moon. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork." Read Psalm 19:1.

If this rock really is from Mars, then it traveled a looooong way: 245 million miles!

32 pounds is heavy. Some dogs weigh around the same as the Mars rock.
“To spite” means to “hurt or be unkind.” The story is that two brothers had land in Boston. One went to fight in the Civil War. The other built a big house on most of the land. The soldier brother was angry. He built this skinny house. It blocked the Sun from his brother’s home. The skinny house is no wider than a regular trampoline. But it has great views of the Boston Harbor. Who is its next owner? The Bible reminds us that we are not to do anything from jealousy or pride. “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Read Philippians 2:3-4.
It would take a spaceship about seven months to get to Mars from Earth. Yet some people are eager to go to the Red Planet to learn more about it. The U.S. space agency is looking for volunteers to live inside a Martian habitat for a year. The habitat will be inside a building at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. But four 30- to 55-year-old volunteers will live as if they are on Mars. They must be people who want to go there for real. God is everywhere. Psalm 139:8 reminds us, “If I ascend [go up] to heaven, you are there!”
Shel Silverstein wrote “A tree house, a free house, A secret you and me house, A high up in the leafy branches Cozy as can be house.” People agreed with him during the virus pandemic. Aaron Smith owns Treecraft Design-Build in Fort Collins, Colorado. But he was hired to build many tree houses all over the country. Parents built tree houses with their kids. Airbnb listed tree house rentals. God’s people did not build tree houses for the Feast of Booths. But they did live for seven days in small structures made with branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook. Read about it in Leviticus 23:34-43.

Many families built tree houses last year! They enjoyed the fresh air. They had fun.

Look around. Do you see new tree houses in your town? Is one yours?

A tree house is fun for everyone.
Fishermen catch too many sharks and rays.

Sharks and rays fill the oceans. These fish get caught in huge nets. Experts worry. Will sawfish and devil rays die out?

There is a world-wide program to help protect sharks and rays. These fish grow slowly. They do not have many young. They die by accident when they get caught in giant nets. Industrial fishing companies use these. Experts say three out of 10 kinds of sharks and rays in the world’s oceans are in danger of becoming extinct (no longer living). Job 12, verses 8 and 10, tells us that the fish of the sea will declare to us that in God’s hand is the life of every living thing.

PRAY: Ask that God will show people how best to care for sharks and rays.

GOD’S BIG WORLD - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

READ MORE
Over 12 inches of rain from Hurricane Ida fell on Mississippi in one day in August. Drivers on a dark country road could not see. A pipe under the road burst. Rain opened a deep pit in the ground. One car after another fell into the hole. People in the cars were hurt. Sadly, two died. Hurricanes are storms with strong winds and heavy rain. The storms happen in many places in the world. They can also be called “cyclones” or “typhoons.” Remember, though, that God’s power is greater than any storm. In 1 Kings 19:11, God tells Elijah, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord.

Hurricane Ida was strong.

Hurricane [hurr-ih-kayn] Ida pounded Mississippi [mis-ih-sip-ee]. Rain washed out part of a road. Drivers could not see. Cars fell into a deep pit. People got hurt.

Have you seen this hurricane symbol on a weather map?

PRAY:
Tell God when you are afraid. He is always with you.

The dots show Ida’s path.

The road washed away!

Cars fell into the pit and had to be lifted out.

Over 12 inches of rain from Hurricane Ida fell on Mississippi in one day in August. Drivers on a dark country road could not see. A pipe under the road burst. Rain opened a deep pit in the ground. One car after another fell into the hole. People in the cars were hurt. Sadly, two died. Hurricanes are storms with strong winds and heavy rain. The storms happen in many places in the world. They can also be called “cyclones” or “typhoons.” Remember, though, that God’s power is greater than any storm. In 1 Kings 19:11, God tells Elijah, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord.
Why is this cow in the air?

A harness keeps the cow safe during the ride.

Hurt cows needed to come down a Swiss mountain. They could not walk. The farmer called a helicopter. It gave 12 cows rides home.

Farmer Jonas Arnold lives in the mountains of Switzerland. He has lots of cows to feed. Lush green pastures grow in the mountain above his farm. Herders guide his cows to the pasture. The cows graze (eat grass) all summer. They get fat. They give rich milk. Fall comes. Soon it will snow. All the cows must return to warm barns. But some were injured. Mr. Arnold had a helicopter carry those cows down the mountain. Joel 2:22 says, “Fear not, you beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green.”

GOD’S BIG WORLD • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

PRAY:
Praise God that “the cattle on a thousand hills” all belong to Him. See Psalm 50:10.
Greg W. is a lifeguard. He loves his job at a state park in Maine. He has worked there for 5-10-15-20-25-30-35-40-45-50 years!

Now he trains Beacon. This pup is strong. She learns fast. She will be a good lifeguard.
The owners of a company called Loop want customers around the world to recycle and reuse. Kroger and Walgreens in the United States will help. Buy a stainless steel container of ice cream. Pay extra (a deposit) when you do. Eat the ice cream. Return the container to the Loop section at the store. Get $10 back. Loop workers will clean and sanitize the containers and return them to the ice cream company. Genesis 2:15 reminds us, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

What about this?
Buy a burger. It is in a plastic box. Return the empty. You will get money back.

Loop company workers will collect and clean the boxes. We may use them again.
People pay taxes to keep Arlington, Texas, running. Your parents pay taxes to your city too. Jay Warren helps tell people about the budget each year. Many people aren’t interested. Mr. W. had built a LEGO city at home. He had an idea. He used his LEGO town to make a stop-motion video. It shows people cleaning the streets, working in the library, playing on a playground, and much more. It tells how the city will spend the tax money. These are things a town’s citizens should know.

Romans 13:6 tells us, “For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.”

Kids do not have all the fun!

Jay W. works for a Texas city. He wants people to know about the budget (how the city spends money). Most people never read it.

He made a LEGO video this year. What a fun way to see how a city works!

PRAY: Ask God to teach you to be careful with all the gifts He gives you.
There is a Toy Hall of Fame! It adds three toys every year. People suggest their favorites.

Would you pick sand? The piñata? How about a Fisher-Price Corn Popper? Or a toy fire engine?

Do you have any of these toys? Ask your parents if they played with any of these when they were kids.

Which would you choose?

It is important for children to play. Their muscles grow strong. Their imaginations develop. They learn to share. The Strong’s National Toy Hall of Fame chooses three toys each year that help children learn from playing. Anyone can nominate a toy. Twelve of the toys become finalists. Child experts choose the top three. The winners are announced on November 4 this year. Did they choose toys you have played with? Ask Mom or Dad to find out online.

Zechariah 8:5 tells of what it will be like when God dwells with His people. “And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.”
Vietnamese Americans are the sixth largest immigrant group in the United States. They remember how scary it was to live in a place that was very different from their homeland. Many now are ready to help Afghan refugees who move to their towns. The Afghans will need so many things: places to live, money, jobs, and much more. Vietnamese Americans can show them that life will get better.

Christians can teach them what 1 Timothy 2:5 says: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” That is the best Christmas gift of all!
Can you find and circle all the silly things in this picture? Make a tally mark in the white box each time you find one.
Praise God that He spoke and the skies were filled with birds of every kind! What must that have been like?

Jacobo Rendon started a project last year. It is a bird guide. He took photos or made drawings of as many kinds of birds as he could find in El Carmen de Viboral, Colombia. He borrowed a camera. He used binoculars. He wants other young people to think of ways they can take care of the wildlife where they live. The first guide entry is a flame-rumped tanager. Ask someone to help you find a picture of this lovely bird. God created so many kinds of animals! The many birds of the heavens sing among the branches. Read Psalm 104:12.

This teen made a bird guide.

Jacobo Rendon lives in South America. He took photos or drew pictures of birds in his town. He made a bird guide. Could you do that?

Pray:
Praise God that He spoke and the skies were filled with birds of every kind! What must that have been like?
“Spot” the matching dogs. Find a puppy without spots below that matches one above with spots. Color the same number of spots on the spotless puppy. Write the number of spots in the nearby circle.
Stella Vita is a car and a camper all in one. It runs on energy from the Sun. Dutch students built this new house-on-wheels. They took it for a test drive.

Does your family have a camper? Does it have to be plugged in to get electricity? Stella Vita (“Star Life”) has solar panels on top. These turn energy from the Sun into power that makes this mobile home go. People can cook, watch TV, and shower with hot water in Stella Vita too. The students are proud of their invention. God created us to make new things. Why? “Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)
The mobile home on page 3 relies on sunlight to give it energy. Look at the symbol (picture) key above. Match the letter to each symbol below to reveal the Bible verse about where the Sun—and everything else—comes from.

Hebrews 11:3
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is a city in the Middle East. It has Carrefour City+, That is a convenience store. The store has no cashiers. People enter with a smartphone app. About a hundred cameras are in the ceiling. Sensors line the shelves. They record what each person takes. People just walk out of the store. Their phones ping with their receipts. Workers in the store help shoppers. But there is no need to wait in line to pay. People can think of wonderful inventions to help others. Genesis 1:27 says, “So God created man in His own image.”
The camp cook made blueberry pancakes with maple syrup for the hungry lumberjack. Each pancake in the stack has the same number of blueberries as the pancake on top. How many blueberries are in each stack? Write your answers in the circles.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Compare each picture to picture A. Can you find 3 things about each lumberjack that are different from the lumberjack in picture A? Circle the differences.
Haiti is a poor island country in the Caribbean Sea. The earthquake was strong. It destroyed nearly everything people living in mountain villages had. It was hard for help to get to them. Marines based in North Carolina flew to Haiti. They brought tents, tarps, water, and food. “Manna Packs” were among those items. That “manna” was donated by a Christian ministry called “Feed My Starving Children.”

Psalm 78:24 says God “rained down” on His people “the grain of heaven.” Read the story of God’s miracle food for His people in Exodus 16.

An earthquake shook Haiti in August. Then came strong winds and pelting rain. People needed food and water. U.S. troops brought supplies. Many of the boxes said “Manna Pack” on them. They were full of food.

People in Haiti were glad to get the supplies.
Fifteen things in this room have been replaced with rhymes. Use the word list. Find all the rhymes. Say “I see a bat instead of a cat.”

- tree
- parrot
- stool
- lamp
- cat
- sail
- fire
- chair
- book
- slipper
- Moon
- clock
- phone
- dog
- plug
A pipe organ can rumble. You feel it in your tummy. It can sigh too. But a flooded organ makes no sound at all.

Floods soaked church organ parts in Michigan [MIH-shuh-gn]. Skilled people will fix them.
Organs (page 3) make beautiful music. So do the instruments below. Figure out which letter matches up with each missing piece. Write that letter in the blanks to reveal the missing word from this Bible verse: “Make a _________ noise to the Lord.” (Psalm 98:6)
Librarian Laura Keller wasn’t even alive when Coins You Can Collect was checked out!

A girl checked this book out of a library. That was years and years ago!

The girl grew up. She still had the book. Finally! She sent it back to the library.

The girl who checked out Coins You Can Collect did not know her family was moving away from Pennsylvania and the Plymouth Public Library. The book was packed with all her other books. She planned to send it back. But time passed—50 years! The woman finally mailed the book to the library. She sent a letter to say, “Sorry.” She also sent $20. That was not nearly enough to pay her fines. But it did pay for someone else’s. Matthew 5:42 says, “Do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”
Can you figure out the names of these bugs? Write the word for each picture in the blanks to find out.

- ___ ant
- ___ bug
- ___ hopper
- ___ fly
- ___ caterpillar
- ___ wig
- ___ fly
- ___ fly
Harvey Sutton’s parents Josh and Cassie took their little boy hiking from the time he was only two. They decided to take time off from their jobs to hike the Appalachian [app-uh-la-chee-un] Trail from Georgia to Maine this year. It is over 2,000 miles long! Harvey hiked the whole way. He turned five on the trail. He started kindergarten in August. Can you beat Harvey’s “What I did this summer” story? When you do hard things, remember Joshua 1:9. “Do not be frightened, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

This boy did a BIG thing.

Harvey S. hiked a long mountain trail this year. He went with his mom and dad. He is only 5! He spied animals. He liked rock scrambles. He was not bored.
The lost elephants stepped in wet paint. The paint mixed to make new colors. Figure out what color the footprints made. That shows the path they took home.