



## And God said ...

Who knows what this is?

"A Bible."

"The Holy Bible."

It is a Bible, thank you. What is a Bible?

"And God said" [reading it from the screen].

That's a very interesting answer, because the Bible is 'what God said'. And I was thinking about this when I was thinking about this story. Words are really powerful; have you ever thought about that?

Words are really, really powerful things. Why do you think words are powerful?

"Because without words I would just go mmmmmmm mmmmmmm."

Yes. So we need words to be able to communicate, to talk to each other: although some people do talk in different ways, don't they? With their hands. But words are powerful because I could say, "I hate you!" and inside, you go 'oh no. That makes me feel sad.' I could say, "I love you." And that's going to make you go 'ooh, that's nice.' So words are powerful things because they can make you feel different things. That's why we have to be careful about what we say. And in the very, very beginning - who knows what the first book in the Bible is called?

"Adam and Eve."

It is about Adam and Eve.

"Genesis."

Yes, it is Genesis. The first book in the Bible, Genesis; 'cos this isn't just one big book – it's made up of lots of smaller books. And the first one is Genesis and in the very, very beginning of Genesis, God spoke powerful words. God's words are even more powerful than our words. Do you know what it was He said? He said "Let there be light!" because there was nothing, absolutely nothing at all. Shut your eyes and imagine nothing. Do you see anything in there? No. Nothing in there. And God spoke, and He said, "Let there be light." And there was - just like that. That is how powerful God's words are. He speaks and it happens.

"What about the sun?"

No, the sun didn't exist – until God said let there be light. No sun, no moon, nothing at all. And He looked and He saw that there was light and there was darkness; and He said "That's good."

And then God said "I'm going to make two lots of water, one up there in the heavens, and one lot down there. And there was sky, and there was sea.

"So what did people drink before then?"

There were no people: nothing at all.

"Adam and Eve!"

No, not before this. Otherwise they would all be floating about, wouldn't they? They had nowhere to sit. And that was the second day, and God looked and He said, "That's good."

And then – God made land. And on the land He made trees that grew seeds and fruit and He made plants and He made bushes, flowers and do you know, even weeds God made. They weren't really weeds, they were just flowers in the wrong place, that's all they were. And God looked and He said, "That's good."

And then God said "Let there be stars. Let there be lights in the sky. Lights to light the darkness."

"People say they are balls of fire."

Well it kind of is, in a way.

"Balls of gas."

Yes, big balls of gas.

When you look up, because of the way the light is shaped, it looks like the star shape. So God put the stars in the sky. And God looked, and He said; what do you think He said?

"That's good."

That's good. And then God said, "I am going to fill the seas with all sorts of creatures. Teeny tiny little plankton and humungous whales.

"And medium sized octopus."

Yes, and medium sized octopus. Can you think of anything else that's in the sea?

"Hammerhead sharks." "Fish." "Jellyfish." "Starfish." "SpongeBob."

Sponges, definitely: I'm not sure about SpongeBob though.

"Cod, but no chips." "Dolphins." "Seals." "Crabs." "Seaweed." "Squid."

I love a bit of squid, especially in breadcrumbs. Then God said "I'm going to fill the skies with all kind of creatures that fly. Can you think of creatures that fly?

"Eagles." "Pigeons."

So God filled the sky and He filled the sea. And what do you think God said? "That's good."

And God said "I'm going to fill the land with all kinds of creatures. From the tiny ants to the eleph-ant. What else can you think of that God made?

"Mammoths. They were even bigger than elephants."

Yes, but I only had a picture of an elephant, Can you think of any other animals God made? What I want you to do, is everybody think of their favourite animal and when I count to three, I want you to make the noise that your favourite animal makes. Are you ready? One. Two. Three.

Wonderful! Is there anyone who has a favourite animal that doesn't make a noise?

"A giraffe."

I don't know if a giraffe makes a noise. Perhaps a chomping noise, maybe. And God looked and He said "That's good."

And then God said "I'm going to make something else: something extremely special." And He took some dust from the land and He breathed life into it; and He made a man.

"Adam."

That's right; he was named Adam. Adam means 'the first man'. And this man was really, really special. Why do you think that man was special?

"He was the only one of his kind."

He was the only one of his kind, yes. That would make you special, wouldn't it? God made man special, because man can love God. And that makes us a bit different from the elephants, and the ants, and the dolphins, doesn't it. They're all wonderful, wonderful things, but they don't love God, because they don't have that in them. - whereas we do: that's how God made us. He made us so that we could love Him; because He loves us. And He gave us this wonderful planet, didn't He, for us to take care of. So what do you think He said of this final creation? He said "That's good."

And on the very last day, the seventh day, God said "Wow! I'm going to have a rest, and I'm going to look at all the things I have made; because they are really great. They're good." And that is the power in God's words: that the things that He says, happen. And that is power.

You will find out a bit more about what happened at the very, very, very beginning of time next week.

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