

# Good News

Issue 145

August 2023

Greetings from the mountains! We are praying for you! With every word, every fold of every paper, we are thinking of you and praying good things for you. We hope this gets into your hand, tablet, or kiosk. If there comes a time in the future when you cannot receive Good News, we hope you will be able to access it on our church website:

[www.fitzpatrickbaptist.com](http://www.fitzpatrickbaptist.com). Still working on it! Dawn

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## From Imogene: HOLDING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

The old man came up to this young man. He wanted to be part of the young men's gang. Thomas, being the gang leader, said "No," that he was too old. The old man said he would show them who was old. So he challenged the one called Blake to a fight. Blake immediately de-pantsing the old man caused him to fall and become disoriented. Thomas asked Blake what made him so sure he could beat the old man. Blake replied, because the old man just had a latch pin holding up his pants. What is holding you together?

What is holding your life together. Are you depending on someone or something to get you through life? Can everyone but you see that you are just hanging on? Like the latch pin holding up the old man's pants gave him false security, are you holding on to false security, false hope? Is one tug at your life going to cause you to tumble and fall?

Bring it to God. God does not fail! Even when life feels like it's falling apart, Jesus holds everything together. He doesn't give up on people. Jesus never drops the ball. So keep praying. The Bible says "pray without ceasing." How's your prayer life? Do you need God to hold you and guide you. Have you gotten yourself in a bad situation and don't know what to do? Turn to Jesus, pray, talk to Him. Nothing is too small or silly to talk to Jesus about. If you are hurting, Jesus is hurting. Let Him help. He's listening. But you need to be willing to listen and obey and put your faith in God.

Psalm 9:9: "The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." Psalm 9:10: "Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."

Proverbs 30:5, NIV "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." People will fail you, But God will never fail you.

## From Jamie:

Miriam was the sister of Moses, who as a young girl, helped save him as an infant. She also was a prophetess and, along with her brothers Moses and Aaron, led her people out of bondage in Egypt.

In Exodus, when the Israelites fled Egypt, they had to grab what they could in a hurry before the pharaoh changed his mind. Miriam grabbed what she could, and that included her tambourine. Not sure I'd be thinking about my tambourine when fleeing for my life. But, Miriam did.

She believed, trusted, and had faith that no matter what the outcome of their departure would be, there WOULD BE something to celebrate and she wanted to be prepared!

That's faith!

I'm sure she heard the sound of faith with every step she took away from bondage. I'm sure with every step, that tambourine clanged as she stepped towards God. Every jingle-jangle reminded her that the journey she was on, as hard as I'm sure it was, would end in celebration.

So, sweet friend, pack your tambourine for every occasion, not just the good times.

The journey toward faith is hard. Things don't always go as planned. But, faith happens when we allow ourselves to take our eyes off of our circumstances and focus them on Jesus, and step forward in faith. One step at a time. And keep stepping towards Him no matter what happens, or doesn't happen. If we do that, there WILL BE something to celebrate! And, we also will change, even if our circumstances do not.

Pack that tambourine!!

## Jen's Gems

Psalm 18: 1-2: "I love you, Lord; you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior."

I am so thankful that my Jesus has stood with me and protected me in the fire like He did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. I love that He has spoken to me in a gentle voice and sent angels to me when I've been overwhelmed/worn out like He did Elijah. He has parted the waters to get me through impossible situations like He did for Moses.

My sweet Savior has provided all my needs when there clearly wasn't enough like He did the widow who lacked oil and flour. He has exploded my little bit into more than enough like He did when He fed the 5,000. My Lord has heard my cries like He did Hannah's. He has given me strength against my enemies like He did Samson. My Redeemer has allowed the scales to fall off my eyes so I can clearly see like He did Paul. He has loved and redeemed me like Hosea and Gomer.

My Jesus has pushed me to fulfill His plans like He did Jonah. He has never give up on me, even when I've denied Him like the disciples. He has provided wisdom when I've needed it like He did Solomon. My God has placed me in the right place at the right times like He did Esther. Many times He has given me a passion to motivate me like He did Nehemiah. My great Provider has blessed me when I've been bitter and hopeless like He did Ruth.

Countless times He has calmed my waves of anxiety like He did the waves of the sea for the disciples. Jesus has protected me when I have been in dangerous situations and surrounded by enemies like He did Daniel in the lion's den. He has sent prophets like Nathan into my life to point out my faults like He did for David. He has fought my battles for me like He did for Jehoshaphat. He loves me and provides for me daily even though I am unworthy.

We have a good God! He is still providing the same blessings for His people that He did thousands of years ago in the Bible. Our God doesn't change; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He can be trusted. He will provide! He is worthy of our praise!

The Psalmists had it right when they said: He performs many wonders for us, He has no equal (Psalm 40:5), He is awesome, He is the greatest King of all the earth (Psalm 47:2), He is the light in the darkness (Psalm 18: 28), His ways are Perfect and His promises prove true (Psalm 18:30).

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The transition from an amazing mission trip back into normal everyday life is hard. On missions you wake up every day with excitement because you know your purpose. You feel an urgency to share the love of Christ because you know your time is limited and you want to leave a mark. Every day is an adventure that explodes into a blessing. Adrenaline and excitement flow strong in every little achievement. You look for God's fingerprints on everything. You see that He provides exactly what you need. You notice that He arranges everything perfectly.

While in Africa, my face hurt at the end of the day because I smiled so much. I felt the Lord's joy and love in every moment. In Africa, I didn't care when my clothes didn't match or if my shoes were dirty. I didn't complain when I had to brush my teeth with bottled water or when the food made me horribly sick. I felt privileged to get to endure hardships. In Africa, I taught a devotion on Psalm 34:8: "Taste and see that the Lord is good," and believe me I saw His goodness stronger last week than I ever have.

This morning I was a little disappointed when I woke up without that enthusiasm. When I poured out my heart to Jesus, He revealed to me that I don't need to be in Africa to taste and see that the Lord is good. I needed to fix my focus. We have a good, good God. The place or the fact that I was on missions wasn't what made last week so great. Last week was amazing because I was looking for the goodness of God. I had my perspective right and my eyes on Christ.

Fix your focus on the Lord today. You don't need to be in Africa to feel His goodness or be on missions. Every day is a mission trip. Taste and see that the Lord is good and that your time here on Earth is limited. Endure hardship with a smile, let the things that don't really matter go. See God's fingerprints on everything He provides today. God is so good.

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## From Gladys Gilah Njeri Njoroge

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).

While this verse may be commonly quoted, it’s also one of the most misunderstood and misapplied verses in Scripture. It’s tempting to zoom in on “He will give you the desires of your heart” and neglect the first part: “Delight yourself in the LORD.”

I wanted to get to the root of inconsistency in our prayer life. sometimes we get stuck ruminating over what to say and how to say it. I wonder if asking for what’s on my heart is even biblical.

Are there any other overthinkers out there?

There it is. We hadn’t been delighting ourselves in the Lord. We’ve overcomplicated what God really intended for our prayer life. We assumed our words needs to sound formal and grand, so things feels stiff and rigid.

Praying feels more like an emergency call to a stranger than ongoing communication with a loving God. All along, He just wants us to come to Him.

At the root of the word “communication,” we see the word “commune.” “Commune” means “to converse or talk together, usually with profound intensity and intimacy; to interchange thoughts or feelings.” This was the ingredient we’re missing. Consistent communication with God begins with consistent communion with God.

Think about it like this. If you only talked to a friend when you needed a favor, wouldn’t your relationship start to feel transactional? Over time, one of you might eventually grow distant; the relationship might get stale, and down the road, you’d just stop talking altogether.

So many of us are in this place in our prayer lives. I’ll be the first to say I’ve been there.

But what if it’s simpler than we realize?

What if connecting with the Lord more consistently in prayer begins with being more present with Him throughout our day?

We can pray through tears. We can bring our raw, unfiltered thoughts straight to Jesus.

We can pray about the small concerns buried in our thoughts.

We can pray about our anxieties and celebrations, our grief and our gratitude.

We can bring our own needs and questions. We can cry out on behalf of others and what they’re currently navigating.

We can pray out loud. We can pray in our heads. We can pray for big things, small things and everything in between. It all matters to Him because we matter to Him.

Every occasion is an invitation to pray.

Friend, God wants to hear from you. You don’t have to use the “right” words or worry about how your prayers sound. Bring your whole, honest heart to Him. He already delights in you, and He’s willing to listen. Start with what feels heavy or what comes to mind first. There’s no better time to pray than right now.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, You know our every need. When we draw close to You in prayer, we believe You hear us. We want to trust You completely with things we’re bringing to You in prayer ... relationally, financially, emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. Help us remember we can cry out to You in every situation, big and small. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Sometimes God kills the connection, so the connection doesn't kill you.		
If you wouldn't like it done to you, don't do it to others.	A lot of people just need someone to be kind to them today.	The greater your knowledge of the goodness and grace of God on your life, the more likely you are to praise Him in the storm. Matt Chandler
If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.	We may enjoy God in our blessings, but we get to know God in our sufferings. Craig Groeschel	

**THE STAIN OF OIL, THE STAIN OF SIN**

**Dawn**

The clanging alerted me that there was a problem. Some sounds are not ever supposed to come out of the dryer. I hurried to the laundry room.

Yanking open the dryer door, I began pulling out my beloved’s dress pants and shirts. (The load was his good stuff for church.) In the still damp pile, I found a small black lid. And then something much worse: dark greasy stains on all of the clothes. “Aww man!” I groaned loudly.

I searched through the load again trying to find the source. The black lid belonged to something.

“Your clothes are all greasy!” I called to him from the laundry room. “Do you know what this lid goes to?”

He studied the object. Then suddenly remembered. It went to a small bottle of anointing oil.

My beloved is a pastor. A few days before, he and a deacon had gone to visit a very sick friend in the hospital. He’d used it there. “I must have left it in my pocket,” he confessed sadly. “I’m so sorry!” The small vial of oil had completely anointed every stitch of his dress clothes.

I grabbed the spray stain remover. Anointing oil was not listed on the back. A liberal coating of Shout was applied to every splotch. I take Philippians 4:6 quite literally so invited God to get involved. “LORD, I know You are good and You always work for our good. I ask You to please, if it is Your will, let all this come out.” I reminded Him what it was and why my beloved had even had it in his pocket. Then after a bit, the tainted clothes were soaked overnight in hot water and dishwashing liquid in the kitchen sink. The next day, which was Sunday-the day of new life and new beginnings-I power washed them in the washing machine in hot water right after church.

We waited breathlessly until they were dried.

Because God is gracious, generous, and kinder than I deserve, the clothes were spotless!

During the spraying and soaking process, I pondered past mistakes-with laundry and life. Sin has stained all of us much worse than a tube of oil in the dryer. Many search for something to wash it away, but there is only one thing that can do the job: Nothing but the Blood of Jesus. In the hymn *Jesus Paid it All*, Elvina Hall, wrote, “Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.”

Because God is generous, gracious, and kinder than we deserve, when we ask, He forgives us of our sin and remembers them no more (Jeremiah 31:34).

My beloved’s dress clothes will never remind me of their spots/stains. They have been washed and are clean. When the devil brings up my past sins, I need to remind him that I, too, have been washed clean.

No sin is too terrible to be forgiven, no transgression too awful. First John 1:9 reminds us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

A clean slate is a beautiful thing.

Prayer reminds us we are not in control and keeps us close to the One Who is.	<b>God never said you won’t go through valleys, but He did say that you never have to go through them alone.</b>
It’s hard to hear God’s voice when you’ve already decided what you want Him to say.	

**WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**

God can not only be trusted with your problems; He can be trusted with your life and your future. He may have had to chase you all the way where you are. He wants to help you. (Don’t you NEED help?!) It may be time to fully surrender to Him or turn back to Him. You will know which one it is.

To surrender to Him, to give Him your life, it just takes a few simple steps. 1) Admit that you are a sinner. (We all are!) 2) Pray and ask God to forgive you. It doesn’t take a lot of big words. You can pray a simple prayer. *Dear God, I know I have sinned. I believe that You sent Your Son Jesus to die for my sins and make a way for me to go to heaven. Please forgive me of all my sins. Please come into my heart and help me live for You. And please take me to heaven when I die. Thank You for loving me. Amen.*

To turn back to Him: (We will never be perfect until we get to heaven. If you know Jesus as your Savior but have turned away from Him and need to turn back, you, too, can pray a simple prayer to fix that.) *Dear God, I have been away from You and living like I don’t even know You. Please forgive me of my sins and for turning away. Help me to live for you every day. Thank You for loving me.*

## CHOICES

In our Sunday School class, we are getting ready to begin a study on Noah.  
Before we get to him, we have to start at the beginning...

1. In Genesis 1, God made the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. After each thing God made, He said it was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Genesis 1:26: God said, "Let \_\_\_\_\_ make man in our image..." Who was He talking about?  
Adam and Eve                      Peter, James, and John                      The Trinity
4. What is the Trinity?  
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
5. Genesis 2:15. God placed the man in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Genesis 2:16-17. God gave the man ONE RULE: You are free to eat of any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, for when you eat of it you will surely \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God gave Adam a job in 2:15. What was it?
8. Genesis 2:20. Adam gave \_\_\_\_\_ to all the livestock, birds, and beasts. But there was no \_\_\_\_\_ for him.
9. Genesis 2:21. The first surgery! God caused Adam to fall into a \_\_\_\_\_; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's \_\_\_\_\_ and closed up the flesh. Then the Lord made a \_\_\_\_\_ from the rib.
10. Satan, disguised as a \_\_\_\_\_, made the woman question what God said. Do you think that happens today?
11. Read 3:6-7. **The woman was TOO CLOSE!** "She saw that it was good for \_\_\_\_\_ and pleasing to the \_\_\_\_\_, and also desirable for gaining \_\_\_\_\_, she took some and ate it."
12. The woman CHOSE to disobey God. What do you think she should have done?
13. What did the woman do with the fruit after she tasted it?
14. Our choices affect others! What should Adam have done?
15. Now Adam and Eve...and the ENTIRE world's lives are changed forever! Who do your choices affect?  
This week, two teenagers were killed in an accident. They had been at a party where people were drinking. They got in the truck with a 20-year-old young man. He was drunk and everyone knew it. One of the girls' sister was there. She begged her not to go. Others there pleaded for them not to get in the vehicle. They knew it was dangerous. But the girls did get in the truck along with five others. About a mile later, the driver wrecked and plunged off an embankment. The two girls were killed. The driver was hurt. The three other passengers survived. The lives of so many were changed because of their choices.
16. Genesis 3:7. Immediately, Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin. What did they do?
17. When God spoke to them about what they had done, Adam blamed \_\_\_\_\_, the woman blamed \_\_\_\_\_ (3:12-13).
18. Because of their choice to disobey God, the serpent would crawl on its \_\_\_\_\_ (3:14), the woman would have pain in \_\_\_\_\_ (3:16), and the man would have hard labor (3:17-19).
19. BUT...God did not kill them for disobeying. Genesis 3:15 gives the first promise of a Savior. It may not sound like a big deal but IT IS. "He will \_\_\_\_\_ your head, and you will strike his \_\_\_\_\_." Go to Romans 16:20.
20. Adam named his wife \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20).
21. God made clothes/garments of \_\_\_\_\_ (3:21).
22. Adam and Eve were \_\_\_\_\_ from the Garden of Eden. He placed \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.
23. How do you think Adam and Eve felt after all this happened?

*This puzzle was given to us just for you!* **30 Books of the Bible**

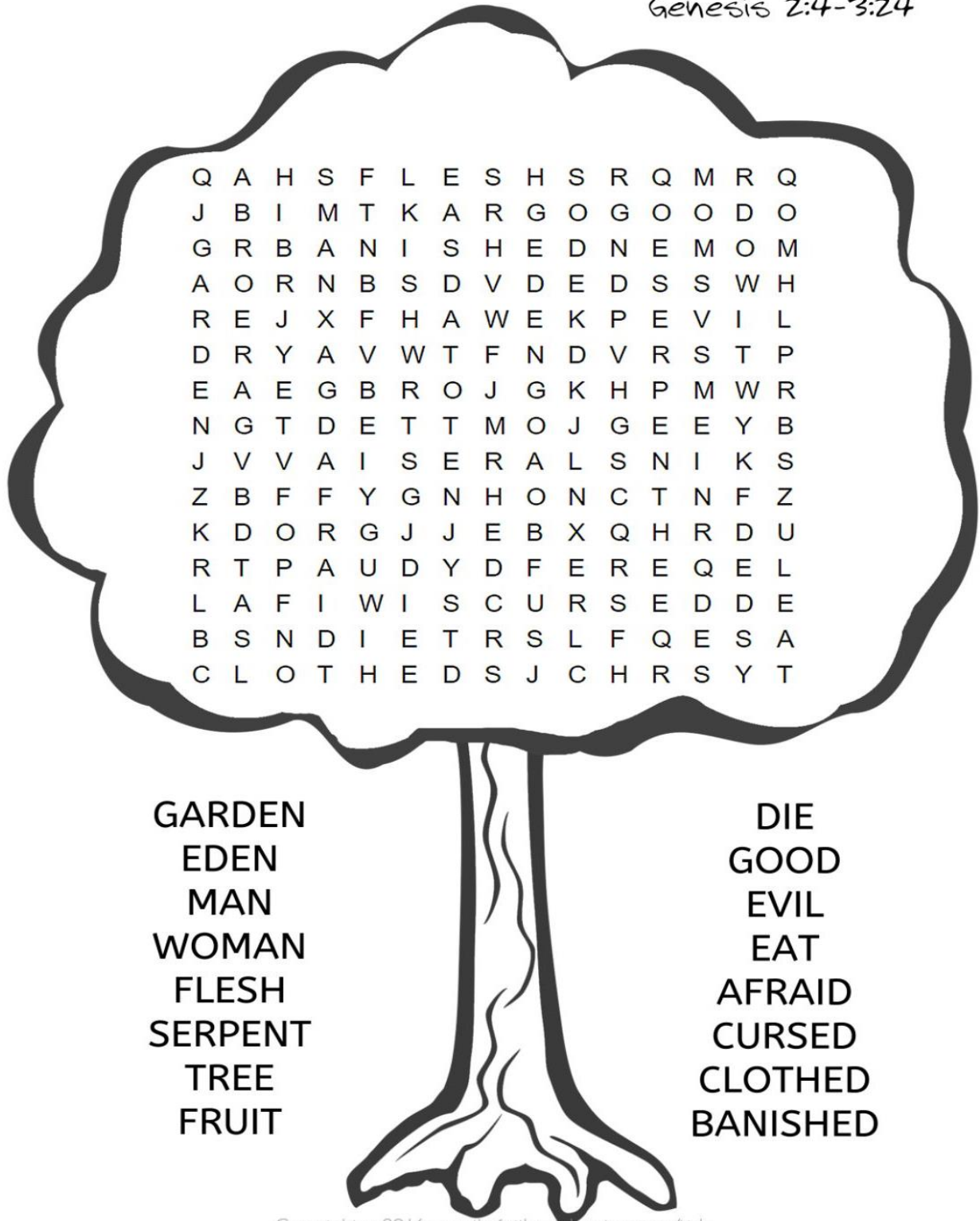
There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elanie Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam. Especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations those who have to be shown. One revelation at may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless..

Answers:

1-Amos, 2-Mark, 3-Luke, 4-John, 5-Joel, 6-Judges, 7-Job, 8-Hebrews, 9-Esther, 10-Acts, 11-James, 12-Ruth, 13-Romans, 14-Titus, 15-Matthew, 16-Genesis, 17-Philemon, 18-Chronicles, 19-Daniel, 20-Nahum, 21-Hosea, 22-Lamentations, 23-Revelation, 24-Timothy, 25-Samuel, 26-Numbers, 27-Malachi, 28-Peter, 29-Exodus, 30-Kings.

# Adam and Eve Word Search

Genesis 2:4-3:24

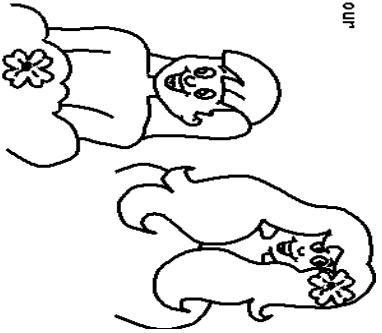


GARDEN  
EDEN  
MAN  
WOMAN  
FLESH  
SERPENT  
TREE  
FRUIT

DIE  
GOOD  
EVIL  
EAT  
AFRAID  
CURSED  
CLOTHED  
BANISHED

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Adam & Eve Anagram



efil \_\_\_\_\_

einquu \_\_\_\_\_

aenprprt \_\_\_\_\_

adegnrr \_\_\_\_\_

dhppy \_\_\_\_\_

aekns \_\_\_\_\_

bdeiosy \_\_\_\_\_

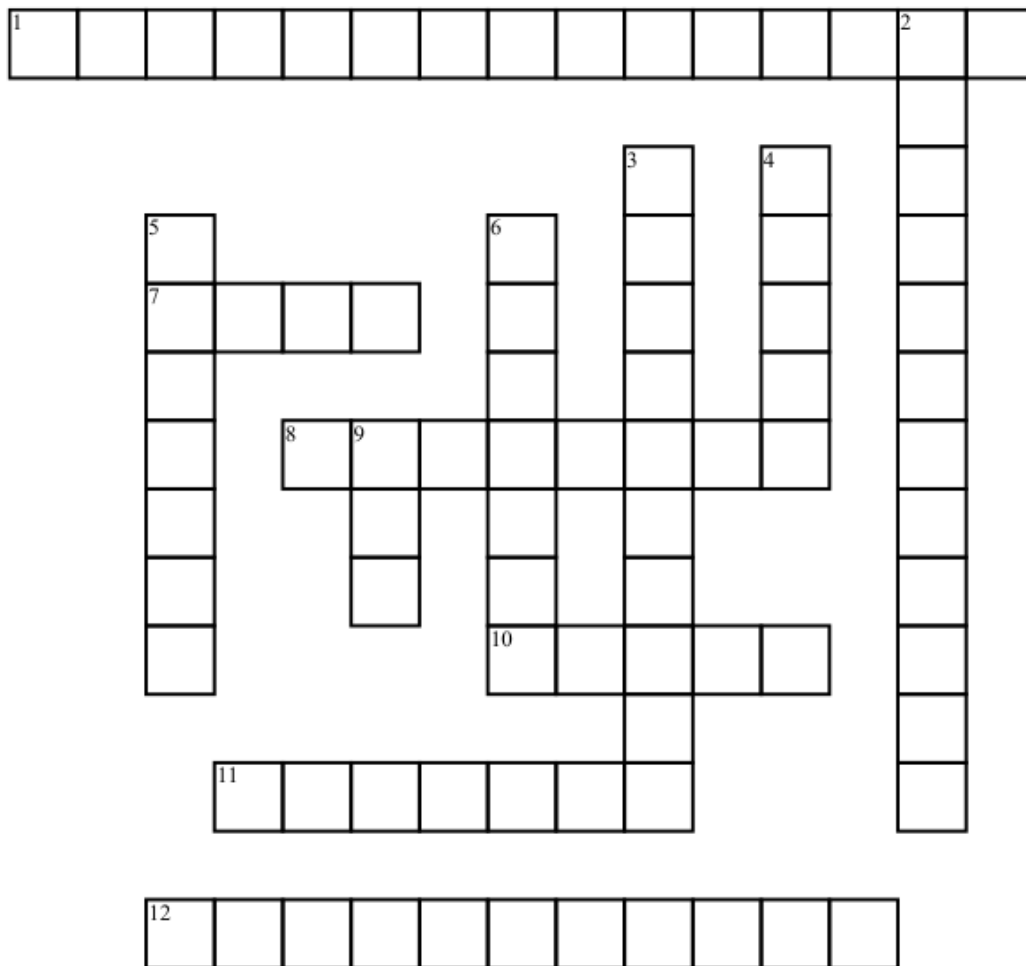
aadehms \_\_\_\_\_

cehlost \_\_\_\_\_

aeimnopstt \_\_\_\_\_



# Adam and Eve Crossword Puzzle



## Across

1. Where the fruit came from
7. Named the animals
8. Ability to choose
10. Told Eve to eat the fruit
11. To do wrong
12. We inherited this from Adam and Eve

## Down

2. Where Adam and Eve lived
3. Preserved from original sin
4. God sent to guard the Garden of Eden so no one could enter
5. Takes away original sin
6. Adam and Eve are considered our first

9. Taken from Adam to make Eve