

SANDY SILVERTHORNE

KIDS'

BIG

QUESTIONS

FOR

GOD

101 Things You Want to Know



Other Books by Sandy Silverthorne

Crack Yourself Up Jokes for Kids

More Crack Yourself Up Jokes for Kids

Made You Laugh!

Now That's Funny

The Best Worst Dad Jokes

The Big Book of Crack Yourself Up Jokes for Kids

KIDS'
BIG
QUESTIONS
FOR
GOD

101 Things You Want to Know



SANDY SILVERTHORNE


Revell

*a division of Baker Publishing Group
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

Sandy Silverthorne, Kids' Big Questions for God
Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2023. Used by permission.

© 2023 by Sandy Silverthorne

Published by Revell

a division of Baker Publishing Group

PO Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287

www.revellbooks.com

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Silverthorne, Sandy, 1951– author.

Title: Kids' big questions for God : 101 things you want to know / Sandy Silverthorne.

Description: Grand Rapids : Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2023.

| Audience: Ages 6–10 | Audience: Grades 2–3

Identifiers: LCCN 2022028666 | ISBN 9780800741761 (paperback) | ISBN 9781493439874 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: God (Christianity)—Juvenile literature. | God (Christianity)—Miscellanea.

Classification: LCC BT107 .S55 2023 | DDC 231—dc23/eng/20220803

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022028666>

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the International Children's Bible®, copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations labeled ESV are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2016

Scripture quotations labeled NKJV are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations labeled PHILLIPS are from The New Testament in Modern English by J. B. Phillips copyright © 1960, 1972 J. B. Phillips. Administered by The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. Used by Permission.

Scripture quotations labeled TLB are from The Living Bible, copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The author is represented by WordServe Literary Group, www.wordserve literary.com.

Baker Publishing Group publications use paper produced from sustainable forestry practices and post-consumer waste whenever possible.

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Sandy Silverthorne, Kids' Big Questions for God
Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2023. Used by permission.

To Vicki:
It's such an adventure discovering
the big questions in life with you.

To Christy:
I am so proud of who you're becoming in the Lord.
Plus, we do have a lot of fun together.

To the kids and leaders at Camp Harlow in Oregon:
You were the first ones to inspire this book with your
amazing, big questions. Love being with you guys.

CONTENTS



Introduction: Got questions? 15

- 1. Who created God? 17**
- 2. How old is God? 19**
- 3. Why did God create the world? Was He lonely? 21**
- 4. What's the Bible? 25**
- 5. Who wrote the Bible? 26**
- 6. Is the Bible for real? 27**
- 7. What's the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament? 31**
- 8. Who were Adam and Eve? 34**
- 9. How did Adam and Eve fill the whole world with people? 36**

Contents

- 10.** Is Jesus really God? 38
- 11.** What's God like? Part 1 40
- 12.** What's God like? Part 2 42
- 13.** What's God's favorite thing? 45
- 14.** If God is good, why does bad stuff happen? 46
- 15.** Will there be animals in heaven? 49
- 16.** Does God really love everyone? Even if they don't believe in Him? 52
- 17.** Can we make God sad or upset? 54
- 18.** How much does God love me? 56
- 19.** What about dinosaurs? Did they really exist? 58
- 20.** What about other religions? Are they the same as believing in Jesus? 61
- 21.** How do I know for sure that God exists? 63
- 22.** Can God help me when I'm nervous? 66
- 23.** Where does God live? 68
- 24.** Why did God create mosquitoes? 70
- 25.** Does God sleep? 71
- 26.** Why did God rest on the seventh day of creation? Was He tired? 73
- 27.** Can we see God? 76

Contents

- 28.** Can Christians hear God talking to them? 77
- 29.** Was Jesus a real person? 80
- 30.** What was Jesus's last name? 82
- 31.** Did Jesus have any brothers and sisters? 84
- 32.** Did Jesus get along with His brothers and sisters? 86
- 33.** Did Jesus really cry? 88
- 34.** Why did Jesus do miracles? 90
- 35.** Why did Jesus speak in parables? 92
- 36.** Why did Jesus always wear a robe? 94
- 37.** Can Jesus fly? 96
- 38.** Did Jesus ever go to school? 99
- 39.** Did Jesus really walk on water? How did He do that? 102
- 40.** Does God still heal people today? 104
- 41.** What if God doesn't heal the person I prayed for? 106
- 42.** Is it okay to go to the doctor or take medicine when I'm sick, or should I just pray? 109
- 43.** Why should we go to church if God is everywhere? 111
- 44.** How does God hear all our prayers at once? 113

Contents

- 45.** Does God laugh? 116
- 46.** Does God cry? 117
- 47.** Did God create the internet? 118
- 48.** Did God create the food chain? 120
- 49.** Was there really a big flood during Noah's lifetime? 122
- 50.** How did God make rainbows? 124
- 51.** Did Jonah really get swallowed by a fish? 126
- 52.** Why did God create germs? 128
- 53.** What's the deal with angels? Who are they and what do they do? 130
- 54.** What's a guardian angel? 132
- 55.** Does God have a name? 133
- 56.** Does God have thoughts? 135
- 57.** Why did God make different races? 137
- 58.** Are babies up in heaven just waiting to be born? 140
- 59.** Is God really watching me all the time? 142
- 60.** Can we really talk to God? 143
- 61.** Do we need to use certain words when we pray? 144
- 62.** Why does God want us to pray? 145

Contents

- 63.** Even though I'm a Christian and I love God, I still do bad stuff. What's going on? 147
- 64.** Why do we celebrate Christmas? 149
- 65.** Why do we call it Good Friday if that was the day Jesus died? 152
- 66.** Why do we celebrate Easter? 155
- 67.** Does God like kids? 157
- 68.** Why did Jesus have to die? 159
- 69.** I still don't understand how Jesus took the penalty for me. How did He do that? 161
- 70.** Did Jesus really rise from the dead? 164
- 71.** What's heaven like? 166
- 72.** Is there a McDonald's in heaven? 168
- 73.** Is there really a hell? What's it like? 170
- 74.** Why would God send someone to hell? 172
- 75.** Do I have to be good to go to heaven? 173
- 76.** Will I look the same in heaven? Will my family and friends recognize me? 175
- 77.** Will there be cars in heaven? 177
- 78.** I know somebody who swears a lot and uses bad language. Does that mean they'll go to hell when they die? 179

Contents

- 79.** What about people who have never heard of Jesus? What happens to them? 180
- 80.** I watched my friend get baptized at church. What does that mean? 183
- 81.** Does it matter how I speak to people? 185
- 82.** Do I really have to love people I don't like? How can I do that? 186
- 83.** Why doesn't God just make us all follow Him? 188
- 84.** Does God want me to be kind to animals? 190
- 85.** Is it important for me to take care of the earth? 192
- 86.** How does God help people nowadays? 194
- 87.** Why are we supposed to worship God? 196
- 88.** Why are there so many different churches? 198
- 89.** Was David a real person or was he make-believe? 201
- 90.** Is the story of David and Goliath real? 202
- 91.** Why did Jesus pray? 205
- 92.** Where do we have to pray? 207
- 93.** Is it okay to be mad when I pray, or should I wait until I'm happy? 209

Contents

- 94.** Why do people say “amen” after their prayers? 211
 - 95.** When is a good time to pray? 212
 - 96.** Why does God take so long to answer our prayers sometimes? 213
 - 97.** Am I really supposed to be good to others? Even my brother? 215
 - 98.** Why does God want us to be thankful? 217
 - 99.** Does God want me to help the poor? 219
 - 100.** When Jesus comes back, is that the end of the world? That sounds scary. When will that happen? 221
 - 101.** Does God like pizza? 223
- How do I become a Christian?* 225
- Daily Reading Plan* 227

Introduction

Got questions?

Who created God? How old is He? Will there be animals in heaven? Why did God create mosquitoes? These and tons of other questions kids wonder about are all answered in this fun, informative book. Did Jesus really walk on water? Did He really heal people? Why? Where does God live? Why does bad stuff happen? Sometimes when we're getting to know God, we might think it's not okay to ask questions. After all, aren't we just supposed to trust Him and do what He says? Absolutely. God knows what's best for us, so we can always trust Him. But it's also okay to wonder about things. In fact, He wants us to come to Him for answers to all of life's questions—BIG and small.

Hopefully this book will help answer a lot of your questions about God, but always remember, there are some things about Him we'll never be able to figure out. After all, He's so GINORMOUS and SUPER SMART that some things we'll just have to trust Him with. Meanwhile, let's get started. Let's search for the answers to some BIG questions for God.

Introduction

One way to use this book is to read one of these questions a day as a devotion in the morning or evening. Or feel free to read as many as you want at one time. It's up to you!

By the way, as you go through this book, you'll discover some Bible verses. They'll look like this: Genesis 1:3-5 or John 3:16. If you have a Bible with you, try looking up the verses we talk about. Your mom or dad might help you with this. That way you'll discover some new things and start to learn how to study your Bible.

Who created God?

You have always been, and you will always be.

Psalm 90:2

Since everything we know in our lives had a beginning, this is a perfectly natural question to ask. After all, your cat or dog was born at some point. Somebody built the house you live in, and even your school was constructed once. Those big trees outside started as tiny little seeds, and come to think of it, even you were born! So, who created God? Well, get ready to have your brain expanded.

You ready? Here it comes . . . Nobody created God! And to make things even harder to understand . . . get ready . . . He's been around forever! He never began. He's always been here. Whoa. I need to sit down for a second. Yup, the Bible (we'll talk more about that soon) says that God has been around forever. Check out what Psalm 90:2 says about God: "Before the mountains were born, and before you created the earth and the



world, you are God. You have always been, and you will always be.”

Whoa. And get ready for this: Not only has God been around forever, but He's going to *be* around forever too. Wow, that's a long time and that's some big God we're talking about. So, the answer to the question “Who created God?” is nobody! He's the beginning of life itself!

How old is God?

To you, a thousand years
is like the passing of a day.
It passes like an hour in the night.

Psalm 90:4

This kind of goes along with the last question, “Who created God?” Since God was never created and He has no beginning, there’s no way to say how old He is. You see, here’s another one of those explode-your-brain facts about God. Okay, you ready? He lives outside of time.

In fact, God *created* time. Whoa! What’s that again? Yeah, I know. Let me say it again. God created time. Look at Genesis 1:3–5 (the first book in the Bible): “Then God said, ‘Let there be light.’ And light appeared. And God was pleased with it and divided the light from the darkness. He called the light ‘daytime,’ and the darkness ‘nighttime.’ Together they formed the first day” (TLB). Then verses 16–19 say that God made the sun and the moon and basically created a day—time—and there we



have it! In fact, if you really want to check it out, look at Psalm 118:24: “This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it” (TLB).

See, God actually made days! Hard to understand, isn't it? It's easier to wrap your head around the fact that He created the mountains and the oceans and the rivers and you and me, but creating time?

How does somebody do that? Good question. I don't know, but He did.

So you see, God's not limited by time because He's outside of it and even created it. That's how He can always be around forever.



Above and Beyond

Impress your parents! Tell them that God is a *transcendent* God. That means He's above and beyond everything: space, time, the world, the universe—everything. Explain this to your parents; they'll be really impressed.

Why did God create the world? Was He lonely?

So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.

Genesis 1:27

That's a great question, and no, to start off, God is never lonely. Here's another one of those hard-to-understand facts about God. You know the drill: Hold on to your head. God is one person, but He's also three persons: God the Father, God the Son—Jesus—and God the Holy Spirit. He's three people in one! So be assured, God is never lonely. Then why did He create the world and all the people in it? There are three reasons:



1. God created us basically to show Himself off! He made people “in His image” so we could reflect what God is like to let everyone know there is a God and that He is love.

2. God made the world because He gets great delight out of creating things. Just look around you. Can you see mountains or rivers? Are there trees? Do you live by, or have you ever visited, the Pacific or Atlantic Ocean? Pretty awesome, isn't it? God is a creative God; it's just who He is. He naturally creates, so He created nature, animals, and you and me!
3. God is filled with love. In fact, He has so much love that He's overflowing with it! He created people in order to share all of His love with us. And guess what? God's still creating things today! Trees, streams, lakes, puppies, kittens, and even new little babies.

Why did God create the world? Was He lonely?

Draw a picture of your best friend.

List five things you like about them.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

TALK IT
OVER

God Knows Your Name

I've got some questions you can talk over with your mom, dad, or small group. Try reading each question out loud, then let each person answer. Remember, there are no wrong answers; these are here to help you grow in your understanding of who God is.

Did you know that the Bible tells us God is our Father, He knows us by name, and He loves us?

1. God wants to be as close to you as a family member. How does that make you feel?
2. If God were sitting here right now, what would you ask Him?
3. We often think to talk to God about hard stuff we're going through, but did you know that He wants to know all about the good stuff too? What are some good things going on in your life right now?
4. What are some things you might need God's help with right now?

What's the Bible?

Every word of God can be trusted.
He protects those who come to him for safety.

Proverbs 30:5

The Bible is a book, or actually a collection of books, written over a period of about 1,500 years. There are sixty-six books altogether, and they were written by about forty writers. The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, was written in the Hebrew language, while the New Testament, where you'll find the stories about Jesus and His followers, was written in Greek. God used men to write the Bible so we could get to know Him and understand what He's like. While the Bible contains poems, stories, history, and books of wisdom, every single part of the book points us to Jesus. Even the really old stuff in Genesis and Exodus!

5

Who wrote the Bible?

Write down these words.

Exodus 34:27

The Bible was written by forty different people. Some of them were government officials, like Nehemiah, or God's spokesmen, like Isaiah or Jeremiah. A couple were fishermen: John and Peter. And one was a tax collector: Matthew. King David of Israel (remember David and Goliath?) wrote most of the book of Psalms, and his son Solomon wrote most of the book of Proverbs. Even though the Bible was written over 1,500 years in two different languages, the message is the same: God knows you, He sees you, and He loves you.

In the
Beginning

