

BIBLE LESSONS

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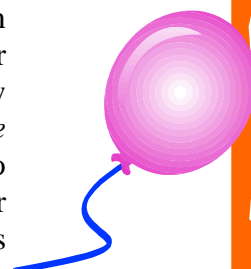
LESSON 4: GOD IS REAL AND KNOWS ABOUT YOU

AIM: That the children know that God is alive and that He knows all about them. That they don't have to try to be someone else because God loves them for the person they are.

OPENING IDEA:

MATERIALS: Two marbles, a balloon and a pin. Put one marble inside the deflated balloon.

(Hold up marble) Imagine you are this marble, but you don't really like yourself a lot because you compare yourself with others. So you try to make yourself look bigger and better than everyone else, hoping that you will like yourself better and others will want to be your friend. *(Blow up the balloon with the marble inside and tie the top.)* But every now and then something happens which really shows you for the person you are *(bust the balloon)*. You find you are just the same person as before—just like this marble is no different whether it is in or out of the balloon. God can see through our 'balloons' or acts or pretences and He knows what we think and how we feel deep inside and knows all that we have ever said or done, but loves us just the same.



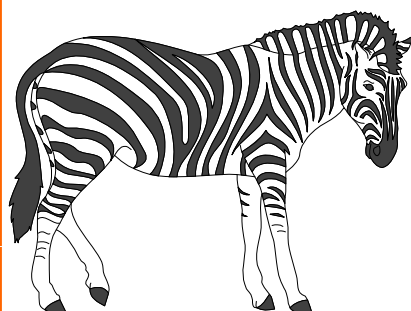
MEMORY VERSE: *'You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts.'* (Psalm 139:2)

ACTIVITY: Put children into pairs, give several minutes for them to share with each other one thing that the other person would not know about them, e.g. their granny's name, or the colour of their bedroom, or where they were born, etc. Reassemble and each child must say the thing they have learnt about their partner. Remind the children that God doesn't have to find out about us from someone else, He already knows.

STORY: ANIMALS THAT HIDE

Have you ever broken your mother's favourite dish or your father's new paintbrush? Right away, you wished there was some place to hide. It would help if you could become the colour of the wall and no one could see you. If you were an animal, it might be easy to get away with. Some creatures match the forest or desert they live in so well, you could practically step on them without knowing.

The white-tailed jackrabbit does this extremely well. It lives in the cold northern hemisphere and mountainous areas. When the snows come, this rabbit turns white. It can flatten itself and the sharpest eye will miss it. In the Spring, the same rabbit turns a brown-grey colour and is just as difficult to find. The American coyote blends into its background, too, and this makes it an excellent hunter. They can sneak up on their dinner because the coyote is the same colour as the fields in which it hunts.



If we had to choose the animal that is easiest to find, it might be a zebra. Some states in the USA used to dress prisoners in black and white stripes to make them easy to see if they tried to escape. But don't be fooled, the zebra can be terribly hard to find. The zebra lives in Central Africa and likes to stay in crowds. Their herds may number 20 or sometimes grow to 1,000. If it had its way, the zebra would merely stay with its own kind and munch grass all day. Sometimes they are captured and

used as horses. The result is usually a disaster. They have mean tempers and can't be trusted. A zebra isn't afraid to kick and can do a tremendous amount of damage.

If it wasn't for man, the lion could be the zebra's only natural enemy. It would seem the zebra is an easy victim for the lion. Actually a zebra can put up a terrific fight. They have sharp teeth and can kick a lion dizzy. When three or four zebras start smashing the lion, he may wish he were somewhere else.

Usually lions go hunting just before dark. This is when the zebra stripes start working. In the half dark dusk of the evening, they are extremely difficult to see. What seems like a strange colour combination really helps the zebra disappear.

Even in the grey evening, God would have no trouble seeing the zebra. No one can hide from Him or get lost in the crowd. Wherever we are and whatever we are doing, we are still under the careful eye of God. Each of us is special to our heavenly Father. When no one else knows what we are doing, He does. He knows about the good things we do even when no one else thanks us.

"If I try to hide in the darkness, the night becomes light around me. For even darkness cannot hide from God; to You, the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are both alike to You." (Psalm 139:11,12).

QUESTIONS: How does the white tailed jackrabbit hide?
How does a zebra fight a lion?
Who carefully watches us day and night?

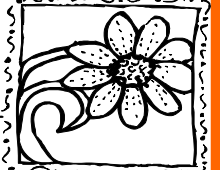
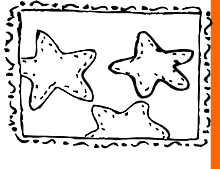
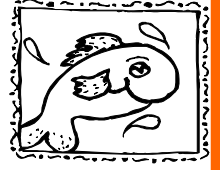
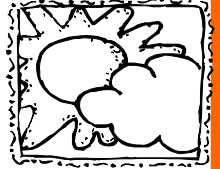
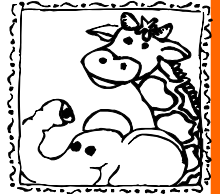
STRESS POINTS:

- God is alive—we cannot see Him with our eyes, but we can see what He has made (creation).
- We cannot see the wind, but we know that it exists (flags flying, trees swaying, the feel of the wind in our hair and against our skin).
- We cannot see God, but know that He answers prayer, we can feel Him when we worship and know in our heart that He has taken our sin away.
- God cares about us, He knows where we are night and day because He loves us.

PSALM 139:1-12 - This passage of Scripture can be read by putting a child's name in the place of 'I' and 'me', e.g. 'Lord, you have examined "Linda" and you know her...'. This will help to make God's Word very personal to the children.

STRESS POINTS: God knows me (v.1)
God knows my thoughts (v.2)
God sees all my actions (v.3)
God knows my words before I say them (v.4)
God is all around me by His Spirit (v.5)
God knows everything. He is omniscient (v.6)
There is nowhere I can go to flee from God (v.7)
God is in heaven and in the place of the dead (v.8)
God is in outer space (v.9)
God helps me wherever I am; His hand is comforting and guiding me (v.10)
God can see through the darkness (this may be a good verse for children who are afraid of the dark) (vv.11,12).

SONGS: My God Knows Me





GOD IS REAL - PSALM 139

O Lord, you have searched _____ and you know me (139:1).

You know everything I do; from far away you understand all _____'s thoughts (139:2).



You see all my actions; wherever I go, whether I'm coming or going, you are there. You know all _____'s ways (139:3).

You know _____'s words before I say them (139:4)

You are all around _____. Wherever I go you are there (139:5).

_____ can hardly understand how great you are and all that you do in my life (139:6).



There's nowhere _____ can go where You're not there by your Spirit. You are in the highest heavens and the deepest oceans (139:7,8).

At the start of each new day, You are always there to guide and protect _____ (139:9,10).

You can see _____ even in the darkness. The darkness cannot hide the light of your love in my life (139:11,12).

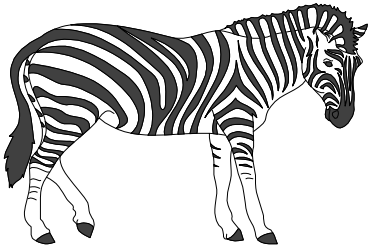
Although _____ cannot see you, I see your hand in creation. Like the wind, I cannot see it but when I see it blowing the trees and flags, I know it exists. There's nowhere I can go to hide from you and your love.



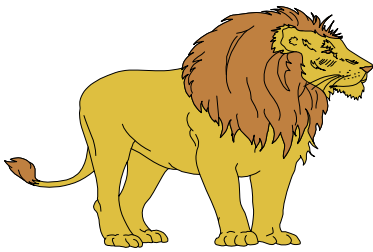
Write your name on each line.

NOWHERE TO HIDE FROM GOD

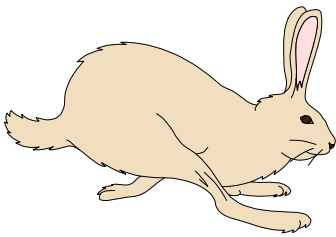
Some animals are made so they can hide, but there's nowhere we can go to hide from God. He created us and He knows where we are day and night, because



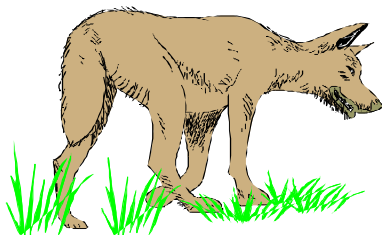
Z _ _ _ _



L _ _ _



J _ _ _ _ _ _ _



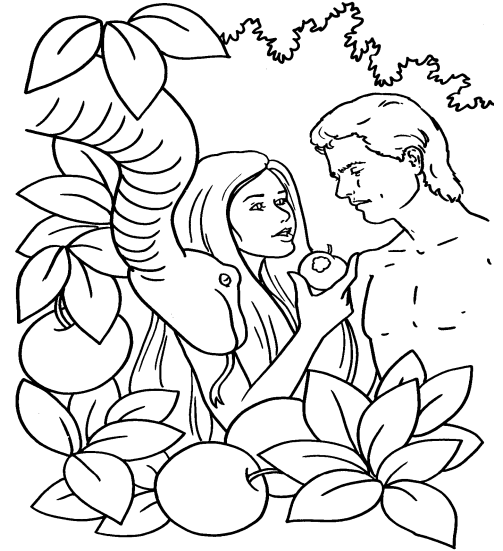
C _ _ _ _ _

How does the white tailed jackrabbit hide?

How does a zebra fight a lion?

Who watches over us day and night?

GOD KNOWS YOU and GOD LOVES YOU



Using your Bible, look up Psalm 139, and fill in the missing words from the word list below

God _____ me (v1)

God knows my _____ (v2)

God sees all my _____ (v3)

God _____ all my ways (v3)

God knows my _____ before I say them (v4)

God's protective _____ is upon me (v5)

God is all _____ me by His Spirit (v5)

God knows _____. He is omniscient (v6)

There is nowhere I can go to _____ from God (v7)

God is in _____ and in the place of the dead (v8)

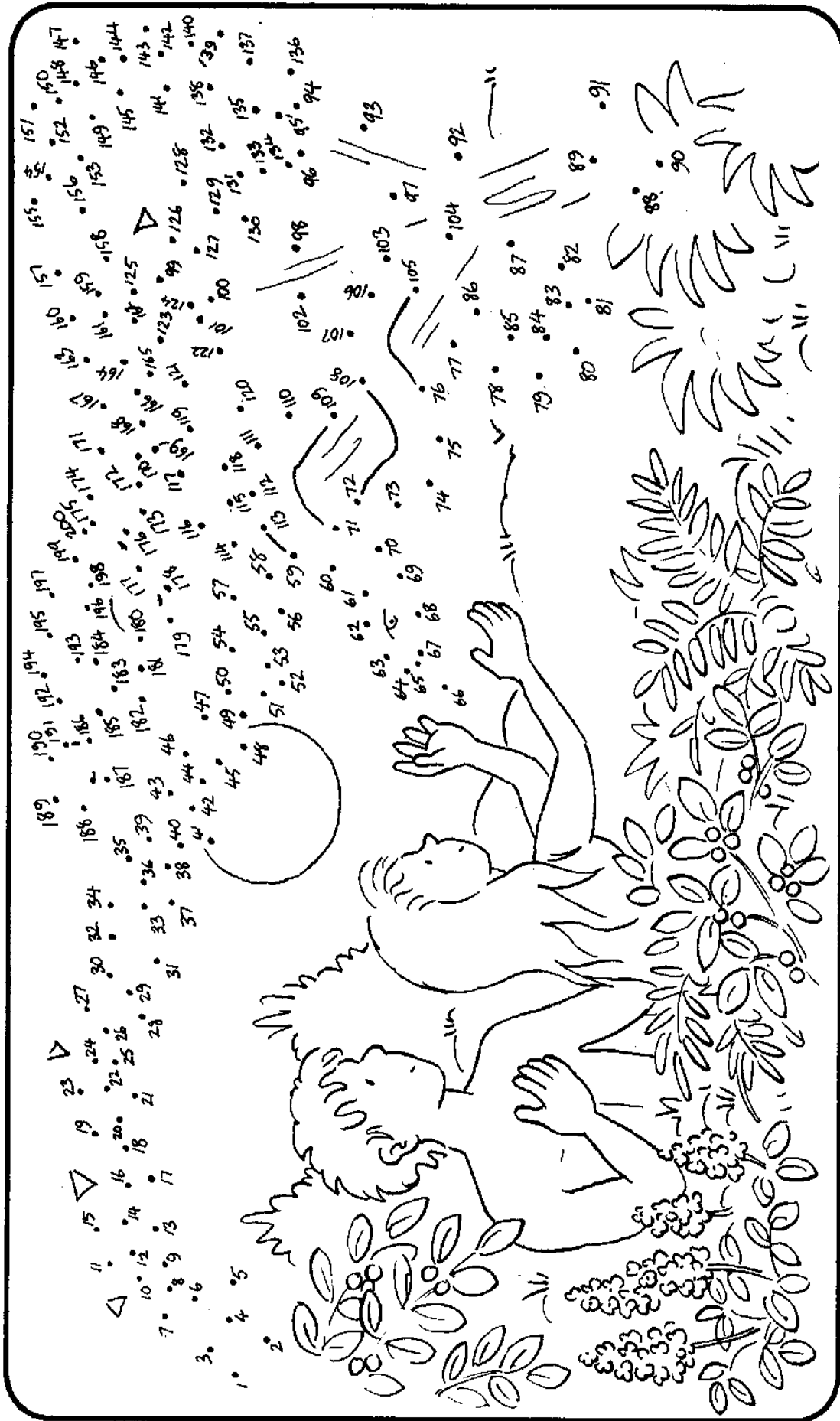
God is in the uttermost parts of the _____ (v9)

God's comforting hand will keep me _____ wherever I am (v10)

Not even the _____ can keep God from seeing me (v11)

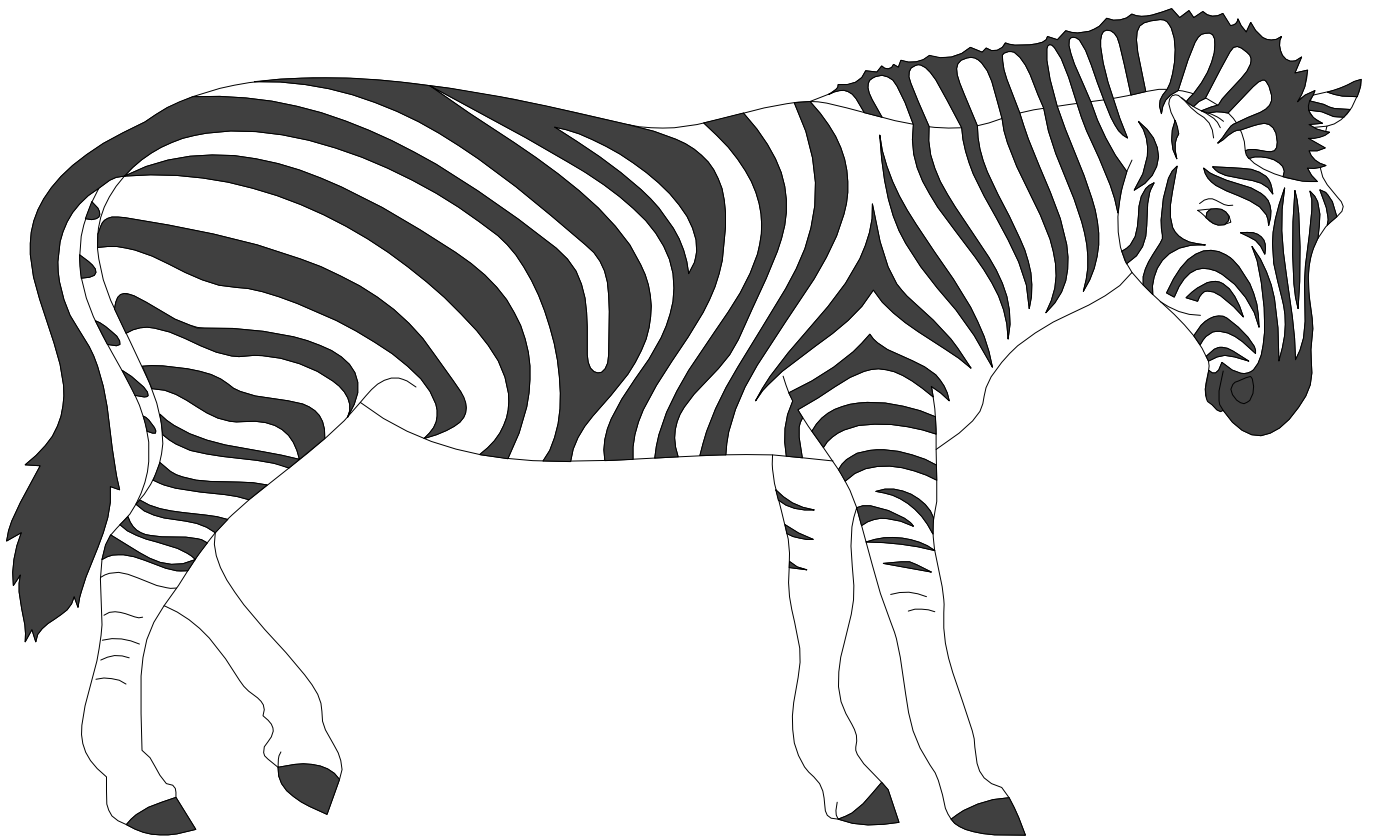
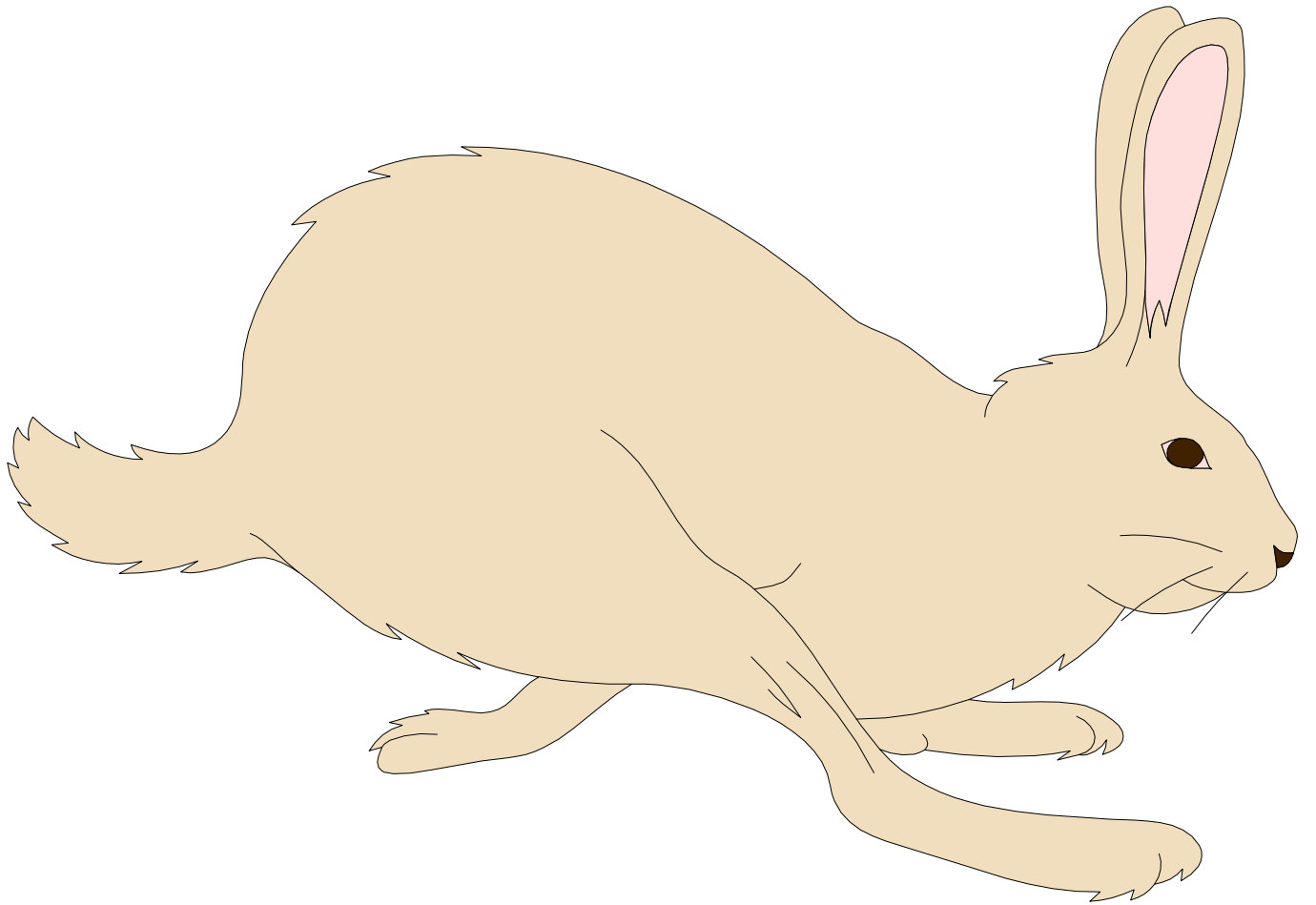
- Spirit
- darkness
- Actions
- universe
- knows
- flee
- around
- safe
- understands
- words
- everything
- thoughts
- hand
- heaven

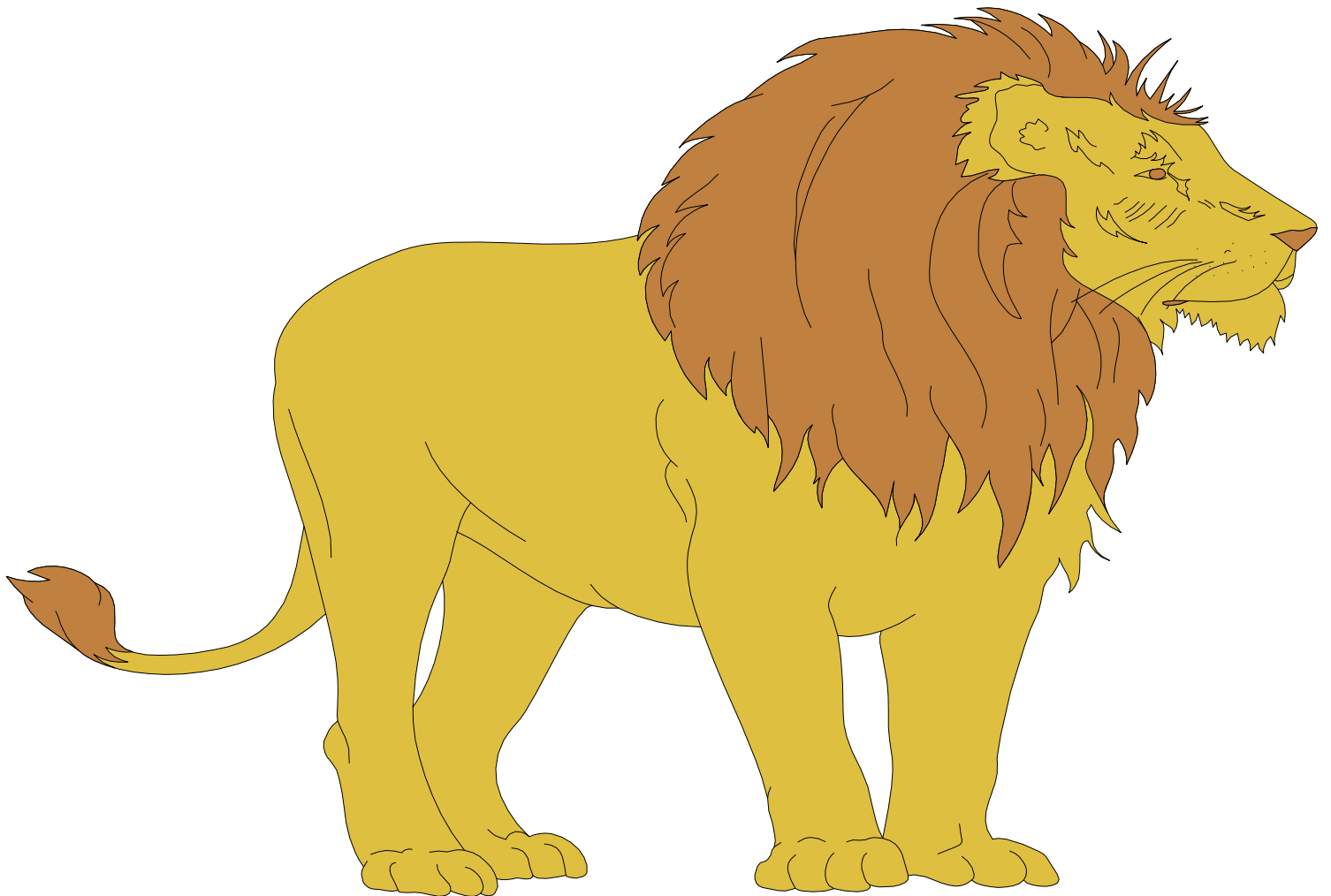
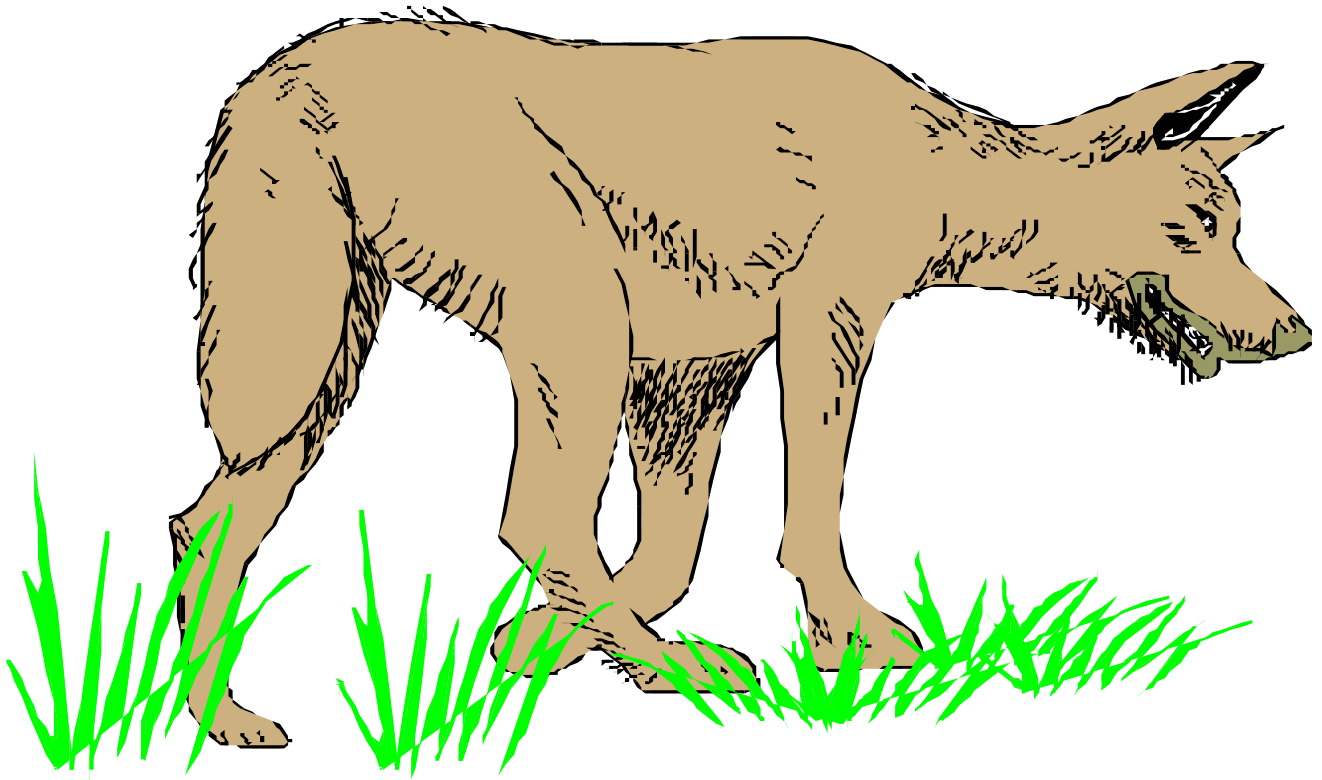
Adam and Eve tried to hide from God

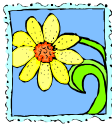


Join up the dots. What is about to trick Eve into doing wrong?

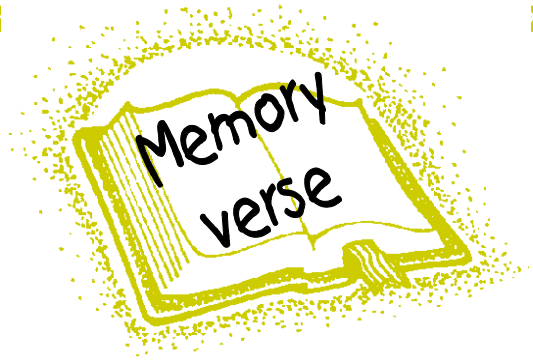
You can find this story in Genesis chapter 3, verses 1-7.







Unscramble these words
from Psalm 139:2
and write them on the lines below.



Oyu

wkon

tgiheeyvrn

I

od;

mrof

rfa

wyaa

oyu

urdnaestd

lal

ym

gothutsh.

Psalm 139:2

