

DON'T BUST YOUR BRAIN!

Don't lose your head.

To gain a minute.

You need your head.

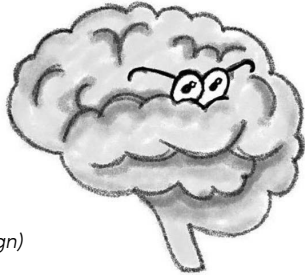
Your brains are in it! (*Burma Shave Sign*)

I'm sure you know that your brain is very important. It gets you up in the morning.

It tells you when you need to eat your lunch.

It reminds you to turn right or left when you want to get somewhere.

Your brain stores all sorts of information inside – words and pictures, directions and instructions.



EXTRA FACT:

Your brain weighs 1.3 kg and generates enough electricity to power a lightbulb.

It's your brain that knows about your world, your family, your friends and God. Just as it's important to put information into your head so that you don't get hurt or lost – it's important to put the right information about God into your brain. Without the correct information you could find yourself believing a lie. It's only through finding out what the truth is that you will spot a fraud! And there are a lot of frauds out there. However, if you are to be a true Bible Brainiac you need to know God himself – not just facts about him. So, being a Bible Brainiac needs more than books. It's more than knowing facts. Reading good books is important – but to really know God you need more than just information.

Many people think they know God but in reality they don't. They believe a lie or a fiction. Many people know about God but they don't actually know him. More about that later. For now, keep your brain in gear because God made your brain and it's a serious piece of kit. Your brain is very cool. It's amazing. It's mind-boggling even.

Did you know that before you were born your brain was gathering information and learning what to do with it?

A baby inside the womb starts to hear at eighteen weeks. They can use their eyes at eight weeks old. But the human brain begins even earlier than that – at six weeks old. From that point on the human brain is working at sorting out all the information that comes its way – through touch, taste, smell, hearing and eyesight.

**EXTRA
FACT:**

At the same time as the brain starts to function during Week 6 the unborn baby also starts to form taste-buds and begins to hiccup!

Your brain does a lot even before you've chewed a book into a moist pulpy mess in your crib. A baby's brain has thought about and remembered all the different things its little baby eyes have looked at, and its little baby ears have listened to. The youngest baby has a brain that is faster and cleverer than a super-computer!


You may not be a scientist, or a librarian, you may not even have passed an exam – yet God has made you very smart.

Your brain judges the distance between your hand and the table and you're able to grab a cup and pour a drink. The calculations involved in that simple action are humongous.

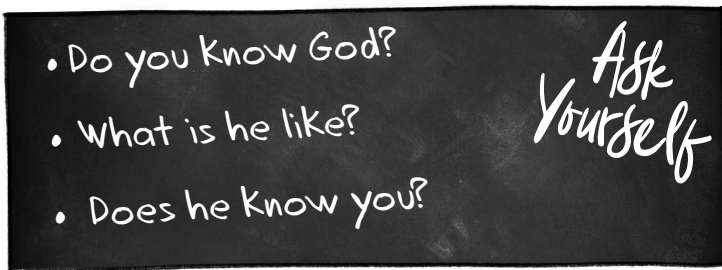
How many times in your life have you brushed your teeth? Thousands probably. From the very first time you did it your brain has learned how much force it usually takes to brush your teeth and how hard you need to hold the brush in order not to drop it. However, your brain also does something else. Each time you brush your teeth your brain realises that there are other things that might happen to make you drop the brush. Your brain has learned over time that it doesn't know everything. So, every time you brush your teeth and grip hold of the brush your brain

tells your hand to grip the brush a little bit tighter and firmer just in case.¹

So, pat yourself on the back, you are a genius, at least at getting a cookie out of the jar and into your mouth without dropping it. God has created you as a true masterpiece – you’re brilliant. There are so many things that he has made you able to do and learn to do. But you’re more than just brain cells and information. There’s more to you than skin, bones, neurons, and a funky hair style.



If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you (*James 1:5 NIV*).

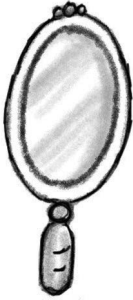


- Do you know God?
- What is he like?
- Does he know you?

Ask Yourself

1 Get a grip: The neuroscience of how we pick things up, The Boston Globe – <https://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2015/08/27/get-grip-the-neuroscience-how-pick-things/3XPqgZMVEgMPmIYX0cMooK/story.html>

SKIN AND BONES!



You have a body but God has made you with a soul – that’s the real you. And it’s that real you that really needs to know him. There is more to knowledge than books, science, or mathematics. Facts are just one sort of knowledge. Wisdom is another.

God has made you in his image. What does that mean? Well you look at your own image whenever you look in a mirror. When you choose clothes or get a new hair cut you are thinking about your body image – the way you look. But there is more to image than that. When you are thinking of your image, the way you speak and behave also comes into play. You probably think about the way you look physically, and the way you appear to others more than you realise. When you want to fit into a group you might think about the way you sound and appear to those people. However, being made in God’s image is more than your skin and bones. It means that God created human beings to be like him.

When an artist creates an image of someone in a painting or sculpture, they are making something for people to look at. The image in the gallery or town square is a representation of another person. The artist wants you to think about that person. Human beings were made in God's image so that they would show or reflect who God is. There is something in you, something about you, that should tell others something about God.

The next time you look in the mirror remember this – you are a mirror that shows the world what God is like. Even if you don't believe in God. When you create something artistic – it reflects the creative power of God who made the world in all its beauty. When you realise something is right or wrong, you are reflecting God. Someone who trusts God reflects him even more.

When you trust and love God, with all your heart, your life becomes a truer image of God, your Creator, and Jesus, your Saviour.

The thoughts you think. The emotions you feel. The words you say. The deeds you do. These all show the power, beauty and nature of God.

When we turn from our sin to trust in Jesus Christ the spoiled image is gradually restored.

One day that sin-spoiled image will be made perfect once again when God takes the believer to heaven through death. A hard thought to think about, but when you trust in God even death has hope.

There will come a day when even a believer's body will be made perfect. I wonder what that will be like? But let's get back to being a Bible Brainiac.

Another word for that is *wisdom*.

Wisdom is really important. Worldly wisdom happens when you know information and you know what to do with that information. It often comes with experience, which is why old people are usually called old and wise. An older person knows lots of things. They have real skills. They know how to do something and do it well. An old person will know something about someone – how old they are, where they live, and information like that. But they also know what that person needs and how to care for them. That's wisdom.

Godly wisdom is something even more important than that. It is a knowledge and understanding of God that helps us to make good decisions and follow God's directions in our lives. That sort of wisdom doesn't come with age, it doesn't come from being clever. It comes from truly knowing God and trusting in him. Wisdom is a gift from God. It's not something you earn or work for. It's a free gift from God to you.

That's magnificent. How amazing to be given such wonderful knowledge without any exams to pass! There aren't enough words to describe how brilliant God is.

True wisdom is realising that we are sinners, and that God requires sin-free perfection. But what is sin? What is a sinner?

You might not think you do anything wrong because you haven't ended up in jail or done anything that would get you in trouble with the police, your teacher or even your next-door neighbour! But the Bible says that all have sinned – so that means everyone has fallen short of God's perfect standard.

In a nut-shell that is what sin means – missing the mark. Not being perfect. Sin is whenever you do, say or think something that is against God's law. It is also when you don't do, say or think what he wants you to. Human beings sin by nature. But that's not an excuse. We're still responsible for everything we do and don't do. So we're sinners. God justly demands perfection and cannot stand to look on sin. It must be punished. So what can we do? Is there anything that we can do to sort things out? No. We cannot help ourselves.

Thankfully, God has not abandoned us. Although we deserve God's anger in his love and mercy he has made a rescue. God sent his one and only Son to this earth as a baby so that he would live the perfect sinless life instead of us. Jesus took God's anger by dying in our place. When we trust in Christ God's anger is dealt with, and sinners can come to God. Instead of being God's enemy forgiven sinners are his friends and even his beloved family.

Trusting in Jesus and what he has done is the key to unlocking true wisdom.

BIBLE
PROOF



All have sinned (*Romans 3:23 ESV*).

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (*Romans 6:23 ESV*).

- What would an image of you be like?
- How can you show the real God in your life?

Ask Yourself

BIBLE
PROOF



You are my friends if you do what I command you (*John 15:14 ESV*).

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (*Proverbs 18:24 ESV*).

**EXTRA
FACT:**

A baby recognises its mother at three months old. But a baby won't realise that the image in the mirror is them until they are about eighteen months old.

**BIBLE
PROOF**



God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness."
(Genesis 1:26 NIV).