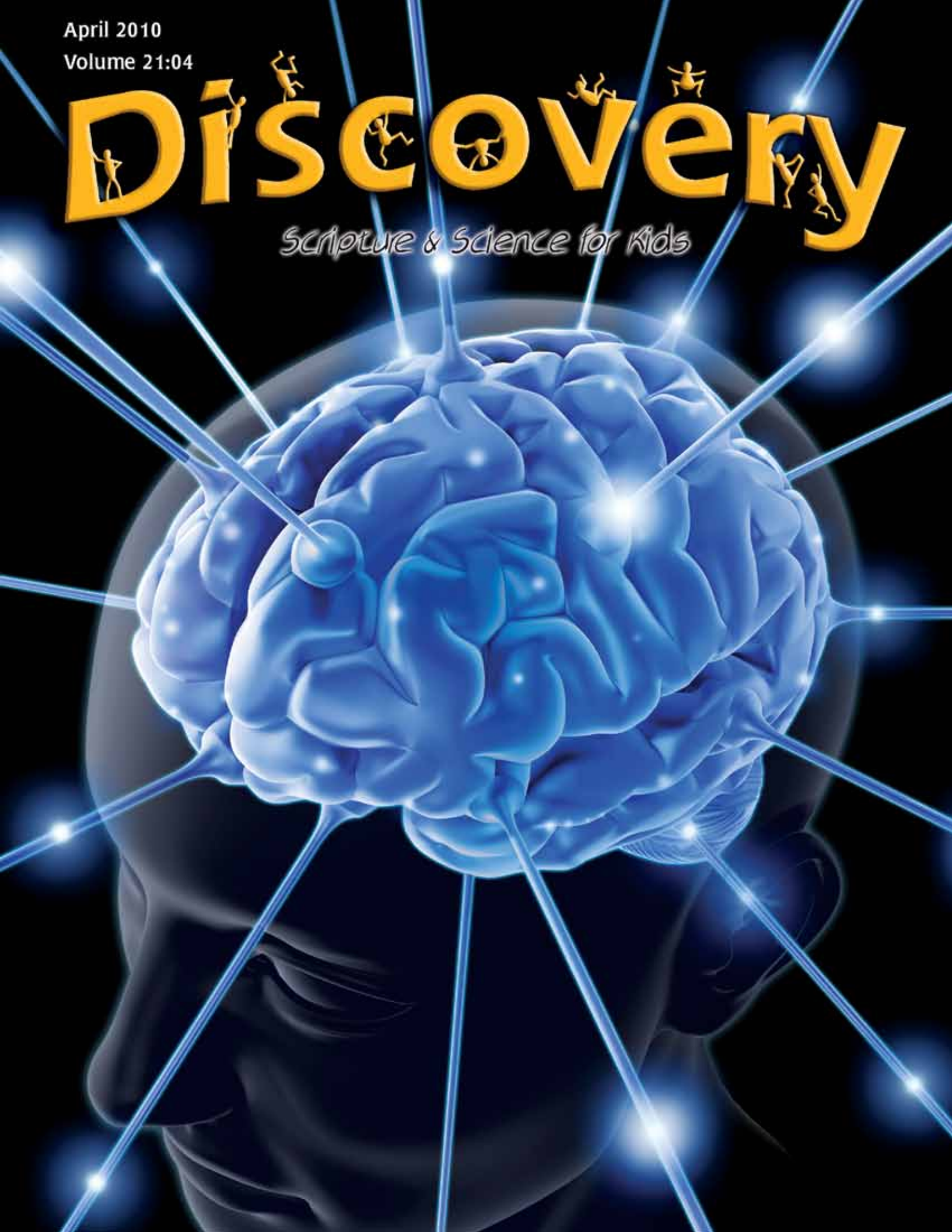


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Discovery

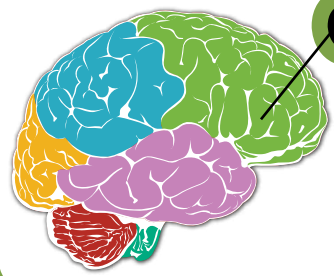
Scripture & Science for Kids



THE BRAIN IS PROOF OF GOD

DAVE MILLER

Someone has said that the brain is the most organized matter on Earth. It surely is—and it only weighs three pounds! Scientists and medical researchers have learned some incredible things about the brain. Yet they admit they know very little since the brain is so complex. The brain is divided into several parts or sections, each one apparently being responsible for controlling many different functions. For example, here are some of the functions that the frontal lobe (section) controls:



Frontal Lobe

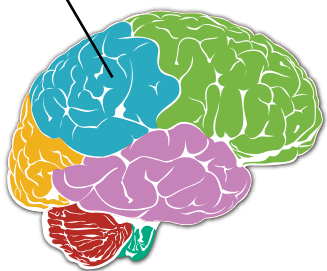
BEHAVIOR
THOUGHT PROCESSES
PROBLEM SOLVING
ATTENTION

CREATIVE THOUGHT
SOME EMOTION
INTELLECT
JUDGMENT
INITIATIVE
SENSE OF SMELL
SOME EYE MOVEMENTS
MUSCLE MOVEMENTS

Parietal Lobe

The parietal lobe is on the top area of the brain. Here is some of what it controls:

SENSE OF TOUCH
APPRECIATION OF FORM
RESPONSE TO INTERNAL ACTIONS
SOME LANGUAGE AND READING FUNCTIONS
SOME VISUAL FUNCTIONS

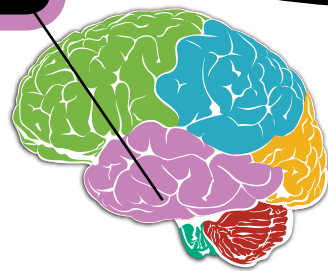


Temporal Lobe

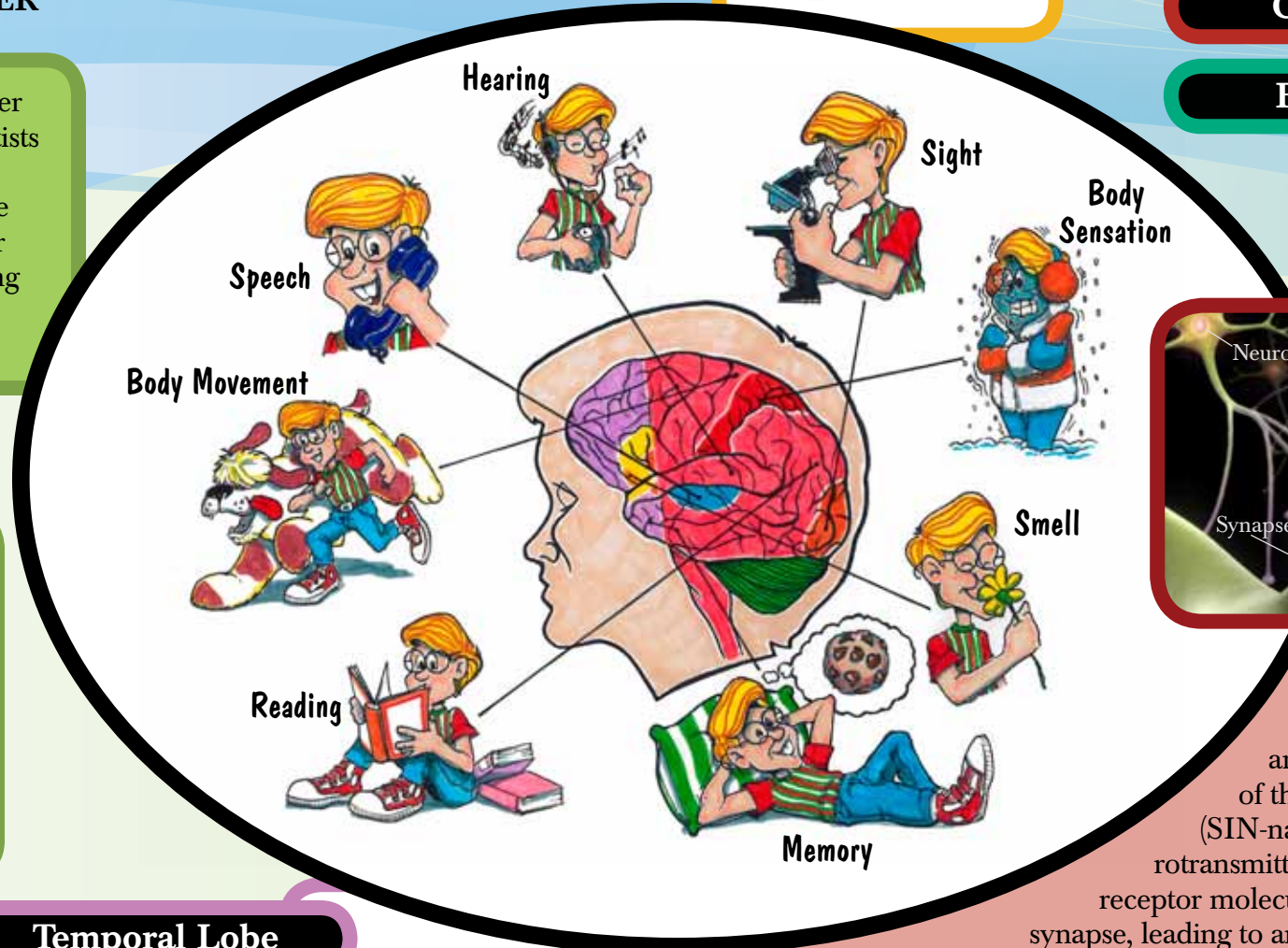
The temporal lobe, which is in the middle of the brain, controls many activities also:

SOME HEARING AND HEARING MEMORIES

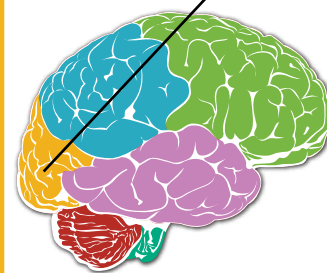
VISUAL MEMORIES
SOME VISION PATHWAYS
MUSIC
FEAR
SOME LANGUAGE



SOME SPEECH
SOME BEHAVIOR AND EMOTIONS
SENSE OF IDENTITY

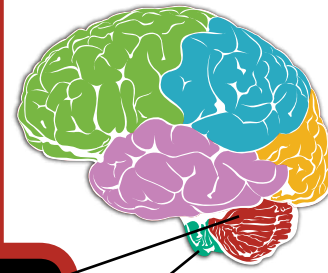


Occipital Lobe



The occipital (ahk SIP uh toll) lobe is at the very back of the brain and controls vision and reading.

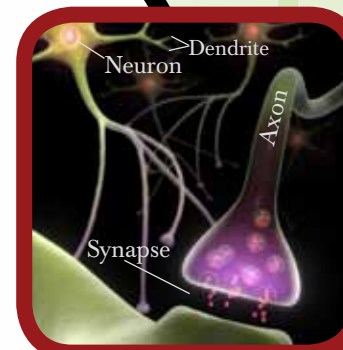
Cerebellum



Then there is the cerebellum (sarah BELL um), at the base of the brain, which controls balance and posture, heart and lungs, and the nerves and muscles that cause blood

Brain Stem

vessels to constrict or dilate. At the very bottom of the brain is the brain stem that serves as the motor and sensory pathway to the body and face. Already, you can see that the brain is a very powerful, complex, and complicated part of the human body.



The longer researchers study the brain (and they've been studying a **long** time!), the more astounding their discoveries become. With each new insight, they are simply proving that the brain could not have evolved. It had to have been created by God.

As the years go by, they keep uncovering more layers of complexity as to how the brain functions. They have found, for instance, that brain cells (called neurons) talk to each other by sending electrochemical impulses (chemicals and electricity) along thin fibers called axons. Arriving at the end of the axon, the signals come to a gap. The gap is called a synapse (SIN-naps). When the signal reaches the synapse junction, a puff of neurotransmitter molecules is released. These molecules then bind to chemical receptor molecules located in the dendrite membrane on the opposite side of the synapse, leading to another neuron. Each synapse contains different types of receptor proteins that affect the firing pattern of a neuron. This amazing interchange is how the brain sends messages throughout your nervous system to control the hundreds of functions of your entire body.

And get this: the adult human brain is estimated to contain **billions** of neurons and from 100-500 **trillion** synapses. In fact, your cerebral cortex is the thin mantle of gray matter that is about the size of a dinner napkin covering the surface of your brain. It's the part that looks crumpled and folded into crevices. It is made up of six layers of nerve cells. And every cubic millimeter of your cerebral cortex contains roughly a billion synapses! What's more, there are more synapses in the human brain than there are stars in the known Universe!

The human brain is the most powerful, advanced, complex, information-processing system in the Universe. Anyone who says the human brain came about over millions of years by evolutionary processes is not using his brain! The brain is proof of God—an Almighty Mind that is infinite in power, knowledge, wisdom, and glory. "Know that the Lord, He is God; **It is He who has made us**, and not we ourselves" (Psalm 100:3). "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14).

THERE IS MORE TO YOU THAN YOUR BRAIN

KYLE BUTT

If someone asked, “What are you?,” what would you say? You would probably tell him that you are a human being. What if he asked you what a human being is? You might try to explain that a human being is a person who walks on two legs, with hands that have five fingers, and feet that have five toes. Or you might tell him that a human being is a person with a brain that can think, talk, and reason. But have you ever stopped to think just how hard it really is to tell another person what a human being is? For instance, if you said that a human walks on two legs, there are some people who cannot walk at all, or do not even have legs, yet they are still human. If you try to define humans by saying that they can talk, some humans cannot talk, but they are still humans. In fact, some people have lost large parts of their brains, but they are still human. Defining a human is actually pretty difficult.

Think about this: if you were trying to explain who you are, you might start by describing your physical body. You might say that you are four feet tall, have brown hair, brown eyes, and two hands and two legs. While that might be a description of your body, it wouldn't really describe you. Just think, if you grow to be five feet tall, you will still be you. If your hair falls out, you will still be you. If you lost one of your eyes, arms, or legs in an accident, you would still be you. Your body is not you.

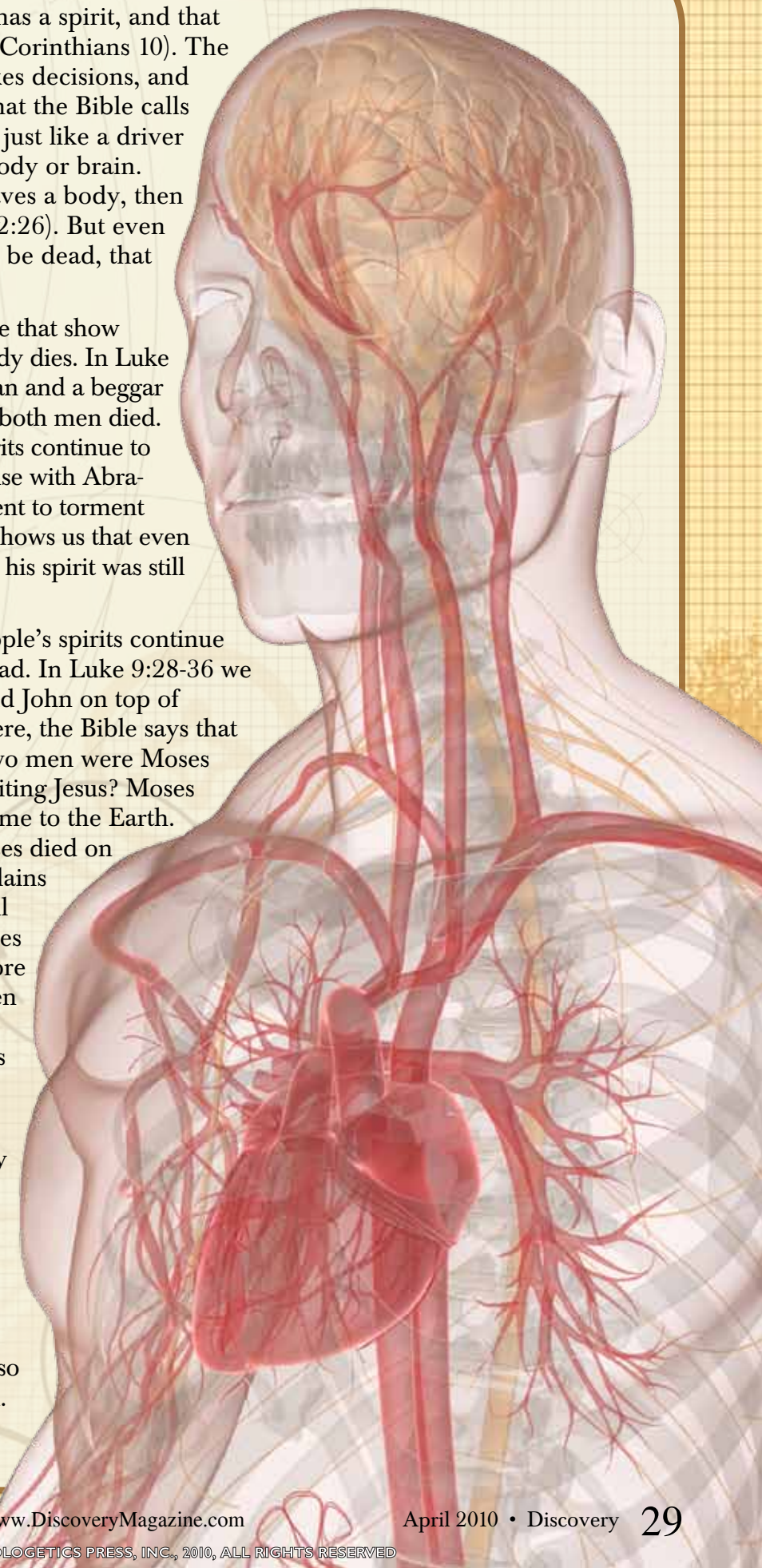
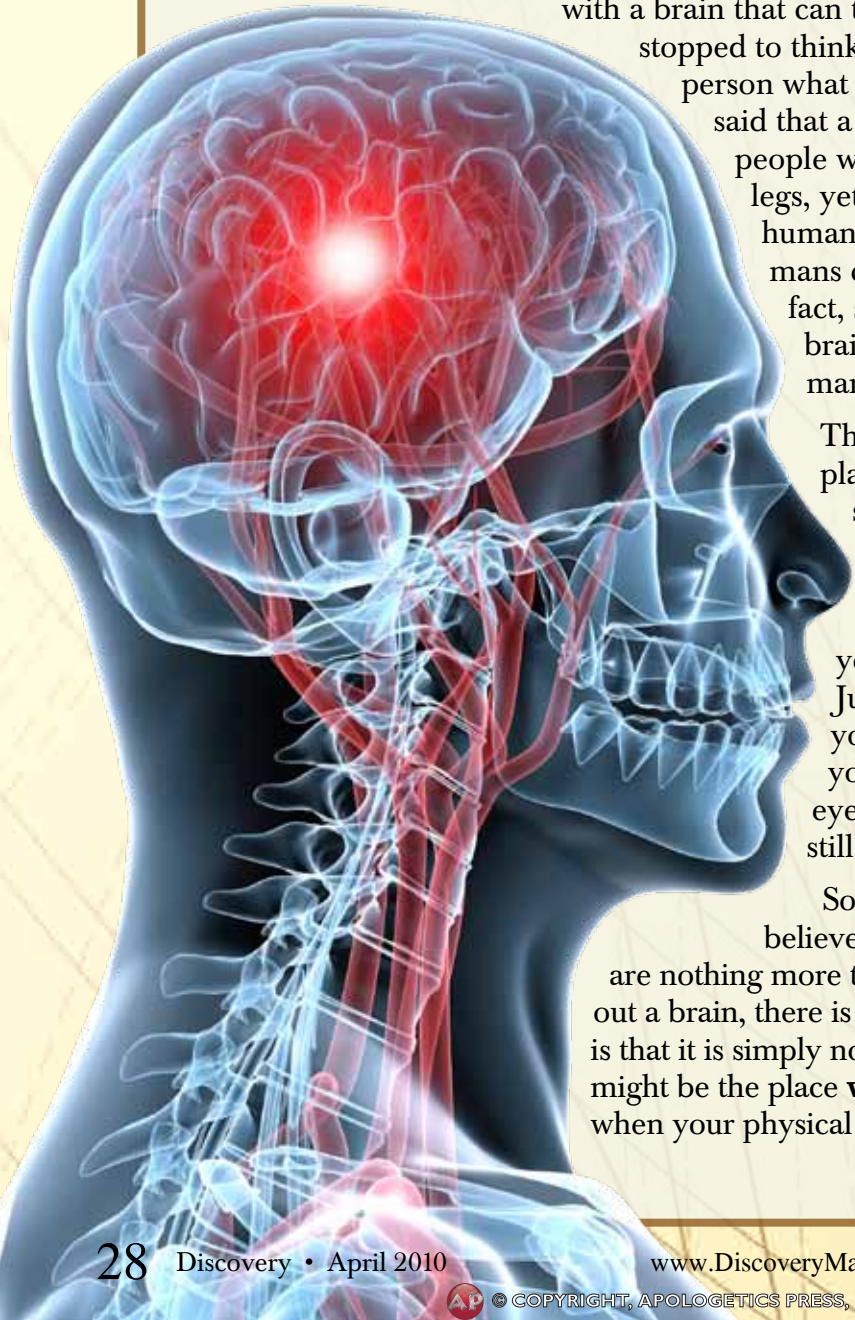
So who, or what, are you? Some scientists who believe in atheism and evolution say that people are nothing more than their physical brain. They say that without a brain, there is no personality. The problem with this claim is that it is simply not true. While your body and your brain might be the place **where** you live, you will still be you even when your physical body and brain are dead.

The Bible explains that each person has a spirit, and that spirit knows what a man is thinking (2 Corinthians 10). The part of you that does the thinking, makes decisions, and chooses between right and wrong is what the Bible calls your spirit. Your spirit is in your body, just like a driver is in a car, but your spirit is not your body or brain. The Bible tells us that when a spirit leaves a body, then the physical body is dead (read James 2:26). But even though a person's physical body might be dead, that person's spirit is still alive.

There are several examples in the Bible that show that a person's spirit lives on after his body dies. In Luke 16:19-31, we read a story about a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus. The Bible explains that both men died. Their physical bodies died, but their spirits continue to live. Lazarus' spirit went to live in paradise with Abraham, but the greedy, rich man's spirit went to torment because of his unfaithful life. This story shows us that even though the rich man's body was **buried**, his spirit was still alive, and so was Lazarus' spirit.

Another Bible story shows us that people's spirits continue to live after their physical bodies are dead. In Luke 9:28-36 we read about Jesus taking Peter, James, and John on top of a mountain to pray. While Jesus was there, the Bible says that two men came to talk with Him. The two men were Moses and Elijah. But how could Moses be visiting Jesus? Moses lived almost 1,500 years before Jesus came to the Earth. Furthermore, the Bible tells us that Moses died on top of Mount Nebo. The Bible also explains that Michael the archangel and the devil disputed over the physical body of Moses (Jude 9). If Moses died many years before Jesus, and his body stayed on Earth, then how did he visit with Jesus? The simple answer is that his spirit lived on after his physical body was dead.

All of us have a spirit that lives in our bodies. Our spirit is not our brain, or any other part of our body. It is not made of matter and cells like our body is (Luke 24:39). One day our physical body will die, but our spirit will leave the dead body behind and either go to be with God, or be separated from God. Let's all make sure we live this life in our bodies so that our spirits can live forever with God.



ACTIVITY PAGES



FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. "Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has _____ us, and not we ourselves" (Psalm 100:3).
2. "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and _____ made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14).
3. Nothing is more important than being creative for _____.
4. Animals are guided by _____.
5. God made man in His own _____.

ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

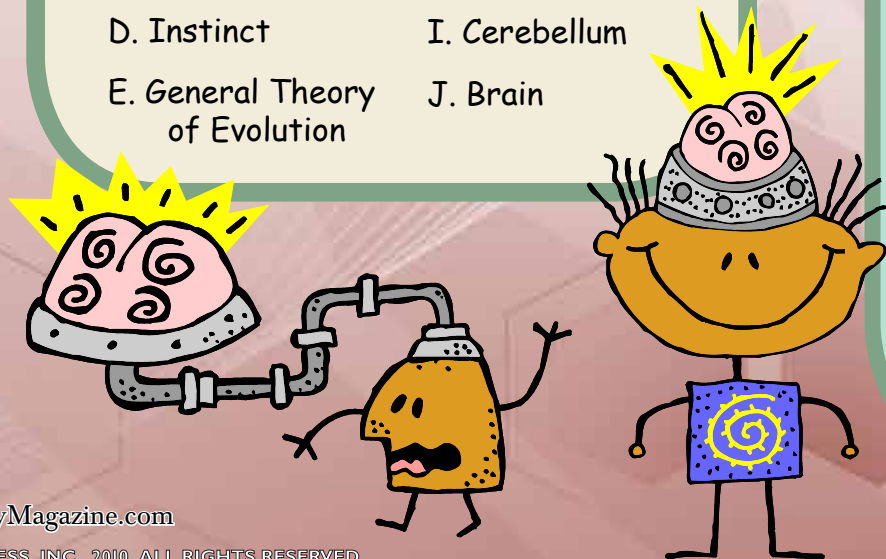
1. Is there a place for creativity in the kingdom of Christ? If yes, list some ways in which a person can be creative for Christ.
2. Write a paragraph about the difference between the brain and the spirit.



MATCHING

1. ___ The most organized matter on Earth
2. ___ Part of the brain that controls the sense of touch
3. ___ His spirit went on to live in paradise with Abraham
4. ___ Man is made in His image
5. ___ Part of the brain that controls muscle movements
6. ___ Brain cells
7. ___ What guides animals
8. ___ Part of the brain that controls balance and posture
9. ___ False theory that says non-intelligence brought about human intelligence
10. ___ Will live on even after your body is dead

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| A. Neurons | F. Occipital lobe |
| B. Spirit | G. God |
| C. Frontal lobe | H. Lazarus |
| D. Instinct | I. Cerebellum |
| E. General Theory of Evolution | J. Brain |



TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ The human brain evolved over many millions of years.
2. ___ There are more synapses in the human brain than there are stars in the known Universe.
3. ___ The brain and the spirit are the same thing.
4. ___ God made humans to be creative beings.
5. ___ When a spirit leaves a body, then the physical body is dead.
6. ___ We should all live this life in our bodies so that our spirits can live forever with God.
7. ___ Computers are more complex than the human brain.
8. ___ All humans have a spirit.



Dear Digger Doug,

What was the name of the devil when he was an angel?
—Brock Enloe, Enterprise, AL

Dear Brock,

That is a very thoughtful question. We know that the devil is evil and that he wants to tempt us to join in his evil army. In fact, the Bible explains that the devil is like a roaring lion walking around the Earth seeking people he can destroy (1 Peter 5:8). We also know that in the end, he and his angels will be thrown into a lake of fire that God has prepared for them (Revelation 20:10). But we do not know much about what he was like before he chose to rebel against God. We don't know if he had a different name, then, either. Some people believe that Isaiah spoke of the devil when he wrote about Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12). But when you read that chapter, you can see that the name Lucifer is talking about the king of Babylon. In some places in the Bible the devil is called Satan, the Evil one, and the Accuser. He is also called the "god of this age," meaning that most people are following his wicked ways. There is one thing, however, that we must always remember. Even though Satan is powerful, as long as we obey God, then God will help us defeat Satan and "crush him under our feet" just like God promised the Christians in Rome (Romans 16:20).



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ERIC LYONS

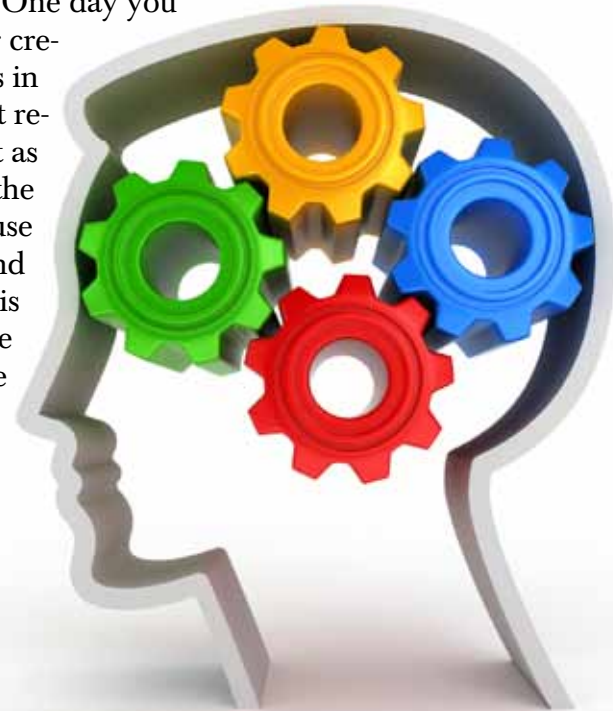
Birds build nests, bees construct hives, and spiders weave webs. God's creatures can do many amazing things. Keep in mind, however, that animals are guided by instinct. Animals know what kind of home to build, when and where to migrate, and how to communicate with each other, even though they don't have to be taught these things. God gave animals these (and many other) special abilities, but He did not make them with the kind of creativeness that He gave to mankind.

God created people differently than animals; He made us in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27). One way in which we are more like God and less like animals is in our creative abilities. God created us with the brain power, freedom, and desire to be creative. Man invented the computer on which this issue of *Discovery* was composed. Man crafts instruments with which he makes music. He constructs spaceships that he then cleverly navigates 240,000 miles to the Moon. He writes poetry, makes laws, and builds everything from pianos to pogo sticks.

God has created **you** with an amazing brain, which allows you to be creative. You can choose to create all sorts of things, but **nothing is more important than**

being creative for Christ. Like Jesus, Who taught spiritual truths in creative ways, you can help the cause of Christ with your creativity. You might choose to draw beautiful pictures and design uplifting cards for the sick. You might write tunes to go along with scriptures that can be sung in worship to God. One day you might write scriptural sermons and books, create Bible-based PowerPoint lessons, or develop and illustrate Bible class material that can benefit untold thousands of Christians and non-Christians worldwide. Perhaps you will build a new kind of satellite, Web site, or TV station that will be used to get the Gospel to more people around the world.

You are expected to use your God-given brain power in school. One day you will use your creative abilities in your job. But remember that as a Christian, the best way to use our brains and creativeness is in our sincere service to the Lord.



ANSWERS

9. E (General Theory of Evolution), 10. B (Spirit), TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-T; 3-F; 4-T; 5-T; 6-T; 7-F; 8-T.
 MATCHING: 1. J (Brain); 2. F (Occipital lobe); 3. H (Lazarus); 4. G (God); 5. C (Frontal lobe); 6. A (Neurons); 7. D (Instinct); 8. I (Cerebellum).
 FILL IN THE BLANKS: 1. made; 2. wonderfully; 3. Christ; 4. instinct; 5. image.
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