

**ENDURING
FAITH[®]**
Religion Curriculum

EARLY CHILDHOOD

FAMILY MATERIALS





Enduring Faith®

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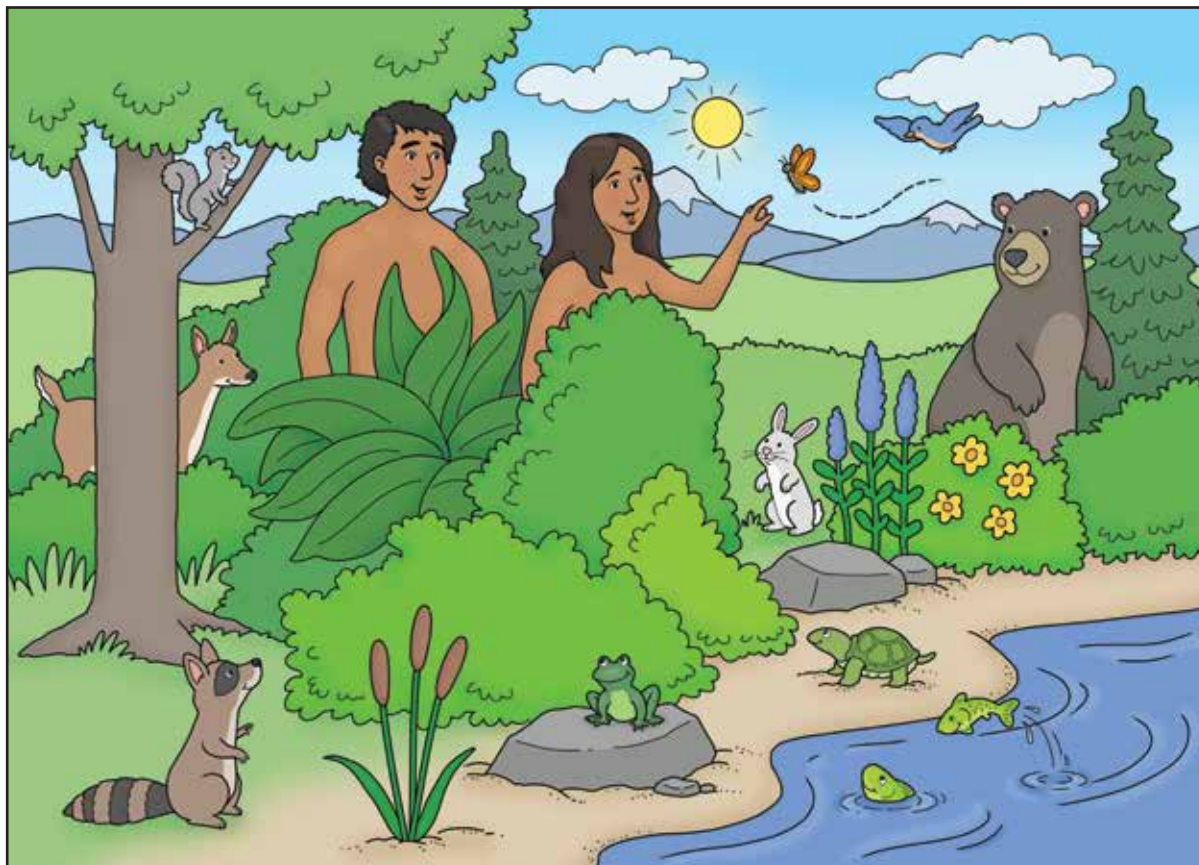
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God Creates and Gives Life

Genesis 1–2



Bible Story Time

In the beginning, there was no world. Only God was there. It was dark and empty. This is what God did:

On day one, God said, “Let there be light!” And suddenly there was light! God called the light “daytime” and the dark “nighttime.” He made the daytime for working and playing and the nighttime for sleeping. God made it and said, “It is good!”

On day two, God said, “Let there be sky!” He put it over all the waters below. God made it and said, “It is good!”

On day three, God put all the water into rivers, lakes and oceans. He said “Let there be land!” and dry land rose up from the water. God covered the land with grass and flowers. He made trees and bushes. God made it and said, “It is good!” But He wasn’t done yet!

On day four, God said, “Let there be lights in the sky!” He made the sun to give us light in the daytime and the moon and stars to shine at night. God made them and said, “It is good!”

On day five, God filled the water and the sky with animals. He said, “Let there be fish! Let there be birds!” God made them and said, “It is good!”

On day six, God said, “Let there be animals on the land!” He made creatures of every kind. Then came the best part. God made people. He made a man and a woman to take care of everything. God made them and said, “It is very good!”

On day seven, God rested. He had made the world and everything in it. It was perfect!

Pray & Say

Dear God, thank You for making the world and everything in it. You love me very much. Help me to take care of all that You made. Forgive me when I forget. Thank You for making me so special. I love You! Amen.

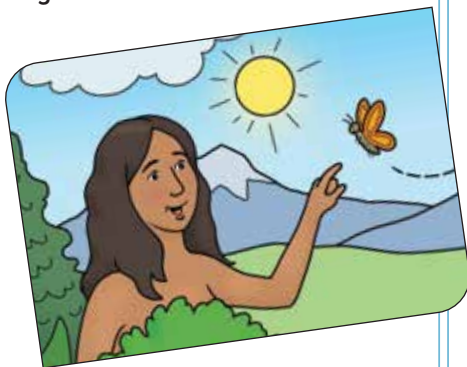
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1



Bible Story Insights

The creation story is where the Bible and the world begin. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). It tells how our powerful God made a perfect world with His words. In six days, He created the world and all things, and He happily declared, “It was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

We are part of God’s special creation too. From the very beginning, we were part of His perfect plan. Through His creation and care for us, God shows each of us not only His power but also His great love.



Parent Reflections

Young children are wonderfully creative! God made them this way. They are curious and learn with enthusiasm! They ask a lot of questions. They wonder how flowers grow and why it rains. Children are amazed by their bodies and how they are continually growing.

What a blessing it is as a parent to point your child to God as the Creator of the world. How can you help your child learn that all creation is good because God made it good? Consider these ideas:

- Encourage creativity in your child. For young children, the process of creating something is much more important than the end product. Don’t be concerned if the artwork is not recognizable to you or if your child did not color in the lines. By valuing your child’s creation, you will help her find value as one created by God.
- Help your child recognize and explore God’s creation on a daily basis. Point out the beautiful sunset, the growing flowers, and the crawling insects. Listen to the rain and dig in the dirt. Remind your child that God loves him and made it all for him.



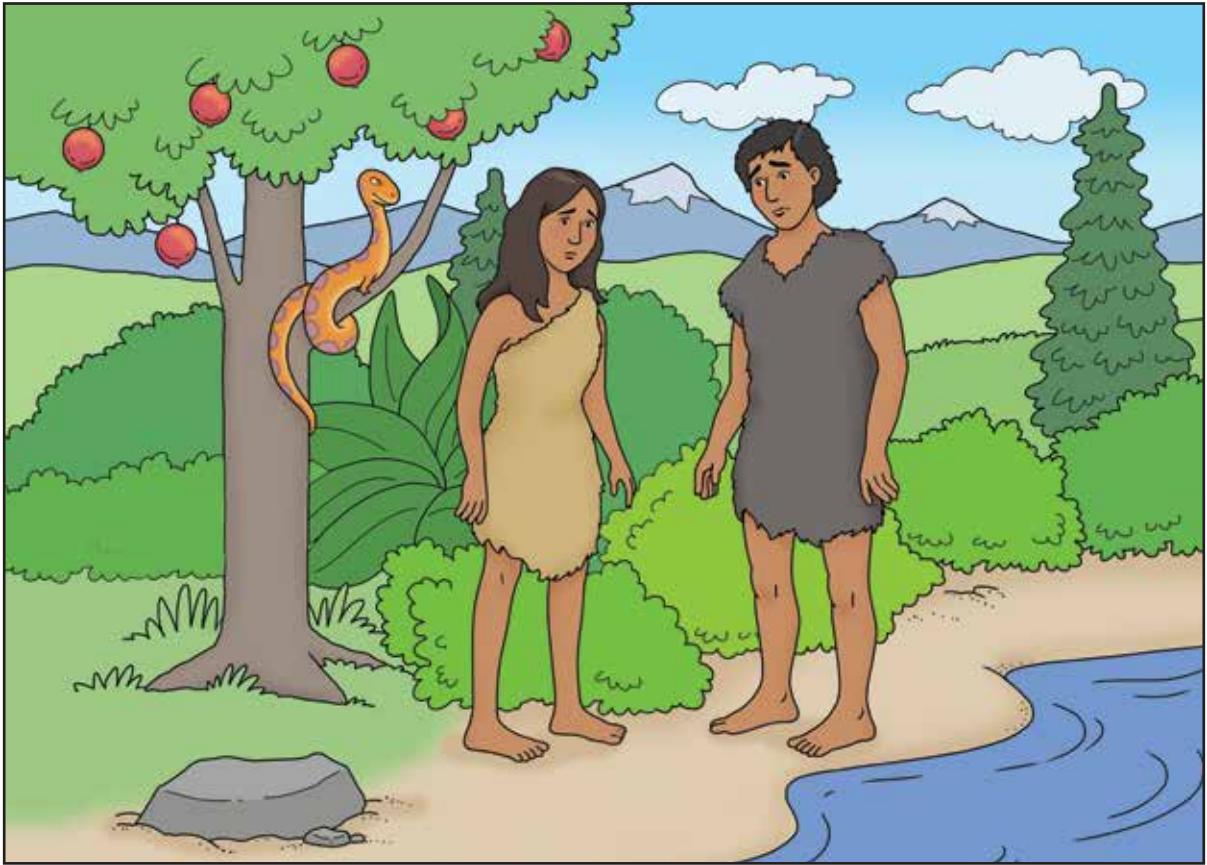
This Week at Home

- Read the Bible story together. Have your child point to the things in the picture that God made on each day.
- Celebrate with your child that God makes each of us special. Talk about her unique physical traits (hair color, eye color, dimples, freckles, and so on) and about her talents. Ask your child what she is good at. Show her a mirror and ask what she sees. Tell her, **God sees someone very special. He loves you.**
- Say a thank-You prayer for what God has made. Let your child fill in the blanks with something he is thankful for. **Dear God, thank You for making the world so special. Thank You for _____ and _____. Help me to take good care of them. Amen.**
- Go on a walk with your child around the neighborhood or at a nearby park. Take a garbage bag along and collect litter. Talk about how God has given us a special job to do. He wants us to take care of the things He has made. On the way home, ask your child, **What else can you do to care for God’s world?**
- You will be receiving these Family Pages every week to reinforce at home what your child is learning at school. You may want to put each page in a sheet protector and keep them all in order in a binder. Add new lessons as you receive them and you will have a book your child can read over and over again.



The Fall into Sin

Genesis 3



Bible Story Time

The world God made was beautiful! Adam and Eve were the first people God made. Everything in the world was perfect!

God put Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. They took care of it, and they had everything they needed. God loved Adam and Eve, and they loved Him. They were happy!

The garden had many trees. God asked Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from one special tree. They listened to God until one day when a snake came to the garden. The devil was hiding inside the snake. He wanted Adam and Eve to disobey God.

The devil told Eve, "You can eat the fruit from the special tree. It will make you like God!" Eve took a bite of the fruit. Then Eve gave the fruit to Adam, and he took a bite.

As soon as they had eaten the fruit, Adam and Eve knew they had done something wrong. They hadn't listened to God. They had sinned.

Adam and Eve tried to hide from God. God saw them, and He was sad that they had disobeyed Him.

He told Adam and Eve that they must leave the garden. God said sin brings problems and troubles.

The world was no longer perfect, but God still loved Adam and Eve.

God promised Adam and Eve that one day He would send Jesus to save them from sin and death.

Jesus is our Savior too! He loves us and forgives us. That is good news!

Pray & Say

Dear Jesus, You love us so much. Thank You for dying on the cross to forgive our sins. Help us to love and obey others. Amen.

Forgive us our sins. Luke 11:4



Bible Story Insights

Sin began with Adam and Eve. When Satan tempted Eve and she ate the fruit and shared it with Adam, they disobeyed God. Satan had succeeded at ruining God's perfect creation and Adam and Eve's relationship with God. The world would now be filled with problems and trouble.

God's love for Adam and Eve did not change, though. He cared for them and promised to send a Savior, Jesus Christ, who would take the punishment of sin on Himself. We rejoice that our relationship with God was restored through the promised gift of His Son.



Parent Reflections

Preschoolers understand that the world is not perfect. Sometimes they feel angry and sad. Friends say hurtful things. Siblings take toys away. Falls and scrapes happen. They know people who get sick and sometimes even die. At times, they don't follow your directions. This is all because of sin, the result of Satan tempting Eve and then she and Adam disobeying God.



As a parent, you have the privilege to share the Good News with your child. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take away all the sin in the world; sin is the wrong that you do and that your child does each day. Consider these ideas for helping your child learn and value God's love and forgiveness:

- Rather than say, "It's okay," when you or your child does something wrong, use the words "I forgive you." Ask God to help you daily say, "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you," and help your child do the same.
- Talk with your child daily about God's love for her. Read the Bible together. Assure her that because of Jesus she is a forgiven child of God.

This Week at Home

- Read the Bible story together. Look at the picture and ask your child, "**Why are Adam and Eve sad? What is the happy ending of the Bible story?**" Help your child get ready to pray the prayer with this rhyme:
**Our hands we fold. Our heads we bow.
It's time to talk to God now.**
- When your child has a conflict this week, remind him that sometimes we hurt one another and that makes us sad. Help him to use the words "I'm sorry; please forgive me." Reassure him that his friends and family still love him and that Jesus loves him. If he has been hurt, help him to say, "I forgive you."
- Talk to your child about her day. **What is something good that happened today? What is something bad that happened?** Invite her to pray with you, thanking God for the good and asking God to help with and forgive the bad. **Dear God, thank You for today. I really liked _____. Please help me _____. Forgive me for _____. Thank You for always loving me. Amen.**

