

## GOD CREATES THE ANIMALS AND MAN

*God created man and placed him in a garden without sin.*



THE STORY: GENESIS 2:1-15

MONDAY

**God created all things by his own initiative and without help.**

God created all things by his own initiative and without help. Everything that happened in creation was by the controlling hand of God. God was the author of creation: "Out of the ground God made," "The Lord God formed," etc. and was also behind that which did not happen: "God had not caused it to rain on the land" Genesis 2:5. All things that took place or did not take place were under the sovereign direction of the creator.

Neither man nor nature helped God in creation. Though Adam looked among the animals and found no suitable helper, he was unable to solve his dilemma. Though God created nature with ongoing processes such as water flowing and trees growing, it is clearly God who controls these processes.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How should knowing that God is the creator and we are his creation affect the way we in which we live? (*We should honor the Lord with our lives and give him praise. We should not act as though we are independent or unaccountable [able to live without God].*)

**PRAY:**

Pray that God would help you to honor and live for him.



THE STORY: GENESIS 2:15-18

TUESDAY

**God created man in his image and initiated a relationship with him.**

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God did not talk to the trees or the animals he created. Neither did God create any other part of his creation after his own image. God tenderly cared for man and then woman in a way that was different from how he interacted with the other aspects of creation. Being created in God's image is what makes human life sacred. To hate, hurt, or kill human life is to come against God and his image as revealed in creation.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Does God still initiate (reach out) relationship with people today? *(Yes. Through the Gospel message, all men and women are invited into a relationship with Jesus Christ.)*

Can we talk to God today? *(Yes, that's the definition of prayer—it is simply talking to God. It is important to pray with faith, which means to pray believing that God is real.)*

**Pray:**

Thank God for reaching out to mankind to create us and to care for us, and save us. Thank him for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin so that in eternity we will walk with God as Adam and Eve in the cool of the garden.



THE STORY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:45-49

WEDNESDAY

## Where is Jesus?

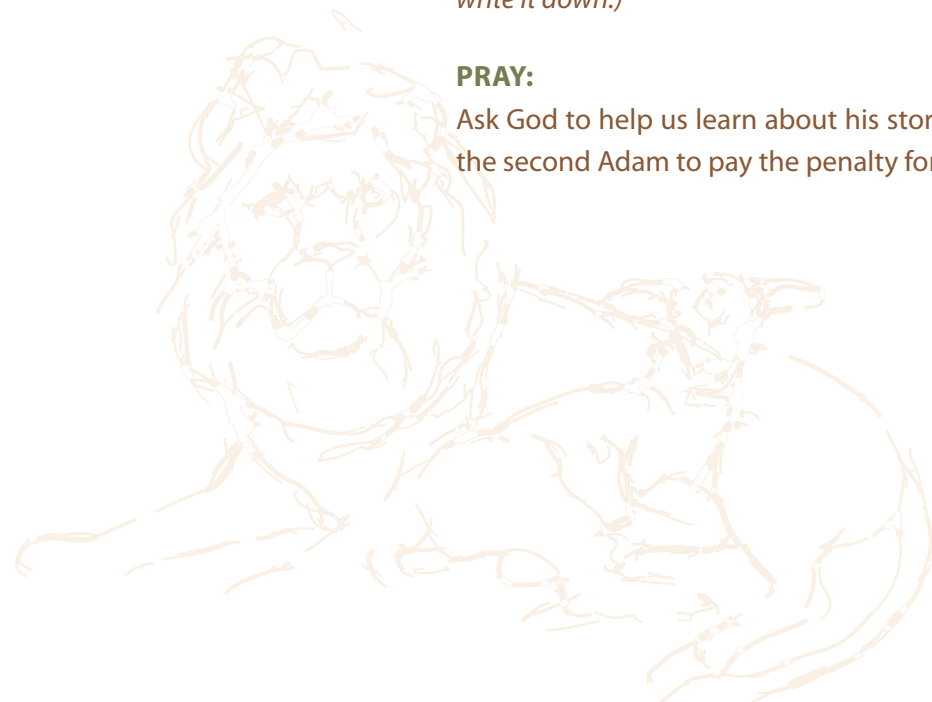
God created the first man and called him Adam. In the Bible, Jesus is called the second Adam, or the last Adam. The first Adam brought sin into the world by disobeying. Now all people have sin. Jesus, the second Adam brought righteousness into the world by perfect obeying. Now all people can have His righteousness, if they believe. When we read about the first Adam in the first book of the Old Testament, we remember the second Adam the first book of the New Testament.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What do we learn from this passage about how the Bible is one complete story? *(Though the Bible is composed of many different books by many different authors, it is one story—God's story. The Bible is God telling his story to us, using different people to write it down.)*

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help us learn about his story from the Bible. Thank Jesus for coming as the second Adam to pay the penalty for the sins of the first Adam.





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## There is a prescribed order and authority in the creation

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There is a prescribed order and authority in the creation – God, not man defines the boundaries. God is set above the creation as its master. God placed man in the garden and gave him a job. Man is subject to God. God doesn't ask permission to put Adam to sleep or to create the woman and give her the role as helpmate for man, or to declare the seventh day a day for rest. God moves according to his own will without consultation or limit.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

What is different about the creation and role for the man and woman? (*Man was created first. Man was given responsibility to work the garden and to name the animals. Woman was created second. Her role and responsibility was to be a helper suitable for the man. Though both are made in the image of God, and have equal worth, they nevertheless have different roles.*)

### PRAY:

Ask God to help you respect His order and authority. Men should ask God for grace to lead with kindness; boys should ask God to help them get ready to care for and lead a woman someday, women and young ladies should ask for grace to respectfully serve as helpers to their fathers and one day, their husbands.





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## On the road to Emmaus.

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Isaiah foretold a child, a son, who would be born and upon whose shoulders the government would rest. Isaiah then goes on to say that the child would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace. Jesus is the only person who could fit this description.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this prophecy describe Jesus? *(No other child ever born was both man and God. He is human since he was born a child and God since he is called Mighty God.)*

How do we fulfill this prophecy every Christmas? *(Handel's Messiah, which is performed at Christmas, repeats the words of Isaiah 9:6 in describing Jesus. When we call Jesus by these names, the prophecy is fulfilled.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus, the second Adam, to earth to take the punishment for our sin. Thank God for showing us how his wonderful plan is revealed in the story of the Bible.

