

Walking With God

God's Light Shining Through the Lives of Faithful Men and Women *In the Beginning: Adam and Eve*



Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...
Dear Lord, as we start our Sunday School year, help us to appreciate the beauty and goodness of the earth that you created. Let us care for each other as you care so much for us. And may what we learn together this year bring us closer to you. Amen.

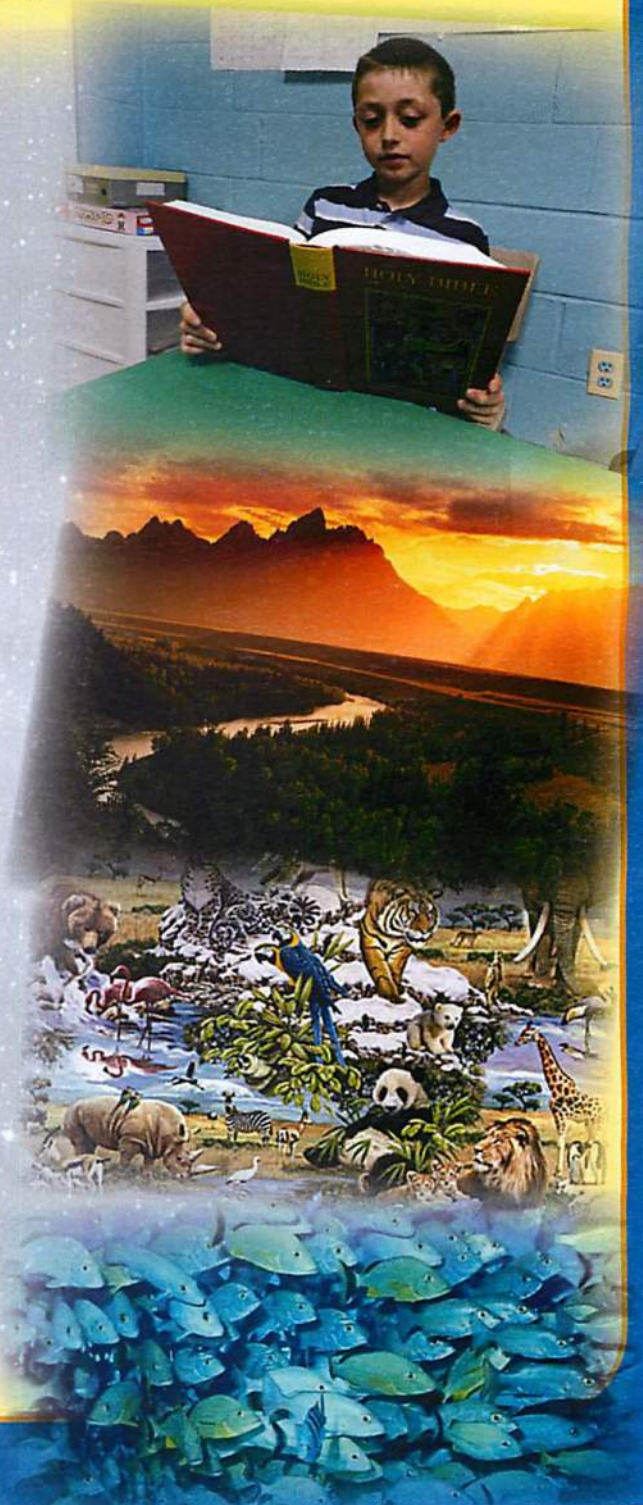
Daily Bread

When we open the Bible, the first book we see is Genesis. The beginning of Genesis tells us how God made the earth and sky, the birds and fish, the plants and animals, and man and woman. The story gives us an idea of how caring God is and how he wants us to be strong and healthy. He provided everything we need to do this – water, air, food to eat. Although God made all of the plants and animals with love, we are different and very special to God. He made man and woman (later they are named Adam and Eve) *in his own image*. He did this because he wanted us to be especially close to him. Out of his great love for us, he gave us all we needed to be happy. This is very much the way your parents love you and want to take care of you.

One of the best things that God gave to us was his love and our ability to love each other. We need each other just as much as we need the food we eat and the air we breathe. That is why God put two people in the Garden.

When Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, they spoke to God all the time. He was present in their lives every day. We can still be with God. We certainly speak to him when we pray, but he is also with us when we're playing, writing, singing, working, and when we come to church and take part in the *Holy Badarak*.

- What did God provide for Adam and Eve?
- Can you compare God's love for Adam and Eve to something in *your* life?
- Can we talk to God? How?





BIBLE BYTES

The word "adam" literally means "made from the earth." So God created an "earthling." Later God decided it was important for this human being to have a partner. Only then did the human being become two different creatures: man and woman.

CELEBRATE WITH GOD

Make a Creation Collage!



SCRIPTURE SOURCE

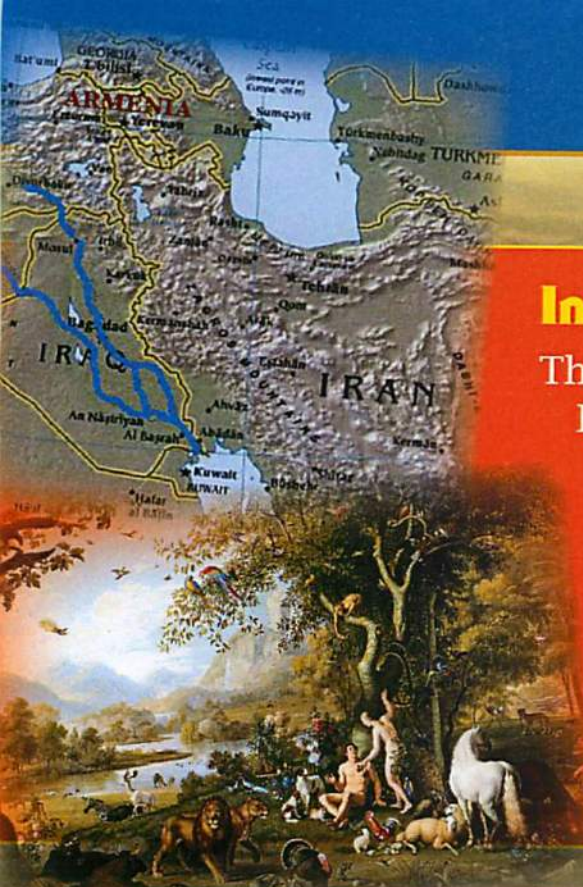


"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing . . .'" *Genesis 1: 26*

In these verses, God tells us that, as human beings, we have to take good care of the plants and animals on the earth. If we are the very "image" of God, then we will be in charge of the world as God is in charge: with goodness and wisdom. Without our ability to grow plants and raise animals, we would not be able to have food or clothing. That is why we should do our best to take care of the earth and be good stewards of all that God has given to us.

Did you know...!?

The beautiful verses of the Creation story told in Genesis 1 were probably sung or chanted. They have a singsong quality and repeat phrases such as "and God said" or "and it was good." What instrument would you use if this story were put to music?



In the Armenian Tradition

The Bible names two rivers in the Garden of Eden, the Tigris and the Euphrates. These rivers still exist and have the same names today. Also, by the description of rocks and metals found in the area as well as directions to nearby lands, we believe that Eden was most likely the exact location of ancient Armenia. This is why many people call Armenia “The Cradle of Civilization.”

Well Versed

“Then the Lord God formed humankind from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.”

Genesis 2:7

Family Focus

Today we learned about the Creation of the world. Our focus was on the loving relationship that God had with the first people, Adam and Eve, and still has with us. We also read in the book of Genesis that God provided us with all we needed to thrive and asks us to be good stewards of ourselves, each other, and our earth.

Living Your Faith

1. Say a prayer of thanks for the beautiful earth that God provided for us.
2. Cut any fruit open to find the seeds inside. Discuss what we do with seeds to make new trees which, in turn, make more fruit to feed the world. Point out to your children that we cannot *create* a plant. We can only use the seeds that God created.
3. Look at different maps of the Middle East with your family. Look for the Tigris and Euphrates rivers as well as the location of ancient Assyria (currently northern Iraq) and modern Armenia.

UNIT
1
Lesson
One

Walking With God

God's Light Shining Through the Lives of Faithful Men and Women

In the Beginning: Adam and Eve

Key Concepts

1. God created us and our world. He provided everything that we needed to live.
2. People had a relationship with God from the beginning and we can continue that loving relationship today.
3. We can talk and be with God in many different ways.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Share a fun experience from summer vacation.
2. Brainstorm the difference between people and other living things.
3. Read and discuss the Creation story (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3).
4. Make a creation collage with magazine pictures.

Materials Needed

Index cards or paper (see procedure #1)

For each child (see procedure #5): scissors, two magazines (make sure they will contain pictures appropriate and helpful for a creation collage), 11 X 17 construction paper

Procedure

1. Welcome the students. Give each student an index card and ask them to write their name on it and draw a simple picture of the favorite thing they did over the summer. Then go around the table and have each child hold up their card to the class, and describe what the picture is about. 10 min.
2. Distribute textbooks and have children put their names in them. Skim through the units and share basic themes and chapters (just spend two minutes on this). Then turn to the first lesson and say the opening prayer together. Segue with: "What a wonderful prayer – 'the beauty and the goodness of the earth you created...' Today we're going to talk about that Creation, and about how God gave us the incredible gift of life. Let's think together of what it means to be alive. Can you name things that are alive?" Write these on the chalkboard as they call them out. Then ask how people are different

from plants and animals. Possible answers include: people can invent things, talk, love each other, dream; try to conclude with "and yes, people can have a relationship with whom? God!" 10 min.

3. Read the story of creation from the Bible, Genesis 1:1 through 2:3 or go around the class and have each child read two verses from the story to the rest of the class. Review quickly together all the things God created. (light, day, night, land, waters, stars, sun, moon, plants, animals, birds, fish, people). Refer, as well, to **Bible Bytes** and **Did You Know?**
4. Read **Daily Bread**. Then, ask students to answer the questions in the lesson. Welcome all answers. Guidelines: 1. Food, a place to live, safety; 2. The love of a parent; 3. We can talk to God through praying, drawing, singing, anything creative. Conclude with the concept that coming to church is a way to talk with God. 10 min.
5. For **Celebrate With God**, distribute the magazines, poster paper, scissors, and glue sticks and direct them to create a collage of pictures about creation (they may create titles with bold markers: "God Created Animals" or "God Created People" or "God Created the Moon, Sun and Stars," depending on the focus of their collage); make sure it includes some people. While they are working, review the story, and emphasize the special relationship people have with all living things (having "dominion over" them: we are to be caring, responsible stewards or caretakers of the earth and all its creatures). Ask students if they think we're doing a good job of being good stewards. Use **Scripture Source** as a guide for your discussion; you might even want students to pause and read this together. Clean up, tape posters on board, comment and admire 25 min.
6. Review **In the Armenian Tradition** with the children. Discuss the phrase "cradle of civilization:" What does it mean for a civilization or culture to be in a cradle? (to be at its beginnings, its infancy).
7. Invite the students to share the **Family Focus Page** activity at home. Close with the following prayer of thanks: "Dear Lord, thank you for the chance to be together for Sunday School. We look forward to next week and ask that you fill our hearts with love and wisdom always. Amen." Dismiss the class. 5 min.