

God Creates Humans

Unit 1: God Creates Family

THIS WEEK

In a second creation story, God creates the first human from dust and God's own breath. To create a suitable partner, God forms the second human out of the first, creating the first family and community (Genesis 1:1-2:4a).

The Point

We are created to be partners in God's work.

Story Summary

Today begins the Narrative Lectionary year. We start at the very beginning—or at least at the very beginning, part two. The story of creation is first told in Genesis 1:1–2:4a. The narrative told in Genesis 2:4b-25 gives a different perspective, told in light of the creation of humanity. This version is all about the creation of relationship. God gave the first human the task of caring for (being in relationship with) the garden. We read of the creation of all manner of animals, none of which was the best partner for the human. Finally, God created for the man a human partner, one of the same flesh, to spend life with him.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:
Brief History of the Hebrew Bible

The Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament, was written over a period of nearly one thousand years. Many of the stories of the Hebrew Bible were passed down orally from one generation to the next. Today's story is out of Genesis, the first book in the Hebrew Bible. Genesis and the four books that follow it are part of the first section of the Hebrew Bible called the Torah. The rest of the Hebrew Bible is divided in the Jewish traditions into the Prophets and the Writings. In Christian Bibles, the books are usually divided into Torah, History, Wisdom Literature, Major and Minor Prophets.

Practice: Prayer

Take a walk outside. As you walk, notice the beauty of God's creation. Thank God for creating the world, and for creating you.

NEXT WEEK

God promises that the elderly Sarah and Abraham will have a son, to which Sarah laughs in disbelief. God's promise comes true, and with joyous laughter they name their child Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7).

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Genesis 2:4b-25

Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✞ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✞ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✞ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✞ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: *This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday – Read Genesis 2:4b-25

God creates humans.

- Do you enjoy being alone for a long time? Why or why not?
- How can you partner with others to serve God?

Monday – Read Genesis 3:1-21

Humans sin by disobeying God.

- Why did Eve and Adam do what they were told not to do even when God had given them so much?
- What temptations do you struggle with?

Tuesday – Read Genesis 11:27-32

Abram and Sarai are introduced.

- How many children did Abram and Sarai have?
- Tell the story of your family the way these verses introduce Abram.

Wednesday – Read Genesis 12:1-9

God makes a promise to Abram.

- What promise did God make to Abram?
- What would it take for you to follow the kind of instructions Abram was given?

Thursday – Read Genesis 14:14-20

Abram leads a battle that results in a blessing.

- Why did Abram lead men in an attack?
- In what peaceful ways do you defend your family?

Friday – Read Genesis 17:1-8

Abram becomes Abraham. Sarai becomes Sarah.

- What does your name mean?
- In what ways has the covenant God made with Abraham been fulfilled?

Saturday – Read Genesis 17:15-22

Abraham and Sarah are promised a son.

- What do you not ask God to do because you think it is impossible?
- In what ways has God blessed you?

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