

God saw how good it was. (Genesis 1:12c)

## **God Creates Helpers – Genesis 2:10-23**

### **Prepare to Wonder**

In this Bible story, we hear more of the second account of Creation. In this telling, God creates life with complex elements and instructions. There is a continuation of God's good creation as it flows through rivers in the infamous garden of Eden. God places humans in the garden. This is a part of God's creative process. God gives a second command to the humans. God asks humans to be co-creators with God to bring forth God's kingdom.

God recognizes that the human is alone. God wants to make a change. God then forms new life. God does not simply create, but God brings to life. To be creative with God can therefore imply—when we create, we bring new life into the world. The next human is then created. This is a continuation of God's creative work. God is always engaging in creative work. The new human is called, "helper." God is also often called, "helper." This reiterates God's divinity within humanity, and our call to work together, side by side, to care for all of creation.

Help your children know they are God's children and that by being named a child of God, they are also responsible for doing God's work. But, we cannot do it alone. God needs us, and we need one another, to make God's creative and beautiful world possible. By working together, we can be creative helpers of God.

### **Spiritual Practice for Adults**

God made humanity from the very dirt beneath our feet. Each of us is an intricate part of God's creation. This week go outside and place your hands in the dirt. Feel the dirt in your hands. Consider planting something and watching it grow. Think about ways you have grown in your spiritual life. Being a person of faith requires us to attend to and to nourish our faith. Sometimes, we forget this includes ourselves. This story might be about helping others, but we cannot participate in creation if we are not rooted in our own selves. Plant something like love in your own life, and watch your faith grow.

# Welcome to Wonder

- Gather together as a family near your Wonder Table.

## **WONDER together:**

- How do you help
- What are ways you can help God take care of the earth?

## **CONTINUE to Wonder:**

- What are some things in the world that need our attention and care?
- What are ways that you see people helping and making a difference?

## **PRAY together**

- Dear God, thank you for teaching me how to be a helper. May I always help you and others. Amen.

## **SING together**

- Use your Annual Music CD or download "Very Good" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Very Good."
- Sing and celebrate.

# Wonder with Me

*Supplies: CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional*

## **READ the Bible Story**

- Read the Bible story, Genesis 2:10-23.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

## **WATCH the Bible Story**

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>) to download and watch today's Bible story.

## **SHARE the Faith Word**

- Faith Word: CREATIVITY - Creativity is the process of imagining and making something, just like God imagined and created the world.

**WONDER:** What are creative ways you can help?

## Growing Together (Craft)

*Supplies: construction paper, stapler and staples, glue sticks, scissors (for every child), markers*

- Cut out nine long strips of construction paper and a small circle.
- Lay out eight of the strips of paper in a circle so that the top tips are touching. Place glue on the top edge of the strips. Then fold the opposite end of the strip of paper towards the middle, match the ends together, and rub so that the two ends stick together. Do this with all eight strips of paper.
- Write your name and glue the circle in the middle of the folded strips to make a flower. Staple everything together securely.
- When finished, link your flowers together to make a chain. You will use the ninth strip of paper to link two (2) flowers together. Loop the strip of paper through one flower petal on each flower to connect the two flowers, then staple the ends of the loop together.
- Continue adding flowers in the same manner until all of the flowers are linked together into one chain.

**SAY:** Together we can create a beautiful world and work with God to help make our world a better place.

## Spiritual Practice—Exploring creation through beauty

*Supplies: Celebration Chart, Family Activity Book, (optional)*

**SAY:** Today we learned about helping God. We got to see that together we can be creative with God.

- Put on a glove.

**SAY:** Imagine that the hand wearing the glove is God, and the other hand is yours.

- Clasp your two hands together, as you say a prayer.

**PRAY:** Creating God, thank you for inviting us to work with you to make the world a better place. Amen.