

AT HOME FAITH TIME FOR PRETEENS

PRETEEN SECTION

Make sure your parents read the Bible story too! You may read together, or separately.

BIBLE STORY: CREATION (GENESIS 1 & 2)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Notice: *What does God do to create things?*

And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to

Pro Tip! *Day 4, 5, and 6 are related to Day 1, 2, and 3. Look back at Day 1; how is Day 4 related? Do the same for Day 5 and 6 when you get to them.*

separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created humans in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Notice: *What are humans made to be like?*

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Pro Tip! *What are humans allowed to eat? What aren't they given permission to eat? (this will come up again when we get to Noah's story)*

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Notice: *What does God do when creation is done?*

A DIFFERENT STORY OF CREATION

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a human from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being.

Notice: *This story is different than the one you just read! What all is different in this story?*

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the human he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Notice: *What are the names of the two special trees?*

The Lord God took the human and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the human, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Notice: *What job does God give the human?*

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the human to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Notice: *There were two special trees. Which tree can't the human eat from?*

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the human gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for the human no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the human to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one side of the human and then closed up the

place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the side he had taken out of the human, and he brought her to the human.

The human said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of ‘man’.”

Notice: *What does the human think of God’s new creation?*

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The human and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Pro Tip! *The Hebrew word for “human” is “a’dam” or “Adam”. That is why we call the first human Adam.*

LET’S SUMMARIZE!

Answer each question yourself.

What is God doing in this story?

What does this story tell me about God?

What does this story tell me about me?

What does this story tell me about my relationship with God?

MEMORY WORK: THE LORD'S PRAYER

Memorize the translation of the Lord's Prayer we use in worship. This translation uses words that you may not be familiar with, but I will provide some comments to help you understand what these words mean.

This week, try to memorize just the first 4 lines.

You may already have the Lord's Prayer memorized? If so, begin trying to memorize the books of the Bible. Try doing just 5 per week.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

*"Art" means "is".
God is in heaven.*

*"Hallowed" means "Holy".
Holy is your name.*

*"Thy" means "your".
Your will be done.*

THINGS TO NOTICE

Hallowed means "to treat as special". What does it mean to treat God's name as special?

What do you suppose God's kingdom looks like?

AT HOME FAITH TIME FOR PRETEENS

PARENT SECTION

As you discuss questions with your preteens, these thoughts might help you go deeper.

CONVERSATIONS – BIBLE

What does God do to create things?

Hopefully you noticed that God created just by speaking! What does this tell you about God?

Maybe you also noticed what God thought of the things he created. They were good! What does this tell you about us and the world?

What are humans made to be like?

God creates humans “in God’s image”. That means we’re made to be like God.

How are people like God? How are people not like God?

How are you like God? How are you not like God?

How would your relationships change if you saw God in everyone you met?

(this final question will come up again when we get to Noah’s story)

What does God do when creation is done?

God rests! This doesn’t mean “sleep” so much as enjoy. God stops working and takes time to enjoy. How often do you stop working and just enjoy? Does your family ever take time to stop working and just enjoy together?

What are the names of the two special trees? Which tree can’t the human eat from?

There’s the “Tree of Life” and the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil”. The “Tree of Knowledge” is the one the human isn’t allowed to eat from. What do you think is so wrong about having knowledge? But not any kind of knowledge – specifically the knowledge of good and evil. Why do you think the knowledge of good and evil is so dangerous?

What job does God give the human?

The human is to care for the Garden. Some people translate the Hebrew words here as “serve and protect”. Humans were made to serve and protect the earth. What does it mean to serve and protect creation?

In the first creation story, God told humans they were to “rule” over creation. Since they are made in God’s image, they are probably supposed to “rule” like how God rules. How does God rule over the world? What would it mean to rule the world like God does?

What does the human think of God’s new creation?

God makes another human! The first human finally feels this new creation will make a good partner. Why do you think God feels it’s bad for humans to be alone?

LET’S SUMMARIZE!

I’ve put in some of my answers but remember: Our answers don’t have to be the same. You may have heard and seen things I didn’t even notice!

What is God doing in this story?

Creating everything. Putting things in order. Enjoying creation.

What does this story tell me about God?

God is powerful. God has a vision for creation.

What does this story tell me about me?

I’m called to be like God. I am made to care for the world. But I can’t do it by myself. I need other people in my life.

What does this story tell me about my relationship with God?

God thinks I’m amazing. God wants what’s best for me. God cares for me a whole lot.

CONVERSATIONS – LORD’S PRAYER

Hallowed means “to treat as special”. What does it mean to treat God’s name as special?

It might say it means not using God’s name in a bad way, like exclaiming, “Jesus Christ!” But it also means causing others to celebrate God and not think our God is a bad god. What would cause others to think our God is a bad God? What would cause them to think God is a good god?

Hint: If God’s image is in us, maybe our lives shape how others see God?

What do you suppose God’s kingdom looks like?

Heaven! What does or doesn’t happen in God’s kingdom? We pray that heaven comes to earth. Have you seen any places on earth that look like God’s kingdom?