



God Makes a Home

(based on Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-23)

It must have been very exciting when God created the world. God made the sky and the ground. Streams of water bubbled up from the ground to water the earth. No grass or plants grew in the new world, however. After all, there was no one to work the land and take care of the plants.

God created someone to take care of the newly created world. Out of the dirt, God formed a person—Adam. God breathed life into Adam. Adam began to breathe on his own and have life.

God knew that Adam would need a good place to live. God grew a garden named Eden where Adam could live.

In the garden, God made every kind of tree and plant. Some of the trees and plants were beautiful to look at. Other trees and plants provided food to eat. Adam lived in the garden with all the trees and plants God had created.

Even with all the magnificent things that God had created, there was still something missing. God thought about Adam. God knew that Adam needed a helper.

God said, “I will create a companion for Adam.”

God began creating many different kinds of animals and birds. Each one God brought to Adam to name. Adam named the cows, giraffes, ladybugs, cats, and every animal that walked on the earth and each bird that flew in the sky.

After God had created all the animals, there was still no companion for Adam.

God made Adam fall into a deep sleep. God took a rib from Adam’s side to make a helper. Then there were two people, a man and a woman—Adam and Eve.

When Adam saw Eve, he was jubilant. He said, “At last there is someone who is like me.” Adam and Eve gave thanks for the entire world God had made. The man and woman helped God care for the new world.



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Imagine how you would feel if you were one of the two people created in the beginning. Use your bodies or your voices to show your feelings.
- Use craft materials to make a tabletop scene illustrating today's story. Make playdough figures to represent the people God created out of the clay of the earth. Name the gifts God gave in today's story. Wonder what gifts God has given to you. How will you thank God for the gifts you name?
- Take a walk and enjoy the wonders of creation, noting the variety of plants, animals, and people.



Responding to God's Grace

- Create pictures with glued-on scraps of tissue paper and markers, or write a paragraph about what you imagine things looked like as God began to create the world.
- Take turns naming and saying, "Thank you, God," for the things you see.
- In gratitude to God for creation, plan an animal action project. Contact a local animal rescue group and ask how you could contribute to its work. Perhaps you could collect money to buy a week's supply of food or to provide veterinary care. Make concrete plans to carry it out.
- God expected human beings to take care of the Garden of Eden. Wonder how God wants you to care for the place where you live. Name ideas about what you are to care for; draw or print the ideas on paper. Post the paper in your home where everyone can see and learn from it.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Gather images from a variety of magazines and books that illustrate people in harmony with nature and each other, as well as images that show environmental destruction and people in unhappy situations. Look at the images and think about how God wants us to treat one another and nature. Write a prayer reflecting your thoughts.
- Use your hands and bodies to say thank you to God. Adopt some of your favorite body prayers as your family's unique sign language.
- Pray this prayer this week:

Each person says, "Thank you, God, for (name a favorite part of creation)."

Everyone responds, "A sign of God's grace!"