

Monday

Genesis 1:1–2:3

Long, long ago there was no world. There were no birds and bees, no fields and flowers, no lakes and rivers, no sun, no moon, and no stars. There were no people either. There was only God.

Then God created the earth and the sky in six days. He made all there is out of nothing simply with the power of his word. All God had to do was speak and the entire world and all the animals appeared. On the first day, God said, “Let there be light” – and there it was! The Bible says, “God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘day,’ and the darkness he called ‘night.’”

On the second day, God spoke again. On this day he made the sky and air. On the third day, God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered together in one place, and let dry ground appear.” In this way, God made soil, mountains and hills, valleys and plains. Here and there, all over the land, were lakes and rivers, and around it all the great oceans. God spoke again, and plants covered the land. With water, air, and land soil all in existence, plants now had had everything they needed to live too. Grass, flowers, bushes, and trees of every kind grew. Many of the bushes had berries, and many of the trees had fruit. God gave the plants seeds so that more plants could always grow. And God saw that what he had done was good.

On the fourth day, God spoke again and made more. This time God spoke and at once the sky was filled with lights. He made the sun, and the moon, and all the stars. God saw that his lights were good.

The earth was beautiful, but God made it even better. On the fifth day, God spoke and made fish to fill the waters and birds to fly in the sky. Once more, on the sixth day, God spoke and created land animals. Cats and dogs played in the fields. Horses and cows walked around looking for food. Last of all, God made the first people, Adam and Eve. God looked at everything he had made, and he saw that all of his creatures were good.

God made all there is out of nothing with just the power of his word. He only had to say, “Let it be,” and everything was made. Finally, on the seventh day, God rested. Right now God is in heaven preparing a new heavenly home for everyone who trusts in him and in what he has done. Because of Jesus’ work on the cross, one day God will give his new heavenly home to all his children who rely on Christ.

- **God made everything just by speaking. What does that tell us about God’s word?**

Close with prayer

Tuesday

Genesis 1:26–2:25

A very, very long time ago, there was no earth or sky, no trees or plants, not even one animal, and no people at all! Then, by the power of his word, God made the world and everything in it out of nothing. Finally, after God has finished making everything else, he made people. The Lord God made people different from all other creatures.

The Lord made the very first man out of the dust of the ground and called him “Adam,” because “Adam” means “dirt” or “earth.” God breathed into Adam the breath of life, and Adam became a living creature.

Before God made Adam, he planted a beautiful garden in a place called Eden. God made all kinds of trees to grow in the garden – beautiful trees full of delicious fruit. Two very special trees grew in the garden. One was called the “tree of life” and the other was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” The Lord God told Adam that he could eat the fruit from every tree in the garden, except the fruit from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” God said, “For in the day that you eat of that tree, you will surely die.”

Then the Lord said, “It is not good that the man is alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” So God brought every animal and every bird to Adam in order for Adam to give each creature a name, but not one of the animals was found to be a perfect companion for Adam.

Then the Lord caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was asleep, the Lord took out one of Adam’s ribs, and then he closed up the opening. From the rib that the Lord had taken from Adam the Lord God made the first woman and brought her to Adam. Adam said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” The woman became Adam’s wife, and her name was Eve.

God, our heavenly Father, took care of all their needs. God always takes care of the needs of his people. He took care of our greatest need when he sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for the sins of all people. Through Jesus, God gives his people salvation and everlasting life.

- **How are people different from everything else God made?**

Close with prayer

Wednesday
Genesis 3

God had told Adam and Eve that they must not eat the fruit from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” which was in the center of the Garden of Eden. But one day, they did. A serpent came into the garden and said to Eve, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” This serpent was Satan, the devil, the enemy of God.

Eve told the serpent that they could eat fruit from any tree except the one in the middle of the garden. If they ate that fruit, God had said they would die. But the serpent lied to Eve and said, “You will not die. God knows that when you eat from that tree your eyes will be opened, you will know more, and you will be like God.”

Eve was tempted and listened to Satan’s lies instead of listening to what God had said. She took some fruit from that tree and ate it. Then she handed some to Adam, and he ate it too. Adam and Eve did not trust God. They did not obey God. This was the first sin.

Adam and Eve knew right away that they had done wrong, and they tried to hide from God, tried to hide from the one who loves them the most. God came into the garden and called out to Adam, “Where are you?” After Adam and Eve blamed others for their sin, God told them what would happen because of their sin. They would from now on experience pain, difficulty, trouble, frustration, suffering, and death. Adam and Eve would not live forever – they would die, just as God said would happen if they ate from that tree.

But God also gave Adam and Eve a wonderful promise. God promised that a child would be born someday who would grow up to crush the serpent’s head, even though the serpent would bruise this man’s heel. This was the first promise that God would send a Savior to save us from our sin.

Then God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden. They could never go back to the beautiful place that God had made for them, and they would have to find a new home.

Adam and Eve were the very first people to sin. They brought sin into the world. But God still loved them very much, and so he gave them the promise that one day a Savior would come. Many years later, God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth. Satan came to Jesus too, and tempted him to disobey God, but Jesus did not listen to Satan. Jesus lived his whole life without sin. Then he suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world and rose from the dead to give us eternal life.

• **What sin do you see in your life? What is God doing about it?**

Close with prayer

Thursday

Genesis 3:14–15

The entire original creation and the Garden of Eden would have been absolutely spectacular. Imagine living in a world where the lion truly could lay with the lamb and where human beings could have walked without fear next to a T. rex. Living in God's perfect creation with no fighting, no death, no suffering, and no natural disasters is something we can now only read about and imagine.

When the fateful day of disaster came, everything changed—and rightly so. God warned us that if we were to disobey him then we would surely die. After sin, God fulfilled his warning in just manner and showed himself to be true. The serpent was cursed (more than all the other creatures) and mankind was to return to dust (i.e., die). Yet in the same moment, God also showed his unlimited grace for the first time. God said to the serpent (Satan), "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head and you will bruise his heel." This offspring of the woman that will crush the head of Satan was promised by God. This was God's first promise of a Savior, a promise that God also kept and showed himself to be true.

When we read the account of Genesis, we get an understanding of the significance of this promise of a Savior, and the depth of our desperate need for salvation. The promise of a Savior from man's rebellious nature is something we see consistently throughout God's Word. That's what the Bible's all about.

Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice determined from before the world began. And thank you for revealing your plan and your love to us in the Bible. Amen.

Friday

Genesis 4:1–16

Adam and Eve were the first husband and wife, and they became the first mom and dad. Their first two sons were named Cain and Abel. When Cain grew up, he became a farmer. When Abel grew up, he became a shepherd.

Cain and Abel both brought offerings to God. Cain brought an offering of things he had grown. Abel brought an offering of some of his sheep. The difference was that Abel wanted to offer his sacrifice gladly with faith in God, but Cain did it because he felt like he had to.

God was pleased with Abel's offering, but he was not pleased with Cain's. This made Cain very angry. The Lord warned Cain not to sin. But Cain didn't listen to God.

One day, when the two brothers were out in the field together, Cain killed Abel, his brother. God came to Cain again. "Where is your brother Abel?" God asked. Cain answered, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

But God knew what Cain had done. "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground," God said to Cain. God told Cain that he would be cursed because of what he had done. He would no longer find it easy to grow food in the ground. He would have to run away from people, and he would always have to wander throughout the earth. Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and from his mother and father, and he built a city in another place.

When God saw Abel's blood, he punished Cain for what he had done. Jesus was also killed by human hands, but he died willingly in the place of his people, his brothers and sisters. When God sees the blood of Jesus, he forgives the sins of all who trust in Jesus as their Savior from sin.

- **What does this story tell us about how to worship God?**

Close with prayer