

God created the entire universe in six days. On the sixth day, God created the land animals. He also created the first people.

God created the first man in a very special way. First he took some dirt from the ground and molded it into the shape he wanted the man's body to have. Then God blew the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and he became a living person with an immortal soul! God named him Adam.

God placed Adam into a beautiful, parklike garden that he had made especially for him. This garden, called Eden, was to be Adam's home. God expected Adam to work in the garden and take care of the many trees and plants that grew there.

Some of the trees in this huge garden were nice to look at. Others were filled with good-tasting fruit. Two special trees grew in the center of the garden. One was the tree of life. The other was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God told Adam, "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. If you do, you will die."

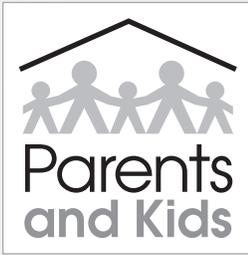
God brought all the animals and birds to Adam so that he could see them and give each of them a name. As Adam named all the creatures, he also realized that there was no creature like himself among them. There was no one for him to talk to or to share his work with, no one to keep him company or for him to love.

God said, "It's not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper for him." So God created another person to be a companion

for Adam. He caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. Then he took a rib out of Adam's body, and from it he made a woman. God brought her to Adam to be his wife. When Adam saw her, he said, "This is now my wife. I will call her 'woman' because she was taken out of man." In this way God started the first family on earth.

God blessed Adam and Eve and told them, "You will have many children. From your family will come so many children that someday they will fill the whole earth. And every living thing on earth will serve you."

How happy Adam and Eve were in their beautiful home! They trusted God. They knew God loved them, and they loved God and each other. There was no sin in their world. Everything was perfect.



Just as God blessed the first people on earth, God blesses us with life, homes, work, and families. And to top it off, he gives us what we need most—forgiveness of sins through Christ and eternal life in heaven!

1. Help your child list the different kinds of work he or she does (schoolwork, chores at home, volunteer work, practicing music or a sport). Talk about ways that work is a blessing from God (helps us learn, teaches responsibility, helps others, keeps our minds and bodies active).
2. As a family, evaluate the following motivations for doing work:
 - Saying, “If you do a good job raking the leaves, we’ll go out for lunch.”
 - Saying, “I’ll give you a dollar every time you get the mail for our elderly neighbor.”
 - Saying, “Let’s show our love for Jesus by helping each other get the house clean.”

Bribes and rewards often result in quick obedience for the wrong reasons. Motivating out of love for the Savior may take more effort, but it has longer-lasting results.

Pray Together

Dear God of power, wisdom, and love, thank you for blessing us with life, a home, work, and a family. Help us show our thankfulness by doing our work cheerfully, out of love for you. Amen.



★ **Genesis 1:1**

★ **Exodus 20:11a**

Psalm 139:14

★ **The First Article of the Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.