

FAITH FAMILY TALKS

CBFNC is offering this resource from the CBF Children's Ministry Network, to our state fellowship to provide families weekly spiritual conversation starters. Our hope is that this resource empowers parents to have more faith-filled conversations at home.

Listen. Talk. Go.

March Faith at Home: The Creation Story

March 2023

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WEEK OF MARCH 5

Listen

Find your favorite children's Bible and read the creation story! If you don't have a children's Bible at home or nearby, you can watch <u>this video</u> on YouTube of the story. (Or search "Jesus Storybook Bible Creation Story."

The creation story is the very first story in the Bible, and there are so many amazing things that happen!. We will talk about two days each week this month. This week, we are talking about the first two days of creation. On the first day, God created light, which meant God also created darkness. On the second day, God created the sky. These two days had to be created first because nothing else that God wanted to create could happen without light and the sky. Nothing that God created was easy, but these two days were simple days because only one thing was created on each day. It's like God could only imagine just a little bit at the very beginning. But these two first things were the most important at the very beginning of the world. But there are so many other things left to be created!

Talk.

- What are all the things that need light in order to survive?
- Why do you think God decided to create light first?
- If you could create things just by saying one word, what would you have created first?

Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you created a world for us to live in. Thank you for giving us light, darkness, and the sky. Help us to take care of the world you have made. Amen.

Go.

Find four pieces of drawing paper and tape them together to make one big piece of paper to create a creation mural! Each week, we will add drawings, symbols, or actual things from nature to the mural. Use different art supplies or find things out in nature that can be added to the mural; use your imagination for how things can look! This week, create light and darkness and sky. Get creative with it!





WEEK OF MARCH 12

Listen.

Find your favorite children's Bible and read the creation story again. If you want, you can read from a regular Bible and read Genesis 1:9-19.

This week, we are talking about the third and fourth days of creation. Last week, we talked about how God created just one thing on the first two days of creation. But today, God created a lot of things. God starts by creating water and land. Imagine mountains and deserts and big open spaces just appearing out of the water, made out of dirt and sand! And then God wanted things to grow on the land, and so grass and trees and flowers started to appear, turning some of the dirt and sand into bright green grass, colorful flowers, tall trees and rocky mountains! Rivers, lakes and oceans filled the space between the land and the plants. Once there were plants on the earth, God knew there needed to be something to help the plants grow, and so God created the sun for the daytime and the moon and stars for the nighttime. With each day, God added more detail to the earth.

Talk

- Talk about your favorite kinds of plants and flowers. Do you like apples more than oranges? Purple flowers more than yellow flowers? Tall trees with long trunks or trees with lots of branches you can climb on?
- Did you know that some groups of stars have names? If you could name a group of stars something, what would it be?
- If you had to choose to live on top of a mountain, in an ocean, in the desert, or in the forest, where would you pick, and why?

Dear God, thank you for all the plants and green things on our earth. Thank you for the flowers, deserts and oceans, stars and sun. We will do our best to take care of this world you have created. Amen.

Go.

Don't forget to add to your mural this week! Can you find some real leaves or flowers to glue to the murals? What about glitter for the stars?

Maybe there can be a night when your parents will let you stay up a little later. Go outside when it is dark and look up at the sky. Can you see the stars? If you have time, drive out to someplace where you can really see the stars. How many can you count?



Listen. Talk. Go.



WEEK OF MARCH 19

Listen.

Read Genesis 1:20-27 and verse 31.

You can also listen to the creation story from the Jesus Storybook Bible again. They do a great job of sharing about these next two days of creation. (You can start the <u>video</u> at the 3:37 mark.)

This week we are talking about days five and six of creation: the days that God created animals, birds, and humans! The world must have been getting pretty noisy once all the animals, birds, and fish were added to the earth. But God knew that the world had everything it needed to be ready for lots of living things to be added to it. Imagine all the different kinds of animals and birds and fish there are in the world. God had to have such an incredible imagination in order to create all of those things! God knew that the world was almost perfect once animals were added. But something was still missing.

God thought about what would make the world very good. And then God reached down into the dirt and started creating one last thing. God created something from his imagination that was the perfect thing to add to the world: God created human beings. God created the last things the world needed and gave them the important job of taking care of the world God created. Together, God and humans would work to make sure the world was safe and happy for everyone and everything that lived in it. And once humans were added, God looked around and said, "Perfect." God had finished creating the world.

Talk.

- Think about your favorite animal. Have each person in your family make the noise their favorite animal makes and see if you can figure out what animal it is.
- Which day of creation do you think God liked the best?
- If you had to choose to be an animal, bird, or fish—something other than a human—what would you choose to be?

Dear God, You created so many amazing things! We are so thankful that you created this world for us to live in. Thank you for everything you made: the animals, the fish, the birds, and humans! Show us ways we can take care of this world the same way you would take care of it. Amen.





WEEK OF MARCH 19, cont'd.

Go.

We are going outside again! Set a timer for 5 minutes. Go outside and see how many animals you can see or hear in 5 minutes. If you want to make it more challenging, spread out from your family to different parts of your yard or neighborhood and see how many different animals your family can see or hear.

And add to your mural! How many different animals, birds, fish, and humans can you draw?



WEEK OF MARCH 26

Listen.

Read Genesis 2:1-4.

God must have needed a break after creating so many things! On the seventh day, God rested. God knew that the world had all it needed, but that the world and the living things in it needed to rest. Creations rests all the time! Did you know that even the trees and animals rest? Rest can look like sleeping; but rest can also look like not growing. In the fall, the trees lose their leaves and they rest all winter. When the clouds start making more rain, the trees and grass and flowers start to wake up again. They start growing and producing more food for insects like bees and butterflies, who help plant new flowers by helping spread pollen. Some animals hibernate in the winter. And when the world starts to wake up, they wake up, too! Just like in the creation story, first the plants and trees start to wake up, and then the animals. But everything that is alive—trees, plants, animals, bugs, humans—needs to take time to rest, too. Even God had to rest, so it's okay for us to do the same thing.

Talk

- What do you think God decided to do on the day of rest?
- What is your favorite way to rest?
- What are ways that you can help take care of the world God created?

Dear God, thank you for creating this big, beautiful world! Thank you for showing us that it is important to rest. Help us to find ways to rest so that we can be ready to take care of the world we live in. Amen.

Go.

This week is the last week to add to your mural! What do you think rest looks like? Is there anything you forgot to add to the mural? Do it now! Put the mural some place where you can see it and remember the creation story.

With your family, decide one thing you will do this week to rest together. Maybe that means taking a nap; or maybe it means talking a walk in a park; maybe it means playing a game together. Whatever you decide, take time to be together this week and do something that lets you take a break from school and sports and work and anything else that normally keeps you busy.

This month's devotions are written be Rev. Kristen Koger. Kristen currently serves as the associate pastor for spiritual growth at First Baptist Waynesboro, VA. Kristen enjoys sharing the stories of our faith with all of God's children—no matter how old they are! When she isn't working at church, Kristen enjoying doing crafts like knitting and embroidery, reading Harry Potter, cooking, and spending time with her niece and nephew. She and her dog, Dietrich "Bonehoeffer," love living in the Shenandoah Valley, which they think is the most beautiful place to live.



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