

# Genesis

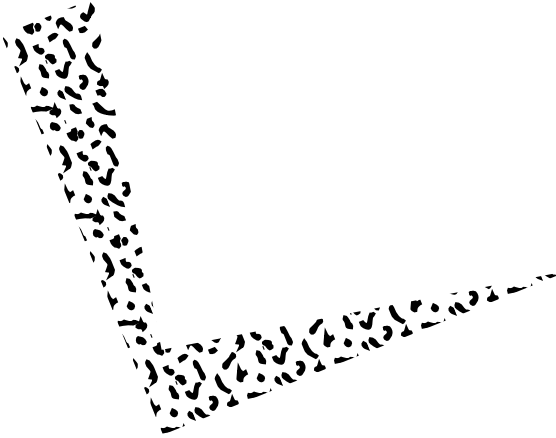
Genesis takes readers back to the beginning of time. In this book Moses tells about the first plants and animals. He tells about the first man and woman. He also tells about the first sin. Moses explains how God saves Noah and the animals from a great flood. In Genesis God promises to care for his people. He makes a special promise to Abraham. God keeps his promises!

## Good Verses to Read

God creates the whole world.	Genesis 1
God creates Adam and Eve.	Genesis 2
Adam and Eve sin.	Genesis 3
God saves Noah and the animals.	Genesis 6 — 8
God gives Abraham a promise.	Genesis 12
Jacob steals Esau's blessing.	Genesis 27
Joseph becomes a ruler.	Genesis 39 — 41



**G**



## GENESIS 1

### The Beginning

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. Darkness was over the surface of the ocean. At that time, the ocean covered the earth. The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup>God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day." He called the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

**THINK**

#### Genesis 1:1—2:3

1. How many days did it take for God to make all things? What did God do on the next day?
2. God made people to be like him. What things does God tell you to rule over?
3. Look outside if you can. What do you see that you thank God for?

**THIS**

<sup>6</sup>God said, "Let there be a huge space between the waters. Let it separate water from water." <sup>7</sup>And that's exactly what happened. God made the huge space between the waters. He separated the water that was under the space from the water that was above it. <sup>8</sup>God called the huge space "sky." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day two.

<sup>9</sup>God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place. Let dry ground appear." And that's exactly what happened. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground "land." He called the waters that were gathered together "oceans." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the land produce plants. Let them bear their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land that bear fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds." And that's exactly what happened.

<sup>12</sup>The land produced plants. Each kind of plant had its own kind of seeds. The land produced trees that bore fruit with seeds in it. Each kind of tree had its own kind of seeds.

God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning. It was day three.

<sup>14</sup>God said, "Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky. Let them separate the day from the night. Let them serve as signs to mark off the seasons and the days and the years. <sup>15</sup>Let them serve as lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth." And that's exactly what happened.

<sup>16</sup>God made two great lights. He made the larger light to rule over the day. He made the smaller light to rule over the night. He also made the stars.

<sup>17</sup>God put the lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. <sup>18</sup>He put them there to rule over the day and the night. He put them there to separate light from darkness.

God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning. It was day four.

1



## The World Begins

<sup>20</sup>God said, "Let the waters be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great creatures of the ocean. He created every living and moving thing that fills the waters. He created all kinds of them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>22</sup>God blessed them. He said, "Have little ones and increase your numbers. Fill the water in the oceans. Let there be more and more birds on the earth."

<sup>23</sup>There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five.

<sup>24</sup>God said, "Let the land produce all kinds of living creatures. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals. Let there be all kinds of them." And that's exactly what happened.

<sup>25</sup>God made all kinds of wild animals. He made all kinds of livestock. He made all kinds of creatures that move along the ground. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our likeness. Let them rule over the fish in the waters and the birds of the air. Let them rule over the livestock and over the whole earth. Let them rule over all of the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own likeness.

He created him in the likeness of God.

He created them as male and female.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them. He said to them, "Have children and increase your numbers. Fill the earth and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the waters and the birds of the air. Rule over every living creature that moves on the ground."

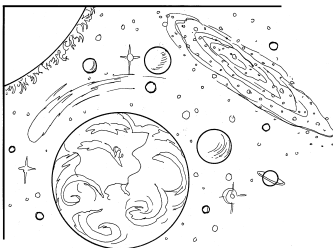
<sup>29</sup>Then God said, "I am giving you every plant on the face of the whole earth that bears its own seeds. I am giving you every tree that has fruit with seeds in it. All of them will be given to you for food.

<sup>30</sup>"I am giving every green plant to all of the land animals and the birds of the air for food. I am also giving the plants to all of the creatures that move on the ground. I am giving them to every living thing that breathes." And that's exactly what happened.

<sup>31</sup>God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.

So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

<sup>2</sup>By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day he rested from all of his work. <sup>3</sup>God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He rested on it. After he had created everything, he rested from all of the work he had done.



## In the Beginning

Genesis 1:14

God made the stars and the sun. He made the world and everything on it. God made people too. Everything God made was good.

**LOOK AT  
THIS**

# 2



## GENESIS 2

### Adam and Eve

<sup>4</sup>Here is the story of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The LORD God made the earth and the heavens. <sup>5</sup>At that time, bushes had not appeared on the earth. Plants had not come up in the fields. The LORD God had not sent rain on the earth. And there wasn't any man to work the ground. <sup>6</sup>But streams came up from the earth. They watered the whole surface of the ground.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD God formed a man. He made him out of the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living person.

**THINK**

#### Genesis 2:7–22

1. Where did Adam live? How did he get there?
2. How did God make Eve?
3. God made many trees. Which tree did God tell Adam not to eat from? What would happen if he did?
4. Think about a time when you disobeyed your parents. What happened?

**THIS**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD God had planted a garden in the east. It was in Eden. There he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup>The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground. Their fruit was pleasing to look at and good to eat.

The tree that gives life forever was in the middle of the garden. The tree that gives the ability to tell the difference between good and evil was also there.

<sup>10</sup>A river watered the garden. It flowed from Eden. From there it separated into four other rivers.

<sup>11</sup>The name of the first river is the Pishon. It winds through the whole land of Havilah. Gold is found there. <sup>12</sup>The gold of that land is good. Onyx and sweet-smelling resin are also found there.

<sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is the Gihon. It winds through the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is the Tigris. It runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden. He put him there to work its ground and to take care of it.

<sup>16</sup>The LORD God gave the man a command. He said, "You can eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden. <sup>17</sup>But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die."

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

<sup>19</sup>The LORD God had formed all of the wild animals. He had also formed all of the birds of the air. He had made all of them out of the ground. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give them. And the name the man gave each living creature became its name.

<sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all of the livestock. He gave names to all of the birds of the air. And he gave names to all of the wild animals.

But Adam didn't find a helper that was right for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused him to fall into a deep sleep. While the man was sleeping, the LORD God took out one of his ribs. He closed up the opening that was in his side.



## Adam and Eve



<sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman. He made her from the rib he had taken out of the man. And he brought her to him.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

“Her bones have come from my bones.  
Her body has come from my body.  
She will be named ‘woman,’  
because she was taken out of a man.”

<sup>24</sup>That’s why a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. The two of them will become one.

<sup>25</sup>The man and his wife were both naked. They didn’t feel any shame.

## Adam and Eve Fall Into Sin

The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. The serpent said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden?’”

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We can eat the fruit of the trees that are in the garden. <sup>3</sup>But God did say, ‘You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup>“You can be sure that you won’t die,” the serpent said to the woman.

<sup>5</sup>“God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God.”

### Genesis 3:1-19

**THINK**

1. What did the snake do that was bad?
2. What did Eve do because of the snake? Did Adam do it too?
3. Adam and Eve did a bad thing and sin came into the world. What did God say to them?
4. Do you ever do bad things? How do you think this makes God feel? How can you do better?

**THIS**

<sup>6</sup>The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat. It was also pleasing to look at. And it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it.

<sup>7</sup>Then both of them knew things they had never known before. They realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking in the garden. It was the coolest time of the day. They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called out to the man. “Where are you?” he asked.

<sup>10</sup>“I heard you in the garden,” the man answered. “I was afraid. I was naked, so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>The LORD God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten the fruit of the tree I commanded you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “It was the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

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# 3

**The First Sin**



## GENESIS 3-4

The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit."

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God spoke to the serpent. He said, "Because you have done this,

"I am putting a curse on you.  
You are cursed more than all of the livestock  
and all of the wild animals.  
You will crawl on the ground.  
You will eat dust  
all of the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put hatred  
between you and the woman.  
Your children and her children will be enemies.  
Her son will crush your head.  
And you will crush his heel."

<sup>16</sup>The LORD God said to the woman,

"I will greatly increase your pain when you give birth.  
You will be in pain when you have children.  
You will long for your husband.  
And he will rule over you."

<sup>17</sup>The LORD God said to Adam, "You listened to your wife. You ate the fruit of the tree that I commanded you about. I said, 'You must not eat its fruit.'

"So I am putting a curse on the ground because of what you did.  
All the days of your life you will have to work hard  
to get food from the ground.

<sup>18</sup>You will eat the plants of the field,  
even though the ground produces thorns and thistles.

<sup>19</sup>You will have to work hard and sweat a lot  
to produce the food you eat.  
You were made out of the ground.  
And you will return to it.  
You are dust.  
So you will return to it."

<sup>20</sup>Adam named his wife Eve. She would become the mother of every living person.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife to wear. <sup>22</sup>The LORD God said, "The man has become like one of us. He can now tell the difference between good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and pick fruit from the tree of life and eat it. If he does, he will live forever."

<sup>23</sup>So the LORD God drove the man out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground he had been made out of. <sup>24</sup>The LORD God drove him out and then placed cherubim on the east side of the Garden of Eden. He also placed a flaming sword there. It flashed back and forth. The cherubim and the sword guarded the way to the tree of life.

### Cain and Abel

Adam made love to his wife Eve. She became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the LORD's help I have had a baby boy." <sup>2</sup>Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Abel took care of sheep. Cain worked the ground. <sup>3</sup>After some time, Cain

