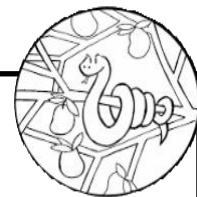


# The First Promise



## The Point

**Even though our God promises to provide for us and to take care of us, we have wandered and followed other, untrustworthy voices.** Today's story is important because it shows how God created the world and the first human beings. It reminds us that God has continually called us into fellowship with the earth, each other, and God, and that God continues to provide what we need even when we choose to walk away from God's voice .

## Story Connections

We can see how the story in Genesis 2 connects to the story in Genesis 1. Although these creation stories are told slightly differently, in both we see God's provision and care.

## Story Summary

### The First Promise

Today's story focuses on the creation of the heavens and earth and the creation of the first humans. God breathes life into them. God gives them all the trees to eat from but one, the tree of the knowledge of

good and evil. God calls them into fellowship, which they can enjoy by obeying by God's voice and fulfilling their calling as keepers of the garden. The first humans are created to serve and fellowship with God, but sadly, they choose not to follow God's direction. They listen to the voice of a serpent that distorts what God told them. The snake persuades them to do what God told them not to. As soon as they disobey, the man and woman realize they are naked. Feeling ashamed, they cover themselves with fig leaves. Then they try to hide from God's presence when God comes looking for them.

## Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

This week's spiritual practice of fellowship seems especially appropriate since we have been learning about the ways God called people into community with each other, the earth, and God. From the very beginning, fellowship was important. This week keep a blessing jar on the table at home and write down things you are thankful for about the fellowship your family shares.

## Last Week/Next Week

There was no story last week – we are at the very beginning of our journey! This week, we learned about God's provision and care for the very first human beings, and about the way they wandered from God. Next week, we will focus in on promises God made to Abram, setting a plan in motion to help restore the broken relationship between human beings and God.

## Bible Nuts and Bolts: *What is the Bible?*

The Bible is a collection of stories, histories, and poems, written by many hands over a long period of time. Although the Bible speaks to each of us differently, depending on our contexts and experiences, it is fundamentally the story of God's love and relationship with all of creation throughout history and through many experiences.

# The First Promise

## Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✠ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✠ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✠ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✠ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

*Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!*

## Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday - Read Genesis 2:4b - 7,  
15-17, 3:1-8**

Despite the loving relationship God creates the first humans for, they disobey the one rule God gave them.

- How do you think God feels when the humans disobeyed?
- What does it feel like when you know you are doing something you shouldn't do?

**Monday- Read Genesis 3:9-19**

This reading picks up where our lesson left off, showing the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience.

- What relationships were affected as a result of the man and the woman's disobedience?
- Where do you see a promise or a hope in the midst of the consequences God shares with them?

**Tuesday- Read Genesis 6: 9-22**

God makes a covenant with Noah and gives him directions for building the ark.

- Why did God decide to send a flood? And why did God choose Noah to build the ark?
- What kind of response did Noah make to God's directions and to God's promise of a covenant?

**Wednesday- Read Genesis 7:17-24,  
8:6-12**

The floods come, but Noah and his family and all the animals are safe on the ark.

- How do you think Noah and his family felt as the days went by during the flood?
- Why did Noah send out the raven and the dove? How do you think he felt when the dove came back with the olive leaf?

**Thursday- Read Genesis 9:8-17**

God establishes a covenant and provides a sign of that covenant.

- Exactly who does God make the covenant with in these verses?
- Why do you think God provided such a clear and recurring sign of the covenant?

**Friday- Read Genesis 11:1-9**

The people try to build a tower to reach the heavens.

- Why does God respond in the way God does to the building of the tower of Babel?
- Is there a New Testament parallel to this story? (Hint: it shows a reversal of language confusion. See Acts 2!)

**Saturday- Read Genesis 12:1-7**

God calls Abram.

- What does God ask Abram to do in these verses, and what does God promise him?
- How would you characterize Abram's response?