



Very Good Days in the Garden with God

OT Lesson 6 - Week 1

Genesis 2:4-25

BIG IDEA: God places Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He gives them purpose and each other and his presence. All is very good.

BACKGROUND NOTES:

In the last 4 weeks we have told the story of creation from Genesis 1 to the children in all its grand and glorious beauty and diversity. Today we will tell a more intimate story of creation; a story of how God formed two people, Adam and Eve and how He placed them in a beautiful garden and provided them with everything they needed for physical, spiritual and emotional well-being.

There are so many cultural agendas children will encounter regarding creation and human dignity. Our culture wants to tell us who we are and what our lives should be about; as well as what creation is and how we are to interact with it! From the very beginning we want the children in our care to know that God is the highest authority. God made us, he loves us, and he made us to know and love him in return. We are, put very simply, God's beloved children.

TEACHERS PREPARATION

- **Read** Genesis 2:4-25. How is this text different from last weeks text (Genesis 1:1-2.3).
- In what ways has God been good to Adam and Eve?
- **Read** through the following excerpts from *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism* in preparation to teach.
- **Pray** for the children who will be in your care this year, and for the helpers and families. May we all grow in our love, knowledge, and service to our Lord and God together this year!

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism:

44. Why do you call God the Father "Creator?"

I call God the Father "Creator" because he is the sole designer and originator of everything that exists. He creates and sustains all things through his Word, and gives life to all creatures through his Spirit. (Genesis 1; 2:7; Job 33:4; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:3)

45. How does recognizing God as Creator affect your understanding of his creation?

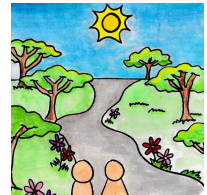
I acknowledge that God made for his own glory everything that exists. He created human beings in his image, male and female, to serve him as creation's stewards, managers and caretakers. He entrusts his good creation to us as a gift to enjoy and a responsibility to fulfill. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:15; Revelation 4:11)

Materials Required...

For the classroom: Attendance sheet, iPod with music and speakers.

For the lesson: *The Big Picture Bible* by David Helm,

Timeline picture: People in the Garden, "The Doxology" prayer poster card.



For the presentation: script of the presentation, black underlay, green Garden underlay
Felt Pieces: Light (white square), Sky (large dark blue circle), Sea (smaller light blue circle), Land (brown land shapes), Sun, Moon, Stars, Flat Felt Yellow Crown
Plants and Animals (in wood or Playmobil or Little People plastic toys), Adam and Eve (unpainted wooden peg-people).

Alternately you can use the Creations Cards in paper to tell to first part of the story (see the folder for L6 week 2)

For the response: Choose which responses you want to offer to determine which of the following supplies you will need.

Playdough, NEW Garden Playdough Mat.

A variety of Children's Books and Bibles with bookmarks at the Creation story including *Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden* by Jane Ray

Plastic toy people and animals

Copies of Creation Minibook

Your Preparation Notes...

Welcome! (~5 min)

ENTERING THE CLASSROOM

As the children approach the classroom the one teacher should be waiting inside, sitting on the floor in your circle time area, with the other teacher waiting outside the door. Have the kids take off their shoes outside the door (to make the transition into a new space) and let them into the room **one at a time**. This is also a chance to welcome and chat with the children as they wait to go inside the classroom.

As each child enters the room welcome them by name and have them come and find a spot on the floor in front of them. You may want to have them each sit on an individual mat to define their own space. Take this time to welcome each child, and ask how their week was, or to ask a question about some other connection point.

The teaching assistant should note the **attendance** at some point during the morning.

Once all the children are settled quickly begin:

GREETING:

Teacher : The Lord be with you

All: And also with you!

Sing! (~5 min)

Sing the acappella or along with the recordings. Use actions, have fun with it, and do your best not to feel too self conscious. The kids will take their cue from you! Here are some of our suggestions, but feel free to substitute your favorites. Sing the songs more than once so the kids can learn them this week.

Choose one of the following as a Welcome song to sing each week this Fall:

- *Sing Hello – GBS recording. This is a good one for learning each other's names.*
- *Hello Song (Clap your hands...) - My God is a very, very Big God Album by Emu Music*
- *Praise the Lord Together – GBS recording*

Choose 2-3 of the following Unit Songs to sing this Fall:

- *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands - traditional - GBS recording*
- *God makes Everything – Big Stories for Little Ones by Rain for Roots*
- *The Sea is His (Ps 95:5) – Dana Dirkson*
- *Who made the World -Emu Music*
- *God Made Me - traditional*

Sing the MEMORY VERSE SONG– Genesis 1:1 to the tune of "Are you sleeping" – GBS recording.

In the beginning...kids echo God created...kids echo

The Heavens and the Earth ...kids echo Genesis 1, 1. ...kids echo

Hear God's Word! (~15 min)

Transition to Story Time with the following finger play.

To hear a story (cup hand behind ear)
 From God's Holy Book (form a book with your hands)
 I close my mouth (Touch mouth)
 Just listen and look (Touch ears and eyes)

PRESENTATION: Very Good Days in the Garden with God – Week 1

| Narration | Actions |
|--|---|
| In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. | Begin with a black underlay |
| In six days... God made the light and the dark. He made the sky... and the seas.... and the land. | Lay down on the left side: Light (white felt square) Lay down in the center: Sky (large dark blue circle) Sea (smaller light blue circle) Land (brown land shapes) |
| He made plants and trees. | Add Plants and Trees |
| He made the sun and the moon and the stars. | Add felt Sun, Moon and Stars |
| He made birds to fly in the air and fish to swim in the sea. and He filled the land with all kinds of animals. | Add Birds, Fish, Animals |
| Then God created people to be like Him. | Add Adam and Eve (unpainted wooden peg-people figures). |
| And he <u>blessed</u> them. When God saw everything he had made, he said, "It is VERY good!" | Bring your hands palms down to surround the scene. |
| Then... God rested. | Turn your hands palms up |
| Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east in Eden. | Lay out the green Garden Underlay to the right of the creation scene. |
| The LORD God took the man and the woman and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of | Move Adam and Eve over to the garden. Add Trees and Bushes , |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| it. The man was named Adam and his wife was named Eve. | flowers , etc. |
| Together they lived with the Lord God in the garden. God was their king. God loved his people. And his people loved him. Everything was good and right, just the way God wanted it to be. | Add Flat Felt Yellow Crown |



WONDER TOGETHER:

- I wonder why God made the garden for Adam and Eve?
- I wonder what was the most beautiful thing in the garden?
- I wonder what it was like to live in the garden with God?

TEACHING TIME:

SAY: God put Adam and Eve into the garden of Eden. It was a very special place where God could be with the people he made. *(Hold your hands to surround Adam and Eve)*

God gave them everything they needed in the garden - lots of delicious things to eat *(Point to the plants)*

And good work to do like tending the garden and naming all the animals. *(Pick up a few of the animals from the creation scene and move them over to the garden scene. As you do...)*

ASK: What is this called? And this... etc.

(Option to invite the kids to pick up one animal from the Creation scene, name it and put it in the garden. Have a basket with extra animals so everyone can put one on.)

(Lift up Adam and Eve together and say...)

SAY: God gave Adam and Eve to one another to be husband and wife and to have children together.

And God blessed them. And everything was very, very good.

TIMELINE PICTURE: *Invite the children to put up the timeline picture.*

Let's pray together...



Pray! (~5 min)

Transition to Prayer Time with the following finger play. You may need to teach this to the children today if they don't already know it.

Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Give your hands a clap clap clap
Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Put them in your lap

EVERYONE PRAYS: A NEW WAY TO PRAY: Singing "The Doxology"

SAY: One thing we can do when we pray is praising God. Praising God is telling him how much we love him and how great he is. Today I am going to teach you a new song we can sing as we pray and praise God.

TEACH: "The Doxology"

TEACHER PRAYS: *After teaching the song, the Teacher should just pray a simple, short prayer thanking God for the children and linking to the Main Idea of Story they have heard.*

For Example: Dear God, Thank you for making this whole great big beautiful world. Help us to know you and love you more as we delight in your creation. Amen.

SING: "The Doxology as a prayer.

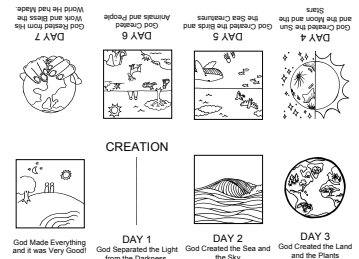
Respond! (~15 min)

Choose 1-3 of the following options to provide today. See the document "How to do Response Time" for more details on how to lead this part of your time together.

DRAW: a picture from the story today or use the coloring page.

MINI-BOOK: Fold, cut and color a creation mini-book

READ: from one of our books in the book bin... Can you find pictures from this story? Look together at the beautiful pictures in the book *Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden* by Jane Ray



PLAY: Re-tell the story with the teaching Materials. You can do this with a group of kids and work together to retell the story. It's a good opportunity to see how well they understand the story and clarify any misunderstandings.

PLAYDOUGH: Use the Garden Playdough Mat, sculpting tools including people and animal shaped cookie cutters. Add flowers, trees and plants and animals and people.



Snack and Fellowship! (~15 min)

When it is time to transition to snack slowly help the kids clear up what they have been working on and move to the snack table. Have one teacher take pairs to the washroom to wash hands or use sanitizer in the classroom. Meanwhile the other teacher can supervise clean up and get the snack ready.

SAY OR SING GRACE: *When everyone is seated say a simple prayer of thanksgiving for the food or you can sing Hands, Hands, Hands.*

Hands, hands, hands, Thank you God for hands.
Food, food, food, Thank you God for food.
Friends. friends. friends. Thank you God for friends. Amen.

Serve each child their snack. When everyone is settled in eating you may choose to read from the following Children's Bible or continue to discuss the story while they eat or just visit with the children and get to know them.

READ the story "A very good beginning" from **The Big Picture Bible** by David Helm p. 15-34

When children are finished their snack say your closing rhyme and then excuse them to play:

Say the Closing Rhyme **Birds in the Air.**

Birds in the air (*flap your arms like a bird*)
Stones on the land (*put a closed fist onto an outstretched palm in front of you*)
Fishes in the water (*put your two hands together and wiggle in front of you like a fish*)
And we're (*gesture with both hands to children around you*)
In God's hands (*bring hands together in front of you palms facing up*)

Free Play! until parent pick up

Children can play with the story materials (adding to the story or re-telling it with a helper), read today's story from one of the children's Bibles, or play with the story specific toys.

All children must be picked up by their parents from class.



God's Promised One

OT Lesson 9

Prophets

BIG IDEA: God makes a promise to send a someone to save us from sin. He will be the Good Shepherd, the Mighty Rescuer and the Forever King.

BACKGROUND NOTES

Today's lesson is the second of three lessons that teach on sin and the consequences of sin and the promises God makes to deal with the problem of sin.

We have to be careful to be very clear and precise when teaching young children about sin. It is easy for the conversation to become moralistic, or for the weight of the problem to overwhelm our children. It is very important that any conversation about mankind's sin be framed by what we know about God's perfect character, and his promises to fix the brokenness which entered the world that day. The problem of sin is much bigger than what we do and don't do on any given day. It has to do with our state before God, and our need for his Grace. The problem of sin must be discussed within the wider context of God's Big Story—his amazing plan to rescue us from the consequences of the Fall through the death of his son, Jesus.

Sin, which entered this world through Adam and Eve, spreads to all of us. We are trapped in sin and cannot free ourselves. Without God we are "hopeless, guilty, lost, helpless, and walking in the way of death." (*To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism*)

Throughout the Old Testament we see that God sent prophets to remind his people of his love, goodness, provision and care. The prophets reminded the people of God's laws and testified against the people's rebellion calling for them to follow God once again. The prophets also give pictures, images, and visions of the future God promised to give his people.

The story of the prophets offers a warning to us. Our sin dangerously hardens us to the words of God. But the prophets offer us incredible hope as well. God is committed to his people. He continues to reach out to them in the midst of sin and rebellion. Until, at the right time, he makes the ultimate act of reconciliation:

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)*

TEACHER PREPARATION

- Read: Acts 3:12-26
- How do the prophets remind us of our need for reconciliation with God? What hope do they offer us?
- **Read** through the following excerpts from *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism* in preparation to teach.
- Pray for the lesson and your time with the kids as you prepare.

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism

1. **What is the Gospel?**
The Gospel is the good news of God loving and saving lost mankind through the ministry in word and deed of his Son, Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Romans 5:15; John 1:12; 1 John 5:11-12)
2. **What is the human condition?**
The universal human condition is that, though made for fellowship with our Creator, we have been cut off from him by self-centered rebellion against him, leading to guilt, shame, and fear of death and judgment. This is the state of sin. (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23)
3. **How does sin affect you?**
Sin alienates me from God, my neighbor, God's good creation, and myself. I am hopeless, guilty, lost, helpless, and walking in the way of death. (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:23)
5. **Can you mend your broken relationship with God?**
No. I have no power to save myself, for sin has corrupted my conscience and captured my will. Only God can save me. (Ephesians 2:1-9; John 14:6; Titus 3:3-7)
8. **How does God save you?**
God saves me by grace, which is his undeserved love given to me in and through Jesus. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Materials Required...

For the classroom: Attendance sheet, iPod with music and speakers.

For the lesson: *The Biggest Story* by Kevin DeYoung, Timeline Picture:
Promise One



For the presentation: script of the presentation, long black underlay, long ribbon, yellow felt crown, red felt heart, several unpainted figures of various sizes, Four Envelopes – Hand written messages cut and folded to make envelopes. Color 5" Teaching Cards: God Rested, The Fall, Separated from God, Enslaved, Free, Promise.

BW Teaching Cards: Good Shepherd, Chain Breaker, Forever King

For the response: Promise One Craft Template, fine-line permanent markers. Watercolor paints, brushes, water. Coloring Page

Your Preparation Notes...

Welcome! (~5 min)

ENTERING THE CLASSROOM

As the children approach the classroom the one teacher should be waiting inside, sitting on the floor in your circle time area, with the other teacher waiting outside the door. Have the kids take off their shoes outside the door (to make the transition into a new space) and let them into the room **one at a time**. This is also a chance to welcome and chat with the children as they wait to go inside the classroom.

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The teaching assistant should note the **attendance** at some point during the morning.

Once all the children are settled quickly begin:

GREETING:

Teacher : The Lord be with you

All: And also with you!

Sing! (~5 min)

Sing the acappella or along with the recordings. Use actions, have fun with it, and do your best not to feel too self conscious. The kids will take their cue from you! Here are some of our suggestions, but feel free to substitute your favorites. Sing the new songs more than once so the kids can learn them.

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- *Sing Hello – GBS recording. This is a good one for learning each other's names.*
- *Hello Song (Clap your hands...) - My God is a very, very Big God Album by Emu Music*
- *Praise the Lord Together – GBS recording*

Sing: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands - traditional - GBS recording

Add 1-2 of these new songs for Lesson 8-10

- *My God is a Very, Very, Big God -Emu Music*
- *My God is so Big so Strong and So Mighty*
- *Promises, Promises - Emu Music*

Sing the MEMORY VERSE SONG

Psalm 145:13a The Lord will keep all His promises. – GBS recording.

The Lord/ will keep/all His promises/all His Promises/all His promises.

The Lord/ will keep/all His promises/Psalm one forty five/thirteen

Hear God's Word! (~15 min)

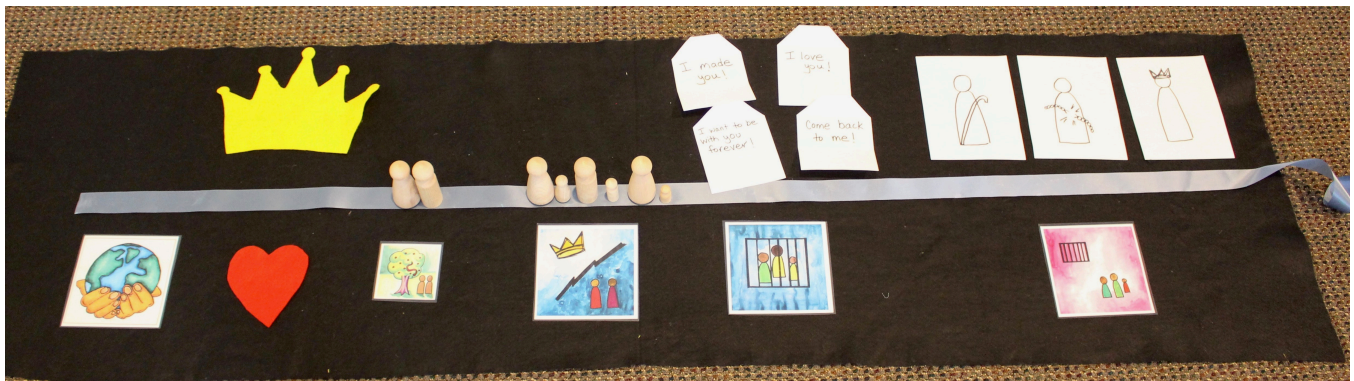
Transition to Story Time with the following finger play.

To hear a story (cup hand behind ear)
 From God's Holy Book (form a book with your hands)
 I close my mouth (Touch mouth)
 Just listen and look (Touch ears and eyes)

Presentation: God's Promised One

| Narration | Actions |
|--|---|
| | Begin with a long black underlay |
| This is our timeline. | Lay down the a long ribbon along the underlay. |
| In the beginning God created the <u>heavens</u> ...and the <u>earth</u> . Everyone and everything in God's creation belonged to God. God was the <u>king</u> of all and He ruled over all. | Place the Teaching Card: God Rested below the ribbon at the beginning. Place the Yellow Felt Crown a little farther down the ribbon. |
| <u>Adam and Eve</u> lived in God's good creation with God. God was their king and he <u>loved</u> them very, very much. | Place Adam and Eve on ribbon below the crown. Add a Red Heart below the ribbon |
| But one day they decided that they didn't want God telling them what to do. So <u>they</u> turned away from God and his love. It was a very, very sad day. | Place the Teaching Card: The Fall Walk Adam and Eve down the ribbon until they are not under the crown. |
| When we reject God as our king, the Bible calls this "Sin". Sin is a very terrible thing. Sin separates us from God. It makes us sad and sick. It brings pain and death. | Teaching Card: Separated from God |
| Every person born after Adam and Eve also said No! to God and turned away from Him. | Add several more people of various sizes on the ribbon. |

| | |
|---|---|
| But did that stop God from loving the people that he made? NO! | |
| <p>God sent messages to his people calling them back. Do you remember what the messages said?</p> <p>I made you. I love you. I want to be with you forever! Come back to me! Come back!</p> | <p>Lay down Four Envelopes with handwritten messages above the ribbon. Open them one by one and read:</p> <p>"I made you" "I love you" "I want to be with you forever" "Come back to me!"</p> |
| <p>But the people did not listen. They were trapped by sin – like people in a prison.</p> | Teaching Card: Enslaved |
| <p>So God made them a promise. He said, "I will send Someone to save you."</p> | Teaching Card: Freed |
| Then God gave his people stories and pictures to help them to recognize this Savior. | |
| <p>Here is the first picture ...</p> <p>The Savior will be like a Good Shepherd who loves and cares for his sheep - searching for them when they are lost – and laying down his life for them.</p> | <p>Place above the ribbon:</p> <p>Picture #1: Good Shepherd</p> |
| <p>Here is another picture...</p> <p>He will be a Mighty Rescuer who will free us from Sin. He will break our chains and set us free.</p> | Pictures #2: Chain Breaker |
| <p>And one more for today...</p> <p>The Savior will be The Forever King. A good and wise and loving king who cares and protects his people.</p> | Picture #3: Forever King |
| I wonder if you recognize the Savior in these pictures? | |



WONDER TOGETHER:

- I wonder if you recognize the Savior in these pictures?
- I wonder how Jesus is like a Good Shepherd?
- I wonder how Jesus is like a Mighty Rescuer?
- I wonder how Jesus is like a King who reigns forever?

TEACHING:

SAY: God made a promise to free us from sin.

ASK: Did God keep his promise? **YES!**

SAY: The Bible says that, "All the promises of God find their "Yes" in Jesus. " (2 Cor 1:20a)

SAY: Jesus is the one God promised would come to save us from sin. If we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we are freed from sin. We can know God and be known by him. And we can live forever with Him in heaven. This is what God promises us.

SING: The Memory Verse Again

Psalm 145:13a The Lord will keep all His promises. – GBS recording.

The Lord/ will keep/all His promises/all His Promises/all His promises.

The Lord/ will keep/all His promises/Psalm one forty five/thirteen

Let's pray together...

Pray! (~5 min)

Transition to Prayer Time with the following finger play. You may need to teach this to the children today if they don't already know it.

Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Give your hands a clap clap clap
Open them shut them, Open them shut them, Put them in your lap

EVERYONE PRAYS: Pass the Prayer Cross

EXPLAIN: We will pass this prayer cross (made of wood or popsicle sticks etc.) around the circle. When it comes to you, you can pray out loud. If you don't want to pray today you can just pray in your head and then pass the cross to the next person in the circle.

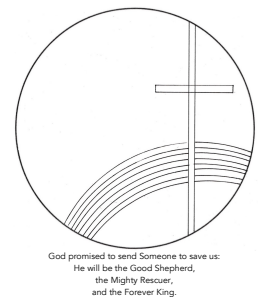
You can talk to God about anything. Tell him how much you love him. Thank him for the good things he has done for you. Tell him how much you are sorry for the bad things you do. Or ask him for help or things you need.

Respond! (~15 min)

Choose 1-3 of the following options to provide today. See the document "How to do Response Time" for more details on how to lead this part of your time together.

DRAW: a picture from the story today or use the coloring page.

DRAW-WRITE-PAINT: Use the Promised One Craft template. Have the kids draw in the three "pictures" of the Savior with fine-line permanent markers. Use watercolor paint the picture. They can add the memory verse or the other images of promise in the timeline picture: the rainbow (Noah), the stars (Abraham), the heart (the new heart prophesized in Ezekiel) and the cross (means of salvation).



READ: from one of our books in the book bin...

PLAY: Re-tell the story with the teaching Materials. What could you add to the story today that tells of God's faithfulness and promises to his people?

Snack and Fellowship! (~15 min)

When it is time to transition to snack slowly help the kids clear up what they have been working on and move to the snack table. Have one teacher take pairs to the washroom to wash hands or use sanitizer in the classroom. Meanwhile the other teacher can supervise clean up and get the snack ready.

SAY OR SING GRACE: *When everyone is seated say a simple prayer of thanksgiving for the food or you can sing Hands, Hands, Hands.*

Hands, hands, hands, Thank you God for hands.
Food, food, food, Thank you God for food.
Friends. friends. friends. Thank you God for friends. Amen.

Serve each child their snack. When everyone is settled in eating you may choose to read from the following Children's Bible or continue to discuss the story while they eat or just visit with the children and get to know them.

READ from *The Biggest Story* by Kevin DeYoung, Chapter 1, p 17-27. The story of Creation through to the promise of the serpent crusher.

When children are finished their snack say your closing rhyme and then excuse them to play:

Say the Closing Rhyme **Birds in the Air.**

Birds in the air (*flap your arms like a bird*)
 Stones on the land (*put a closed fist onto an outstretched palm in front of you*)
 Fishes in the water (*put your two hands together and wiggle in front of you like a fish*)
 And we're (*gesture with both hands to children around you*)
 In God's hands (*bring hands together in front of you palms facing up*)

Free Play! until parent pick up

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All children must be picked up by their parents from class.