

CREATION



GOD

In the beginning, there was God.

Just God. Nothing else.

No trees, no hummingbirds, no ants, no stars, no galaxies, no mountains, no whales, no bats, no kids, no grown-ups, no grandmas or grandpas, no caterpillars, no lakes, no oceans, no horses, no elephants, and no frogs. Not even little tiny ones.

Just God.

You might think He was lonely in all that nothingness. But God wasn't lonely, because God wasn't alone.

You see, God is like us in some ways. He thinks. He feels. He acts. But in other ways He is very, very different.

God is everywhere. He knows everything. He is never wrong. **EVER**. And one other way God is different—and this one is tricky—God is more than one.

There is one God, but there are three persons in God.

GOD THE FATHER
GOD THE SON
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Three persons in one God. I told you it was tricky.

And that is why God wasn't lonely. Because He wasn't alone.

There is love within God. There is friendship within God. There is family within God.

One day, God decided He wanted to make a **UNIVERSE**. He said, "It's time for us to begin." And **BOOM!** He started making stuff. *Why?* Because it made Him happy.

God made shining stars and the big, burning sun. He spun galaxies and solar systems and planets.

Then He picked one particular planet and said, "Watch this!" And **BOOM!** He made mountains and oceans and lakes and streams. He made plants grow—tiny little leafy ones smaller than a pebble and big giant ones that climbed toward the sun.

It was very good. But God wasn't done.

Next He made living creatures so small you could barely see them. And then fish and birds and **GIANT** dinosaurs! He made swimmy creatures and crawly creatures and creatures that fly. Whales and dolphins and giraffes. Giant sloths and woolly mammoths.

He made monkeys. Little ones and big ones. Howling monkeys and swinging monkeys and monkeys so small they could sit in a teacup.



CREATION

FAMILY CONNECTION

GENESIS 1

TRICKY BITS

How can God be one God but three persons?

Some say God has three parts like an egg. But the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit aren't *parts* of God, they are each completely God! Some things about God are hard for human brains to understand, and this is one of them. God is one, *and* God is three! (And, ouch, my head hurts!)



It was very good. But God wasn't done. The creatures God made were **AMAZING**. Some were beautiful and others funny-looking. Some were very tall and others very short. They had long necks and short necks, fur and feathers, big teeth and tiny beaks. But none of the creatures were like God.

They couldn't think the way God thought. Feel the way God felt. Act the way God acted. And the friendship God had with Himself—the forever friendship that had always been and will always be—these creatures couldn't join that friendship. They couldn't join God's family.

So God said, "Now watch this."

And then He made something truly **SPECIAL**: a creature that could think, feel, and act like God could think, feel, and act. A creature that could join God's family. God made *us*.

TALK

What does the creation story teach us about God's power?

What is your favorite part of God's creation?

Dear God ...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for creating our great, big world and for creating us to be a part of Your family. Amen.



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ADAM AND EVE

M an and woman.

God made them, these very special creatures.

The man was named “Adam,” and the woman was named “Eve.” They were more like God than anything else God had made. They were humans and could **THINK** and **FEEL**. They could dream up big ideas and create things.

And most important, they could be friends with God.

The earth was a pretty wild place, so God planted a garden for Adam and Eve to live in. He called it “Eden.”

Inside the garden, Adam and Eve had **EVERYTHING** they needed. They had beauty. They had order. They had plenty. Best of all, they had friendship with God.

God gave Adam and Eve a great, amazing, and huge job: Take the beauty, order, and plenty of the garden, and spread it **EVERYWHERE**. Make the whole earth like the garden. And have kids. Lots of them! So God’s family could get bigger and bigger. So love and joy and friendship and beauty and order and plenty could fill the whole earth! What a great, amazing, and **HUGE** job!

Of course, friendship needs trust. If Adam and Eve wanted to be God’s friends, they needed to trust Him. They needed to listen to God.

That would be easy, right? If God is good and powerful and never wrong, trusting Him should be easy.

And it was . . . for a while.

But there was this **ONE** tree.
There were **LOTS** of trees in the garden, of course, and many were covered with fruit. Apple trees and pear trees and orange trees and lemon trees and apricot trees—more fruit than Adam and Eve could possibly eat!



But there was **ONE** particular tree in the garden that was different. God said, “Don’t eat the fruit from **THAT** tree.”

Just **ONE** tree. A gazillion trees with fruit they could eat and just **ONE** tree they couldn’t touch.

*Would they listen to God? Would they stay away from that one tree? What would **YOU** do?*

Well, Adam and Eve were doing just fine listening to God until a new voice showed up in the garden. This voice belonged to an enemy of God and was coming from a **SNAKE**. A sneaky snake.

The snake said, “Are you **SURE** you can’t eat the fruit of that tree?”

Adam and Eve said they were sure. And that if they ate **THAT** fruit, they would die.

And then the snake did something that no one had ever done before in God’s beautiful world.

The snake **LIED**.

“You will surely not die,” he said. “No, if you eat the fruit of **THAT** tree, you will become wise and smart like God!”





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hoa. *What should Adam and Eve do?* It would be great to be as wise as God! Then they wouldn't have to listen to God all the time—they'd know everything too!

*Who should they trust? The sneaky snake? Or God? Who would **YOU** trust?*

Adam and Eve decided to trust the snake and go their own way. Adam and Eve ate the fruit they weren't supposed to eat. And **SIN** entered God's world.

ADAM AND EVE FAMILY CONNECTION

GENESIS 2



FUN FACTS

Eden comes from a Hebrew word which is thought to mean “pleasure” or “delight.” It's no wonder God's perfect garden was given this beautiful name! *What do you think it would have been like to live in God's garden?*

TALK

Why did Adam and Eve want to eat the fruit God told them not to eat?

What happens when we disobey God and go our own way?

Dear
God...



PRAY

Dear God, help us to listen only to Your voice so that we go Your way instead of our own. Amen.

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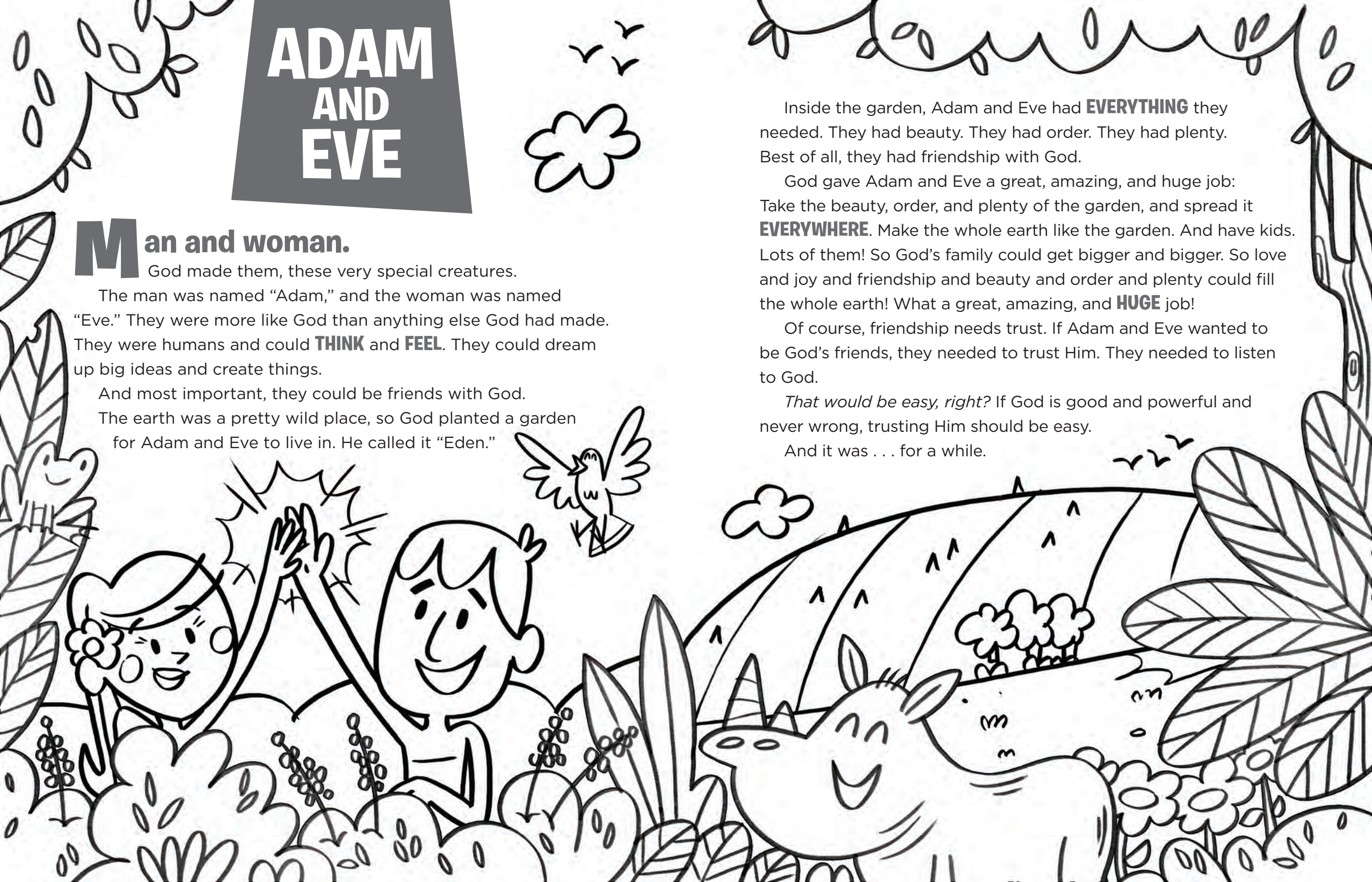
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