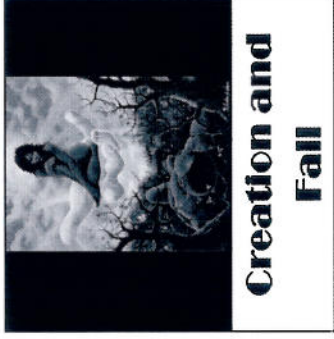


# God's Story Our Story

September 11, 2016



## Creation and Fall

**Devotion:** Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

**O Lord, you create all, you know all, you see all. Have mercy on our shortcomings and release us from our shame. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**Reflect:** Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. Genesis 3:6-7*

**Study:** Study the reading and consider the background.

The first humans on earth are living the good life. They have free access to everything they need; what more could they possibly want? Only the one thing they've been told they cannot have.

**Consider:** Consider this theme for the week's text.

**Our shame makes us vulnerable and exposed. God's love forgives and heals.**

**Read:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Creation and Fall*, Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

Monday: *Cain and Abel*, Genesis 4:1-16

Tuesday: *Noah*, Genesis 6:11-22

Wednesday: *The Tower of Babel*, Genesis 11:1-9

Thursday: *God Calls Abram*, Genesis 12:1-9

Friday: *Abram Lies to Pharaoh about Sarai*, Genesis 12:10-13:1

Saturday: *Abram and Lot Part Ways*, Genesis 13:2-18

**How do these early stories portray the relationship between God and God's people?**

**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**How does being a caretaker of God's creation shape how you live your life? What can you do to care for the planet and God's people? What does it mean to you that God's breath lives within you?**

Observe the ways in which you experience shame. Observe too, ways in which God's forgiveness offers you new opportunities for life.

**Do:** By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Identify three things that cause you shame. Choose one to work on this week. Spend time looking at the situation from every angle. What was your part? What makes the event shameful? What can you do differently next time? Share your experience with someone you trust. Then ask God to remove the shame.**

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God cleanse you of guilt and remove shame from you. Amen.**