

## Portion Bereshit Genesis - Bereshit (1.1-6.8)

In the beginning of God's creating the heavens and the earth, when the earth was empty and astonishingly dark, God's Presence hovered over the surface of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that the light was good and called the light day and the darkness night. It was evening and morning, one day.

God said, "Let there be waters and sky and dry land, plants and trees, a sun, a moon, and stars. God said, "Let there be birds and fish, all sorts of living things, and animals." God saw all God created was good. God said, "Let there also be humans, male and female, in an image worthy of God. Let them be fruitful and multiply and rule over all the living I have created." God saw that all God created was very good. Thus, heaven and earth were created in 6 days. On the 7th day God finished working and rested. God blessed the 7th day and made it holy.

When God completed heaven and earth, a mist watered. And God formed man from the ground and blew into his nostrils the soul of life and man became a living being. God placed the man, Adam, in the garden of Eden, where there were many trees, including The Tree of Life and The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad. God said to the created man, "You are to work in the Garden and guard it. You may freely eat fruit from all the trees except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad. For on the day you eat it, you shall definitely die."

God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." So, God had Adam name all the living things, then cast him into a deep sleep and brought forth from his side, a woman, Eve. They were now man and woman, helpmates on earth. They were naked and not ashamed.

Now the serpent, the most cunning animal made by God, said to Eve, "Eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad and you will be able to open your eyes like God." Tempted, Eve ate and gave it to Adam and he ate. Suddenly their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked and rushed to make clothes.

When God found out what they had done, God said to the serpent, "cursed forever are you to slither," and to the woman, "cursed forever are you to suffer in childbirth" and to the man, cursed forever are you to work the land by the sweat of your brow. You are dust and to dust you shall return."

Then God sent Adam and Eve away and blocked the way to God's Tree of Life with a cherubim angel and a flaming ever-turning sword.

Outside the garden, Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. As adults, Cain became a farmer and Abel became a shepherd. They made offerings to God. Cain offered his fruit and his brother Abel offered the best from his flock of sheep. God smiled upon Abel but not upon Cain and he became sad and angry.

God said to Cain, "You can choose now to act good or bad. Just remember evil tempts you so that you can learn to overcome and master it."

Cain said something to his brother and when they came to a field, Cain rose up against his brother and killed him. God asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" And Cain replied, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

God could see then Abel had killed Cain, and told him, "The land will no longer lend its strength to you and you will be a restless wanderer."

Cain said, "My sin is too great to bare." God then placed a mark on his head so no-one would kill him and Cain went out from before God's Presence.

Later Adam and Eve had another son Seth and many many years passed, ten generations. It was then that God noticed that every day, the hearts and minds of the humans were choosing bad over good. This made God wish God had not created humans. God said, "I will destroy every living thing on the earth."

But Noah found favor in the eyes of God.

**Questions:** 1) Who is God? 2) What is good? 3) What is bad? How is bad different from evil?

**Illustration Ideas:** Draw any creation of God's-.light, waters, sky, land, plants, sun, moon, stars, fish, animals, humans