

General Church Education



A Wife for Adam

Genesis 2:8-25

Lesson 2

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

A Wife for Adam

Genesis 2:8-25

Ideas for Parents & Teachers

This lesson introduces another theme for the year—the Lord as Creator. He created the natural world and the spiritual world. It is important to realize that the Lord not only created everything, but He continues to create and re-create. This is a good age to talk about how people are responsible for the care of the Lord’s creation.

This lesson also contains teachings about marriage and how the Lord ordained it from the beginning. We will focus on the literal sense because children usually want to believe that these stories are literal accounts. But if your child asks whether the stories really happened this way, you have an opportunity to teach that the Word has an “internal sense” or heavenly meaning. Everything in the Word teaches us many truths that we will understand more and more as we get older.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord made everything, and He keeps everything on earth and in heaven in existence by constantly flowing into it with His life.
- The Garden of Eden was like heaven on earth. There was no evil with people.
- People are created in the image and likeness of God—male and female.
- The Lord created marriage and commanded that this was how people should live.

From the Writings

The universe in its greatest and least elements and in its first and last elements is so full of Divine love and wisdom that it can be said to be Divine love and wisdom in an image. See *Divine Love and Wisdom* 52

Conjugal love is only possible between one male and one female, and it is from creation heavenly and inmost, the soul and father of all good loves; it was breathed into our first forefathers, and can be breathed into Christians. Its uniting power is so great that it can make two minds into one, and two persons as it were one person; this is what is meant by their becoming one flesh. Genesis shows plainly that this love was breathed in from creation: “A man shall leave his father and mother, and cling to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). Also in Matthew Jesus said, “Have you not read that the Maker from the beginning made them male and female? Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two of them shall become one flesh.... What God has joined together, let not man separate”. This is said of the source of conjugal love. See *Conjugal Love* 112

A Wife for Adam

Do you remember how the world was made? The Lord created or made everything. (You may want to review the creation story at the beginning of the Word in the first chapter of Genesis.) Genesis means “beginning” and the book of Genesis tells us how the Lord created light, water, the earth, all the plants that grow on it, and all the animals and people that live on it.

The Lord created all these things in the beginning and He is still creating them today for all of us. He continues to create all the beautiful and useful things in our world and in heaven where the angels live. The Lord created this natural world so we would have a place to live while we learn how to be angels in heaven. During our life on earth we are meant to learn how to think of others and not just of ourselves. We can learn about the Lord and His kingdom and prepare to be a part of it.

The Garden of Eden

Think of the most beautiful garden you have ever seen. Can you picture in your mind all the lovely flowers that smell so good and all the juicy fruits you would like to eat? Imagine that this garden is so big that it goes on as far as your eye can see. It is as warm and sunny as a spring day and there are beautiful, interesting plants and trees everywhere. This is like the Garden of Eden that the Lord created for the first people. Let’s read about the garden in Genesis. Listen



for the names of two special trees that were in the garden.

Read Genesis 2:8-14. Do you remember the names of the two trees? (Tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)

A big river ran through the garden and divided into how many smaller rivers? (Four.)

The Lord took the first man and put him in the beautiful garden to take care of it. Then the Lord told the man that there was one tree that he was not to eat the fruit of. Read on and see which tree it was.

Read Genesis 2:15-17. What is the name of the one tree that the man was not to eat of? (Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)

Have you ever been lonely? Adam was alone in the garden. The Lord wanted Adam to have a helper or companion who would be like him. First the Lord brought each of the animals that He had made—all of the beasts of the field and the birds of the air—to Adam and let Adam give each of them a name. In this way Adam became familiar with all of the animals, but still there was no person like him to be his companion. There was no one to keep Adam company, no other person to share the happiness of the garden and help him tend it. So the Lord made Adam fall asleep, then He took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman out of it. The Lord brought her to life just as He had made the man alive.



Read Genesis 2:18-25. What did Adam call the new person the Lord created? (Woman.)

Why do you think the Lord used Adam's rib to raise up the first woman? (Because the rib is a bone close to the heart, and she would be dear to Adam's heart.)

Then she became Adam's wife, and they lived together in the beautiful Garden of Eden. They loved each other dearly, and they loved the Lord above all things, so they were very happy. There was nothing evil or bad in the world then and that is why it says they were naked and were not ashamed of their nakedness.

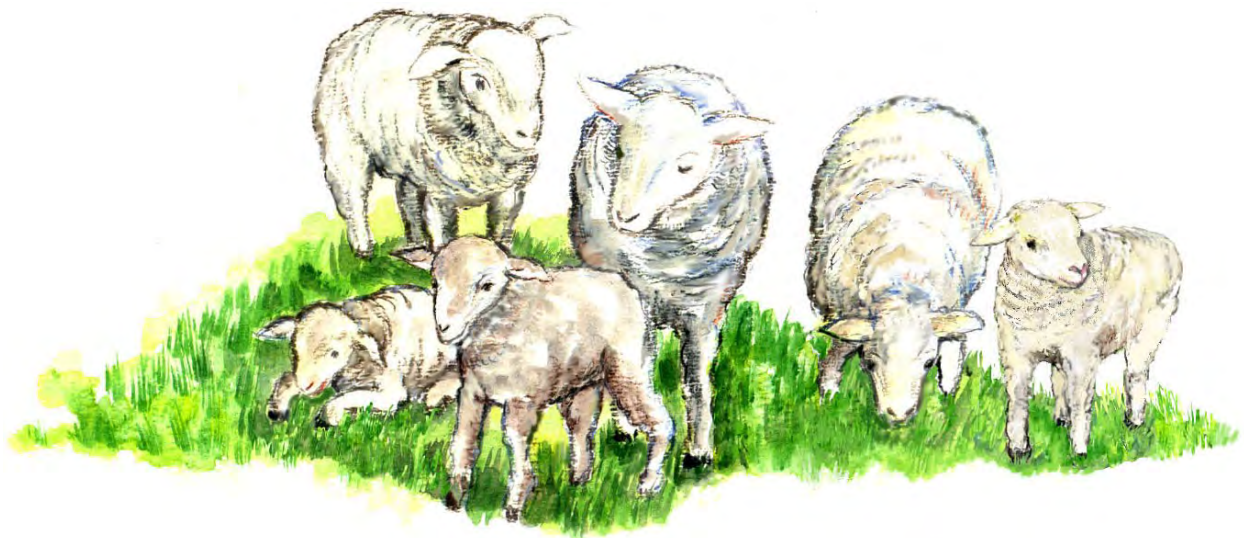
True Happiness

Men and women need each other, for something even more than companionship or to have a good friend. From the beginning the Lord showed us that marriage is the way to true happiness. When we are alone, we tend to think only about ourselves and what we want. When we have a husband or wife to love, we think about what they want and what would make them happy as well.

In a true marriage, the husband and the wife learn to be unselfish by loving the Lord and loving each other. They both try to do thoughtful things and help each other in all kinds of ways.

Both the husband and the wife need to learn from the Lord's Word, worship Him and try to obey the Lord. It may take a lifetime to learn to do this. But as they try to do this, the husband and wife become so closely united or joined with each other that the Lord can give them a special happiness—a happiness that only comes to those in true marriage love. It is called conjugal love in the New Church. In fact, in heaven a husband and wife are so closely united with each other that when seen at a distance they look as if they are one person.

Everything that the Lord created was good. Men and women, boys and girls are different, but neither one is better than the other. In marriage, a man and a woman have the opportunity to cooperate and work together. The Lord created people in this way to encourage us to be unselfish, heavenly people. If men and women honor and respect each other, they can work together and learn to live the kind of life that leads to heaven.



Discussion Questions

- Who created the heavens and the earth? (The Lord.)
- Why wasn't Adam happy in the beautiful Garden of Eden? (He did not have a true companion.)
- The Lord created men and women so that they are different from each other. Why do you think He did this? (Answers may include that they can be friends, that they can help each other and work together, that thinking of someone else helps us be unselfish, because a husband and a wife together make one angel, because a man and a woman can marry and raise a family or that marriage can bring true happiness.)

Activity Overview | A Wife for Adam

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

The Lord is my Shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in paths of righteousness, For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

Songs

Bone of My Bone

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-bone-of-my-bone/>

O Precious Sign

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-o-precious-sign/>

Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Seven Days of Creation game
- Activity 2 | The Creation of Woman project
- Picture to color

Ideas for Additional Activities

- Create a “Garden of Eden” diorama using natural materials such as sand, moss, stones, flowers and branches in a tray. Use plastic animals or sculpt animals and people out of clay or plasticine.
- Learn to sequence of the seven days of creation by singing *7 Days of Creation*. Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-7-days-of-creation-song/>

Activity 1 | Seven Days of Creation Game

Sequence the seven days of creation.

Supplies needed

- game pictures (see following pages)
- scissors

Directions

1. Cut the creation cards apart along the lines.
2. Mix up the cards on a table or other flat surface.
3. Sort the cards and put the matching sets together. Match the correct creation day card with the picture of the things that were created.
4. Arrange the cards in the order in which the things in the pictures were created.





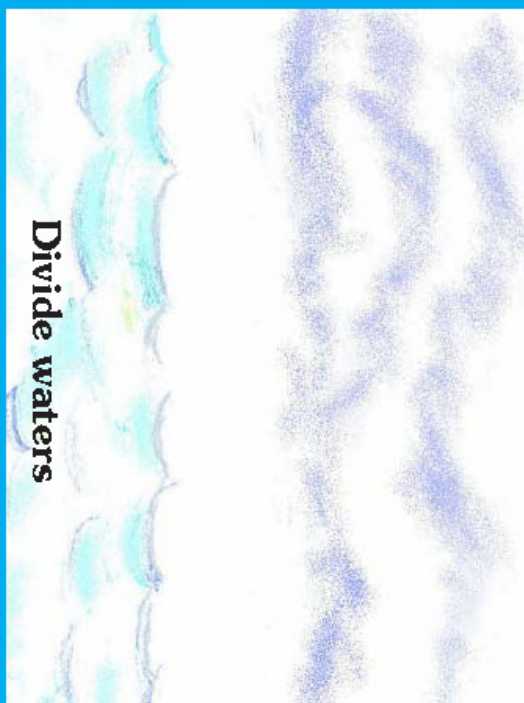
Dry land, grass, herbs and trees



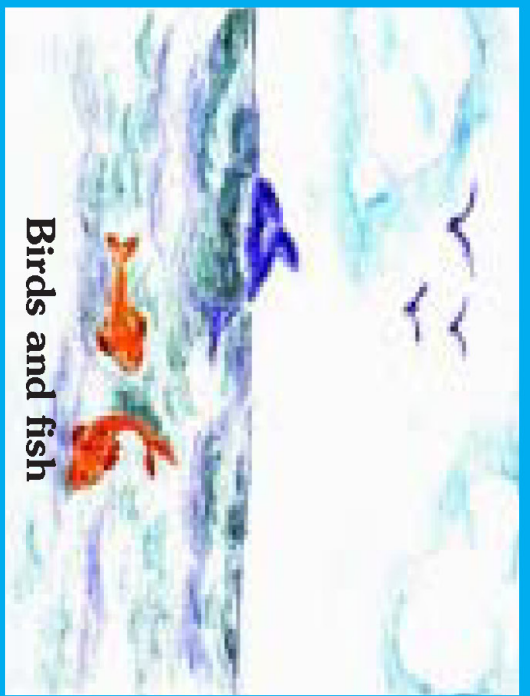
Light



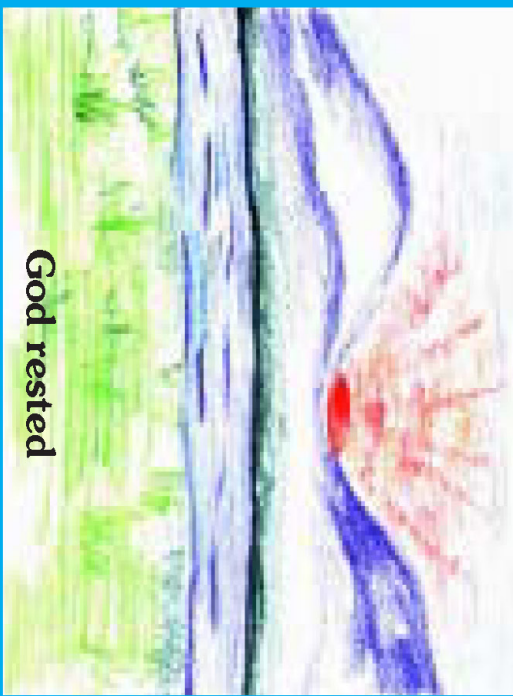
Sun, moon and stars



Divide waters



Birds and fish



God rested



Land animals and people

Seven Days of Creation Game

<p>First Day</p>	<p>Third Day</p>
<p>Second Day</p>	<p>Fourth Day</p>

Fifth Day

Sixth Day

Seventh Day

Activity 2 | The Creation of Woman

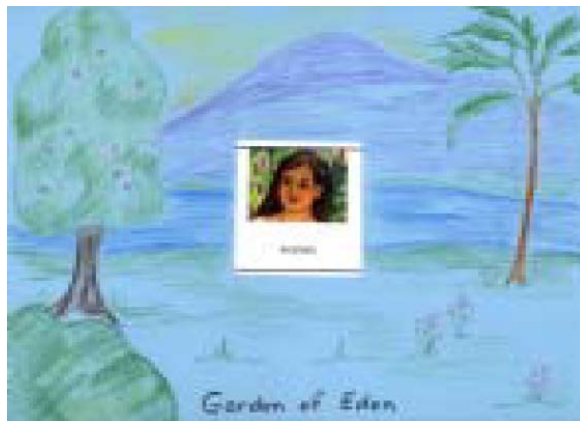
Create a scene in the Garden of Eden to with a window that reveals the story of the creation of woman.

Supplies needed

- sheet of paper with lines showing where to cut slits (provided on the next page)
- picture strip (provided)
- crayons or colored pencils
- scissors

Directions

1. Using crayons or colored pencils, color a picture of the Garden of Eden on the page with lines marked on it. Make it a beautiful place for the first people to live.
2. Give your picture a title, e.g. “The Garden of Eden” or “The Creation of Woman.”
3. Cut carefully cut the vertical lines using scissors, creating a place to thread the picture strip through.
4. Color the picture strip. Thread the strip through the slits in your picture.
5. Move the pictures across the page as you tell the story of how the Lord created a woman from Adam’s rib so that Adam would have a helper well suited to him. What else can you tell about marriage or conjugal love?

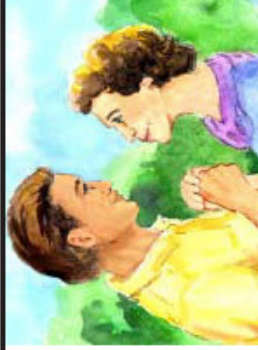




rib bone



woman



husband and wife

