

SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

# taking GOD'S STORY home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. God gave them his blessing. – Genesis 1:27-28a (CEV)

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Creating God, each day you look at what you have made. "It is good," you say. Thank you for creating human beings in your image. Help me live into that image. Guide my daily life, that in my conversations, my prayers, my devotions, and my serving, I may be fruitful and say along with you, "My work is very good." Amen. (Genesis 1)

## A BLESSING TO SHARE

*Mark each other's foreheads with the sign of the cross:*

Blessed child of God, may you know the presence of God's goodness and reflect it in your life each day. Amen.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are provided to help you reflect on today's Bible reading (Monday – Wednesday) and look forward to next Sunday's reading (Thursday – Saturday). Try to take time each day to read the assigned verses: *What connections do you notice? What words or images stand out? What seems important to remember?*

If your household includes younger children, try using a child-friendly Bible like Spark! Picture Bible (Augsburg Fortress) or The Jesus Storybook Bible (Zondervan; available from the Vibrant Faith Ministries online store, [www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)).

Today	Genesis 1:1—2:3	The creation
Monday	Genesis 2:4-25	Another account of the creation of humankind
Tuesday	Psalms 8	A psalm (or hymn) of praise for creation
Wednesday	Genesis 3:1-24	Separation between husband and wife
Thursday	Genesis 4:1-16	Separation between brothers
Friday	Genesis 11:1-9	Separation between nations
Saturday	Genesis 9:8-17	God makes promises
Sunday	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	God makes good on promises



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Every single day we experience the goodness of God's creation. *From where you are sitting right now, how many parts of God's good creation can you see? What things are the result of humankind's creative energy, which comes from being created in the image of God?* (For example, would you include your car or house as part of God's good creation?)

## DEVOTION AND PRAYER

Try shaping a time of devotion around the following basic pattern:

- **Gathering Prayer.** Light a candle to help you focus on the presence of Christ in your midst. Pray the "Prayer for the Week."
- **Caring Conversations.** Take a moment to discuss the ideas and questions in "Caring Conversations."
- **Daily Bible Reading.** Read aloud the Bible passage suggested for the day. *What questions do you have about this reading? What do you want to remember from this reading?*
- **Blessing to Share.** Bless each person, using "A Blessing to Share."

## SERVICE

In Genesis 1:28, God's blessing comes with a job description for human beings: "Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth." *What if "bring it under your control" and "rule over" were understood to mean "care for"? What might your household do this week to intentionally care for creation?*

## RITUAL AND TRADITION

The Christian tradition of Sunday morning as a time of renewal, joy, and worship echoes Genesis 2:1-3, which reports how God rested on the seventh day of creation. We also remember Sunday morning as the time Jesus rose from the grave.

Begin Fall with a renewed commitment to your household's faith practice. Choose a ritual such as lighting a candle to mark a time of prayer and Scripture reading, blessing one another each day, praying a table prayer before the evening meal, or doing a kind deed for a neighbor or for creation each week. Don't be discouraged when you fall short of your intention. Hear God's grace-filled invitation to rest for a moment and then to begin again.



Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.