

# CREATION: The Beginning of Life As We Know It

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 1-4; 6-9

**Important Details:** The StoryReader scripts are segments of scripture taken directly from Zondervan's THE STORY Bible (TNIV). Each script takes approximately 10 minutes to be read aloud. These segments have been formatted into a *Readers' Theater*. A Readers' Theater is an activity in which a few participants are asked to read directly from a script, with the intent of telling a story in a lively manner. Readers are **not expected to memorize or improvise** from the script, but use voice inflection and some gestures appropriate to their characters actions and words in order to bring the story to life.

**Characters:**

- Narrators #1, #2, & #3
- Adam's words
- Serpent's words
- God's words
- Eve's words

**Tweaks to the Text:**

Ellipses = words omitted within a sentence for the sake of conciseness. NOTE: No need to slow your reading when you see an ellipse.

Words in brackets = added words for context.

Words in italics = summary sections from Zondervan's The Story Bible.

**NARRATOR 1:** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. [When] the earth was formless and empty, God said,

**GOD:** "Let there be light,"

**NARRATOR 1:** And there was light...He separated the light from the darkness [and] called the light "day," and the darkness..."night."

**NARRATOR 2:** [He created] the sky...and the land...and the seas,...[the] plants...and [the] trees. And [then] God said,

**GOD:** "Let there be lights in...the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them...give light on the earth."

**NARRATOR 2:** God made two great lights...to govern the day and...to govern the night. He also made the stars...

**NARRATOR 1:** [Then] God created the creatures of the sea...and creatures [of the land.] [Finally] God created human beings in his own image...[He] blessed them and said to them,

**GOD:** "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

**NARRATOR 1:**...And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good...

**NARRATOR 2:** By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so...[He] blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done...

**NARRATOR 1:** Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man,

**GOD:** "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will certainly die."

**NARRATOR 2:** [Then] God said,

**GOD:** "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

**NARRATOR 2:** So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said,

**ADAM:** "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

**NARRATOR 1:** For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

**NARRATOR 2:** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman,

**SERPENT:** "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

**NARRATOR 2:** The woman said to the serpent,

**EVE:** "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

**SERPENT:** "You will not certainly die...for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**NARRATOR 1:** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to

her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**NARRATOR 2:** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man,

**GOD:** "Where are you?"

**ADAM:** "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

**GOD:** "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

**ADAM:** "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

**NARRATOR 1:** Then the Lord God said to the woman,

**GOD:** "What is this you have done?"

**EVE:** "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

**NARRATOR 1:** [Then, because they disobeyed,] the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden.

**NARRATOR 2:** [Adam's wife] Eve [soon] became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. [As they grew older] Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering — fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry.

**NARRATOR 1:** Then the Lord said to Cain,

**GOD:** "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

**NARRATOR 1:** Now Cain [went with his brother Abel] out to the field. While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother...and killed him.

**NARRATOR 3:** The tragic accounts of the mistakes and poor choices of Adam and Eve, and their firstborn son Cain, are echoed in the later stories of hardship and tragedy for their children and their children's children. As people began to populate the globe, leaving the area of Eden and traveling as far as feet and beast could carry them, humanity's legacy of hate, anger, murder and deception play out as people continue to neglect their relationship with God. Eventually, nearly everyone just plain forgets their Creator and the whole point of being alive. For most people, life becomes one big party with no thought of consequences . . . except for one man.

**NARRATOR 2:** Noah was a righteous man...[who] walked faithfully with God. [The rest of the] earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. So God said to Noah,

**GOD:** "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out...I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you [and your family] will enter the ark.. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you..."

**NARRATOR 2:** [And] Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

**NARRATOR 1:** When the floodwaters came on the earth....Noah and his [family] entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Pairs of...animals came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

**NARRATOR 2:** For forty days...the waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water...Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

**NARRATOR 1:** The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days....At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat...So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds — everything that moves on the earth — came out of the ark, one kind after another.

**NARRATOR 2:**...Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him:

**GOD:** "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you...Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

**NARRATOR 3:** The earth recovered from this great flood. Animal and plant life flourished. Noah's family repopulated the earth. The cycle of life continued, and people remembered God. It was time for God's next move, time to build a nation in a land that would become the cultural and ethnic home to ...well, that part of the story is yet to come.